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No. 1, Vol. LV.]

JULY, 1879.

[THIRD SERIES.

THE  
FARMER'S MAGAZINE,

AND

MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF

THE AGRICULTURAL INTEREST.

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Dedicated

TO THE

FARMERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY ROGERSON AND TUXFORD, 265, STRAND.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

# IMPORTANT TO FLOCKMASTERS.

**THOMAS BIGG,**  
Agricultural & Veterinary Chemist,

By Appointment to his late Royal Highness  
The Prince Consort, K.G.,

LEICESTER HOUSE, GREAT DOVER STREET,  
BOROUGH, LONDON,

**B**EGS to call the attention of Farmers and Graziers to his valuable SHEEP and LAMB DIPPING COMPOSITION, which requires no Boiling, and may be used with Warm or Cold Water, for effectually destroying the Tick, Lice, and all other insects injurious to the Flock, preventing the alarming attacks of Fly and Shab, and cleansing and purifying the Skin, thereby greatly improving the Wool, both in quantity and quality, and highly contributing to the general health of the animal.

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1 lb. for 20 sheep, price, jar included.....	£0 2 0
6 lb. 30 " " " " .....	0 3 0
8 lb. 40 " " " " .....	0 4 0
10 lb. 50 " " " " .....	0 5 0
20 lb. 100 " " " (Cask and measure	0 10 0
30 lb. 150 " " " included) .....	0 15 0
40 lb. 200 " " " " .....	1 0 0
50 lb. 250 " " " " .....	1 3 6
60 lb. 300 " " " " .....	1 7 6
80 lb. 400 " " " " .....	1 17 6
100 lb. 500 " " " " .....	2 5 0

Should any Flockmaster prefer boiling the Composition, it will be equally effective.

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From Mr. HERBATH, the celebrated Analytical Chemist:—  
Bristol Laboratory, Old Park, January 18th, 1861.

Sir,—I have submitted your Sheep Dipping Composition to analysis, and find that the ingredients are well blended, and the mixture neutral. If it is used according to the directions given, I feel satisfied, that while it effectually destroys vermin, it will not injure the hair roots (or "yolk") in the skin, the

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WILLIAM HERBATH, Sen., F.C.S., &c., &c.,  
To Mr. Thomas Bigg Professor of Chemistry,  
Leicester House, Great Dover-street Borough London.

He would also especially call attention to his SPECIFIC, or LOTION, for the SCAB or SHAB, which will be found a certain remedy for eradicating that loathsome and ruinous disorder in Sheep, and which may be safely used in all climates, and at all seasons of the year, and to all descriptions of sheep, even ewes in lamb. Price FIVE SHILLINGS per gallon—sufficient on an average for thirty Sheep (according to the virulence of the disease); also in wine quart bottles, 1s. 3d. each.

## IMPORTANT TESTIMONIAL.

"Scouton, near Hingham, Norfolk, April 16th, 1855.

"Dear Sir,—In answer to yours of the 4th inst., which would have been replied to before this had I been at home, I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the efficacy of your invaluable 'Specific for the cure of Scab in Sheep.' The 600 sheep were all dressed in August last with 84 gallons of the 'Non-poisonous Specific,' that was so highly recommended at the Lincoln Show, and by their own dresser, the best attention being paid to the flock by my shepherd after dressing according to instructions left; but notwithstanding the Scab continued getting worse. Being determined to have the Scab cured if possible, I wrote to you for a supply of your Specific, which I received the following day; and although the weather was most severe in February during the dressing, your SPECIFIC proved itself an invaluable remedy, for in three weeks the Sheep were quite cured; and I am happy to say the young lambs are doing remarkably well at present. In conclusion, I believe it to be the safest and best remedy now in use.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"For JOHN TINGEY, Esq.,

"R. RENNEY.

"To Mr. Thomas Bigg."

Flockmasters would be well to beware of such preparations as "Non-poisonous Compositions;" it is only necessary to appeal to their good common sense and judgment to be thoroughly convinced that no "Non-poisonous" article can poison or destroy insect vermin, particularly such as the Tick, Lice, and Scab Parasites—creatures so tenacious of life. Such advertised preparations must be wholly useless, or they are not what they are represented to be.

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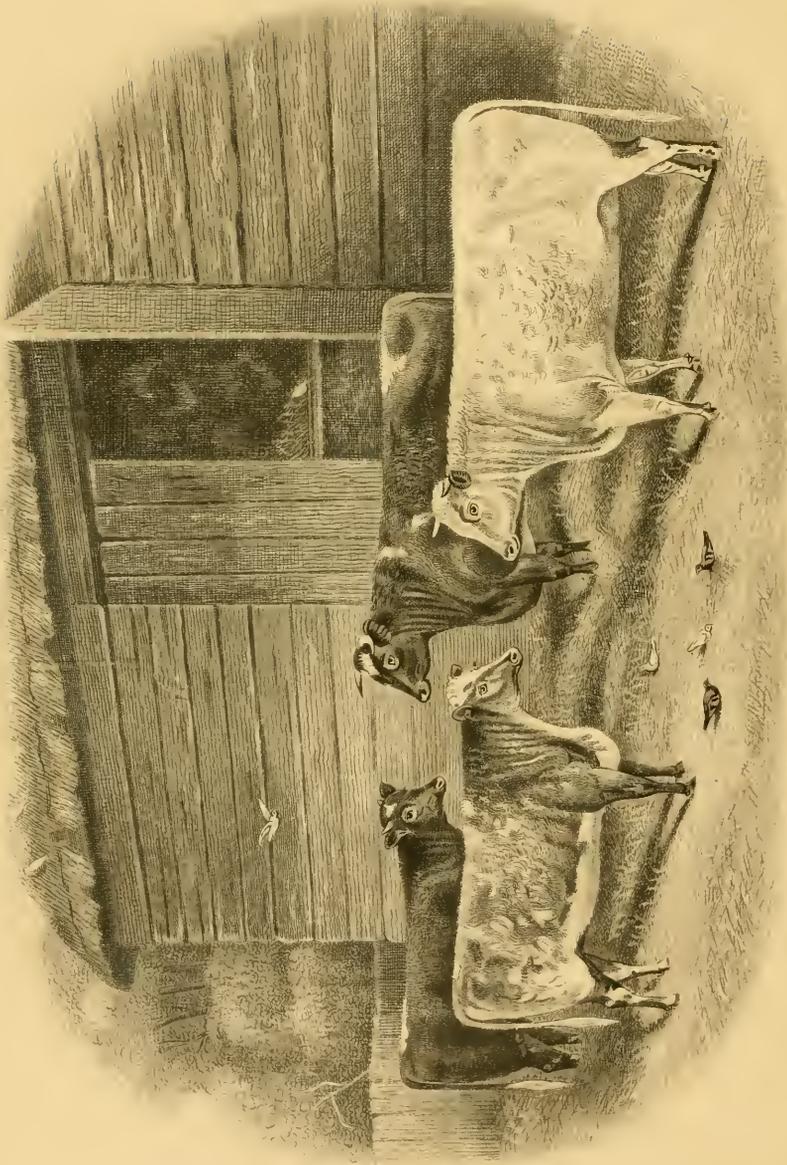
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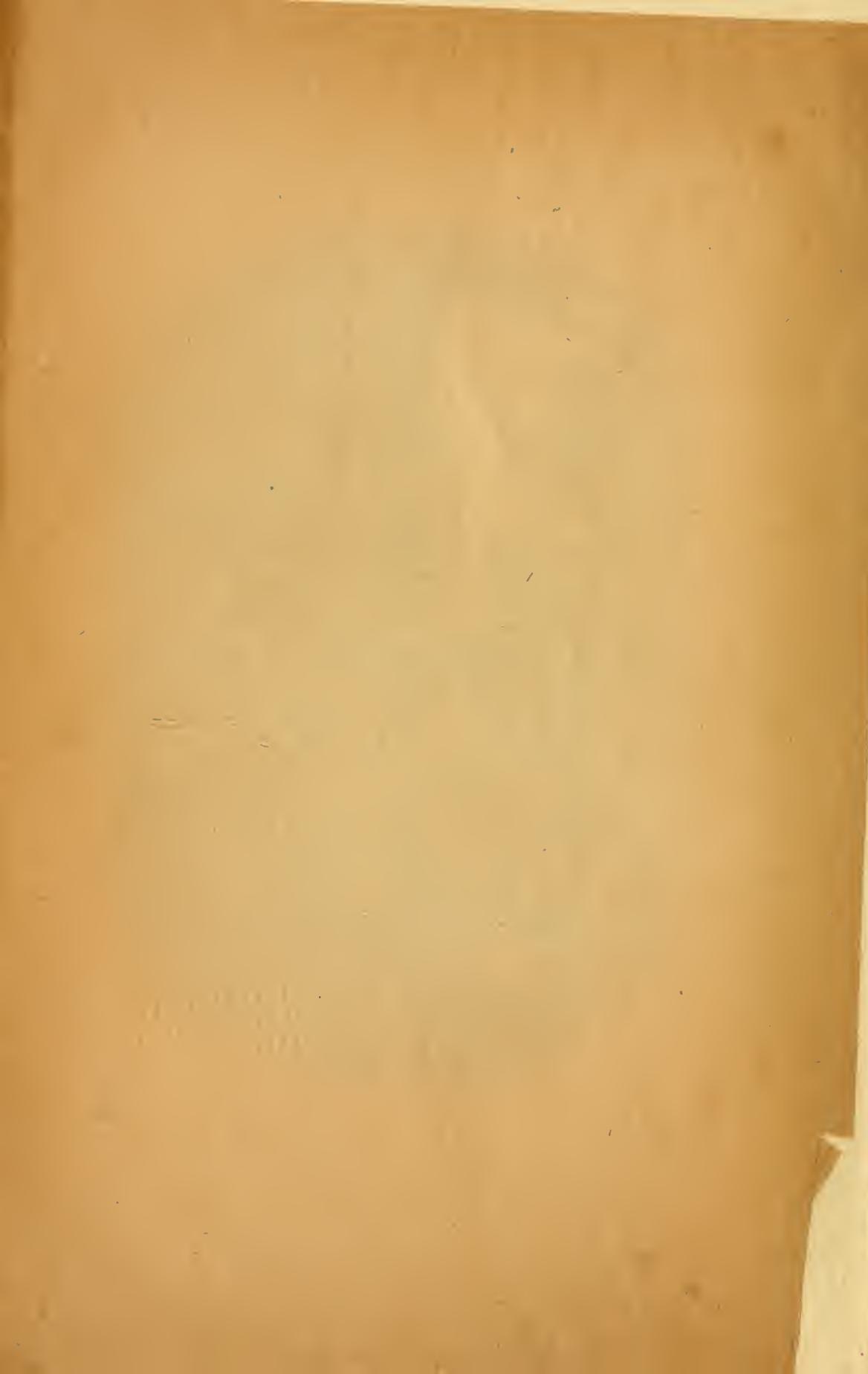


*The Emigrants.*

*Fourteen Heifers, belonging to the proprietors of Canowise Station, South Australia.*

*London. Published by Rogers, & Tuxford, 265, Strand., 1879*





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1879

# THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

JULY, 1879.

## PLATE.

### THE EMIGRANTS.

SHORTHORN HEIFERS, BELONGING TO THE PROPRIETORS OF CANOWIE STATION,  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The emigrants were bought of Mr. T. H. Hutchinson, the Manor House, Catterick, Yorkshire, for 1,000 guineas, and, accompanied by Beau Benedict (37841), a rich roan, 3 years old bull, purchased of Mr. J. W. Booth, Killerby hall, Yorkshire, set sail in May last for Canowie station as a foundation for a Booth herd. They represent the three tribes in the Manor house herd, which has been so successful at the Royal, the Yorkshire, the Highland Society at Scotland, Northumberland, Durham county, Lincolnshire, and most of the large shows held in England, viz., the Lady, Gerty, and the Maids tribes, and are nearly related to Lady Playful, Lady Alicia, Lady Louisa, Dairygirl, Grateful, Gainful, &c. &c., so well known in the Shorthorn ring.

The small roan Heifer on the left of the plate is Lady Agnes, calved March 1st, 1878, got by Pluto (35050), dam Lady Agatha by M. C. (31898), gr. d. Lady Alicia, by King James (28971), gr. gr. dam Lady Alberta, by Lord Albert (21043), gr. gr. gr. dam Lady of the Manor by Baron Warlabby (7813), &c., see Herd Book vol. 23. p. 509. The red

and white heifer behind her is Ocean Maid, calved Feb. 21, 1878, by Pluto (35050), dam Mermaid by M. C., gr. dam Pretty Maid by Merry Monarch (22349), gr. gr. dam Dairy Girl by Brigade Major (21312) gr. gr. gr. dam Dairy Maid by Perfection (27059), Herd Book, vol. 22, page 466. The light roan heifer facing them, is Lady Lillian, calved Sept. 9, 1877 by Star Regent (35679), dam Lady Laura by British Lion (30609), gr. dam Lady Louisa by K. C. B. (26492), gr. gr. dam Lady Sophia by Brigade Major (21312), gr. gr. gr. dam Lady of the Manor by Baron Warlabby (7813), Herd Book, vol. 22, page 466, and the largest red and white heifer, Gratuitous, calved Oct. 15, 1876 by Star Regent, dam Gerty 3rd by Knight of the Shire (26552), gr. dam Gerty by Vain Hipo (23102), gr. gr. dam, Garland by Grandmaster (24078), Herd Book, vol. 21, p. 783. The bull and heifers make a first rate sample of Booth. The Canowie property consists of 70,000 acres of freehold land about 130 miles north of Adelaide and the proprietors expect to shear from 90,000 to 100,000 Merino sheep this year.

## THE WILD WHITE CATTLE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The late Rev. John Storer's book on "The Wild White Cattle of Great Britain," recently mentioned in our Literary Notices, necessarily lacks the finish which its author would probably have given it if he had lived to put his accumulation of notes into more perfect shape and connectedness, and to sum up his conclusions. It is in reality a history of the breed or breeds of white cattle now existing in a wild or semi-wild state in Great Britain, together with traditional accounts of similar herds which have become extinct, and is chiefly of value as a compilation of facts and traditions respecting those herds.

With the exception of the author's personal in-

spection of the several existing herds, and the observations of his companions on these expeditions—Mr. Chandos-Pole-Gell, and Mr. John Thornton—there is nothing very original about the work, and the accounts written by these gentlemen though very interesting, cannot be said to have added much to the sum of the knowledge already possessed on the subject.

In order to give an idea of the scope of the work it will be convenient to regard it as it would commend itself to the general reader, the naturalist, and the agriculturist. The entire book is interesting from an historical and antiquarian point of view. Mr. Storer commences by commenting on

the fossil remains of extinct species of the genus *Bos*, and quoting Darwin, Nilsson, and Rüttimeyer to show that, in the opinion of the naturalist, all our domestic species of genus *Bos* are the descendants of two typical extinct species; namely, *Bos primigenius*, and *Bos longifrons*. The former is the "Urus," and the latter a smaller species with shorter horns. The Urus must have been tamed towards the close of the stone age and the commencement of the bronze age, according to the evidence afforded by the ancient Swiss lake-dwellings, and the shell-mounds of the Danish isles; and the smaller species probably earlier still. But at the time of Cæsar the cattle of the Celtic Britons were evidently the domesticated descendants of *Bos longifrons*, and had been derived from the East with the Celtic tribes themselves. Subsequently the Teutonic tribes brought with them to Britain the domesticated descendants of the Urus or *Bos primigenius*, which, in turn, occupied the greater portion of the land; the smaller Celtic cattle being driven to "remote and inaccessible parts which the English could not reach." Mr. Storer thinks that our Devons, Welsh, Kyloes, Sussex, and Channel Islands cattle are descended from the early domesticated *Bos longifrons*, whilst the Longhorn, the Hereford, the Pembroke, and the Shorthorn are descended from the domesticated *Bos primigenius*. He then goes on to describe certain Continental breeds of cattle which are also apparently descended from the domesticated Urus; such as the Charolais breed of French cattle, the Friesland, Holstein, Hungarian, Transylvanian, and Russian breeds. Then he gives a history of the wild white cattle of Britain, which are admitted by Rüttimeyer to present the closest resemblance amongst existing breeds to the extinct *Bos primigenius*, and brings much antiquarian lore to bear upon his subject. Various extinct herds are referred to, as also the wild white cattle of ancient Scotland, and of the more southern parts of Britain. Then the circumstances are depicted under which the remnants of these wild herds gradually became enclosed in parks, giving rise to the herds now in existence. Mr. Storer gives an elaborate and interesting description of the Chillingham Park cattle in Northumberland, the property of Lord Tankerville; and of the Chartley herd in Staffordshire, which are the only two herds in England which remain in their "pristine state." The herd in Lyme Park, Cheshire, and the one at Burton Constable in the East Riding of Yorkshire, are next referred to; and then the domesticated and polled herd at Somerford Park, Derbyshire, the recently extinct herd at Wellaton Hall, the Gisburne Park herd, the one at Middleton Hall, and some others. Last of all he treats of the wild white cattle of Scotland; the extinct herds and those now in existence. Amongst the latter the cattle in Cadzow Park—known as the Hamilton Herd—were probably hornless at one time though now they have regained these appendages. An appendix to the book gives a list of localities in which wild white cattle "or their domestic descendants" have been proved to have existed, and where they now exist. This history is derived from a laborious and careful compilation, and comprises much curious folk lore and antiquarian research.

To the naturalist Mr. Storer's book contains little of interest. His facts are not new, and the deductions made from them—when his suggestions take a sufficiently tangible form to be called deductions—are more in the character of an enthusiast riding a hobby than in that of a naturalist seeking to solve a problem. It is admitted and accepted that the wild white cattle are distinctly of the Urus type; and also, according to Rüttimeyer, "that the Chillingham cattle are less altered from the true *Primigenius* type than any other known breed." It is also admitted that certain existing breeds of cattle, already enumerated, have more or less distinctive resemblance to the true *Longifrons* type. But, as Mr. Darwin observes, "although certain races of cattle are the descendants of the above-named fossil species, yet it does not follow that they were here first domesticated." And this goes to the very root of the question—the only question at issue—whether the existing herds of wild cattle are descended directly from the extinct fossil species, or whether they are the descendants of domesticated races—introduced from the Continent or otherwise—which have since become feral. Naturalists, as a rule, appear to think that *Bos primigenius* became extinct in Britain during the pre-historic period; Mr. Storer inclined to the opinion that it did not. He has no evidence to show for such opinion, but he is entitled to the purely negative position that there is no evidence to the contrary. The facts to hand are few and simple. Accepting Rüttimeyer's deductions, that the remains found in Swiss pile-dwellings were those of a domesticated species of *Bos primigenius* it would go to prove that the fossil species was domesticated, as he presumes, "toward the close of the stone and beginning of the bronze period;" a date immensely remote from the time of Cæsar. So that it is useless, from a scientific point of view, to quote Herodotus and "De Bello Gallico." And further, both Nathusius and Rüttimeyer agree that the osteological character of the Chillingham cattle is not that of wild cattle—*feræ nature*. Rüttimeyer says "the Chillingham skull shows in no way any marks of that of a wild animal. It is remarkable rather for the uncommon fineness and delicacy of its bones, which are never to be found in the real wild cattle, to examine which I had ample opportunity. I should, therefore, if the skull had come to my hands from an unknown source, never have hesitated to declare that it was not that of a wild animal." And this is decidedly in favour of the supposition that the so-called wild white cattle now in existence, together with all the extinct herds of which there is historical record, are descended from domesticated species of a long extinct fossil type; and that they have since become feral. Mr. Storer takes no adequate account of the immense lapse of geological time which must have occurred between the end of the "stone age" and the date of his historical records. So that, independent of Cæsar's exaggerated descriptive stye—as, for example, stating the "multitude of inhabitants" which he found in Britain to be "infinite," and speaking of the Urus, or wild bull, as being "scarcely inferior to the elephant in size"—there is positively nothing to show that his "Urus" was *Bos primigenius*; it might reason-

ably have been a domesticated descendant of that fossil type, and possibly was nothing more. And the same argument will apply even more forcibly to the "wild cattle" of the early English and Scotch forests. Then with regard to colour, Mr Storer comes to the conclusion that the Urus was white, from the fact of all the so-called wild white cattle of which he has obtained any record being white with black or red ears, together with other correlated distinctive markings. But here, again, he is at variance with the deductions of one of the greatest naturalists of the day. Mr Darwin distinctly expresses it as his opinion that it is "extremely doubtful" whether *Bos primigenius* was white. And from all the records which Mr. Storer has compiled it is evident that there is a tendency to throw back, or revert, to a black colour. Calves are, in all the herds, occasionally born black or spotted; and by the rigorous destruction of these—that is to say, by a long continued process of selection—the herds have alone been able to retain their colour type. Again, Mr. Storer appears to attach no importance to the fact of the calves of the eastern races, being at first of a "dark tawny or fawn colour" gradually losing it and gaining a cream colour, then white. Whereas, this fact, and the tendency to produce black and spotted animals in all white herds, tells strongly in favour of Mr. Darwin's view that the original stock was not likely to have been white. In fact, that portion of Mr. Storer's book which deals with purely scientific questions is very weak.

There yet remains to be noticed that portion of the work which may be of interest to the agriculturist as a breeder of stock; and more especially to the breeder of Shorthorn cattle. He appears to have paid too little attention to the influence of soil and climate in the case of the alteration which has taken place in the character of the Devon cattle when bred and fed on the rich pastures of the southern part of the county. The South Ham cattle show no sign of "a cross;" they are probably nothing more than modified North Devons. The wild white cattle Mr. Storer thinks were the origin of the Shorthorn breed, and calls attention to the tendency which is evinced by white Shorthorns to throw black noses and black tips to horns, and even red or reddish ears. No doubt the blood of these cattle is to be found in the ingredients of which the Shorthorn breed is formed. One point mentioned by Mr. Storer is very curious—though not perhaps of greater value as evidence than the black noses, red muzzles, and red or red-marked ears—namely, that the Chillingham cattle have "a faint line of red hair, as if drawn by a pencil," immediately above the bare skin of the muzzle; and this peculiar marking Mr. Storer says that he has "very often," and even "generally" observed on white Shorthorns. But this does not affect the breeder in a practical way, except to show him, if Mr. Storer's description of wild white cattle is not greatly overdrawn, that the Shorthorn has not gained much in beauty, or symmetry, "or flavour," or general excellence—in fact, in nothing except early maturity and docility—by his handiwork. Mr. Storer, however, was an enthusiast; so much so as to adopt

the Shorthorn adjectives grandeur, majesty, nobility, &c., and even goes so far as to apply some of them to a steer. But Mr. John Thornton is a man of business, and has of late made some very plain and business-like remarks for the edification of breeders. He is stated by Mr. Storer to have remarked of the Chartley cattle, which are of a decidedly "Longhorn" type and character, that they possessed, "in a state of nature, most, if not all, of the points which for nearly a hundred years we had been trying to produce in the Shorthorn." Mr. Thornton's written account of this herd, given in Mr. Storer's book, closes with the following remarks:—"On the whole, it would seem that these were a breed of Longhorn cattle with Shorthorn shapes; and if—as it is said—they have been kept pure since the herd was enclosed—more than six hundred years ago—we are forced to arrive at the conclusion that, though other breeds of cattle may have been brought to a state of earlier maturity, little or no improvement in conformation and symmetry has been made in them." Coming from Mr. Thornton, breeders of pedigree stock should read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest this statement. Our author's remarks on the effects of in-breeding as exemplified by the wild white breeds, we must leave unnoticed, at least for the present.

## AMERICAN CATTLE.

F. W. H. writes to the *Times* :—

At the present time of agricultural depression, when neither landlord nor tenant knows what is the fate that awaits them, it may be some satisfaction to be informed what is the opinion in America as to the future range of prices of cattle fit to be exported to this country.

The opinion I quote below is one formed by a gentleman of much intelligence connected with our grazing counties, who is now in America, and who possesses no ordinary means of information. He writes as follows:—

"Canada has little or no more stock to spare, another month will clear out the surplus stock of the Dominion; but there is any amount to come from the West, especially from Texas, at a price; but the present absurdly low rates can only be continued in a time of extreme depression. The best opinion is that the value of English-grown meat will not ultimately be materially affected."

This opinion is valuable and may tend to allay the present panic as to the future value of cattle; but there is no doubt a general revival of the world's trade, and consequent increased consumption would bring about a speedy result.

The consumer may think this cold comfort, but that unhappy individual does not seem to have materially gained in the price of meat by the great reduction which has taken place in that of fat cattle during the last year.

It appears to be one of those things which nobody can understand, that, generally speaking, butchers adhere to much the same prices now as they did a year since, while graziers and feeders find so great a reduction.

America is, no doubt, the land of plenty, but even there neither corn nor cattle will be permanently grown and exported except at a remunerative price. The fluctuations in the price of corn exported from America during the last 25 years of free trade should prevent our giving way to panic. Much more does this apply to cattle, so distant and so costly and so difficult to move.

NORTH DEVON HORSE SHOW.—We are informed that there will be 400 horses at the annual North Devon Horse Show in Pilton Park, Barnstable, on July 5th.

## ALEXANDRA PARK HORSE SHOW.

With the hand of the weather-glass having as strong an aversion as ever to set-fair, the seventh annual show of horses at the foot of Muswell Hill commenced on June 20, and will conclude on June 25th. With its beautiful site, best of stands, roomiest of rings, unrivalled "show stables," list of patrons, executive committee, liberal prize list, and nice distance from town the Alexandra Park Horse Show should be a most popular one. But the success of a London horse show in a money point of view does not depend on all this, nor on the knowing ones in horse flesh, or the quality of the horses, as the takings at the turnstiles have been reduced to the "shadow of shade" through the Shah or some long-tailed Bashaw going another way; and on Friday they must have been small indeed, as the gathering round the ring to witness the judging was very thin, with scarcely anyone in the stand, while there was a lamentable falling off in old show-goers, for not even Lord Combermere and Sir Watkin were there, nor one of those relies of a slow and crawling age, which once upon a time, with a "gentleman whip" on the box, doing twelve miles an hour on a macadamized road, was thought the very acme of travelling. The clayey soil, though a little sticky, was much better going for hunters than when hard baked and slippery, though the judges of the harness horses and ponies thought it a little too soft, and adjourned to the road, where they had it all to themselves, the paying public being kept back by the police. This was a slight mistake, and so was writing the winning numbers on the telegraph board with slate-pencil, as people do not go to horse shows provided with opera or race glasses. Then the veterinarian would do well to take a lesson from Messrs. Brown and Percival, as his officiousness in the ring was strongly commented on outside; in fact, many thought he was a judge. The duty of a veterinary surgeon is to keep aloof from the judges, and to act when called on. The proprietors, too, would be doing the public more justice if they put an extra carver or two on in the refreshment tent, instead of keeping those who paid half-a-crown beforehand waiting for a plate of meat until the judges had done feeding and had commenced with another class; also to ponder well, if they wish it to be a pleasant and popular meeting, before enclosing too much of the ring off for stands, as even at the Agricultural Hall all round the ring is left like a pit of a theatre; in fact, you don't pay a shilling to go in and then two-and-sixpence to see what is going on. The catalogue by single, double, and treble entry, for many a nag will be found in three classes, is swollen out to 305, including His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Arabs, which were shown at Islington. The grey when caparisoned in gold is well worth a shilling to look at, though for our own part we think a good-looking horse looks his best without anything on. Mr. Parrington, Mr. J. M. Richardson, and Mr. A. Maynard, all lovers of the horse and the hound, took in hand the thoroughbred stallions soon after ten o'clock. Now what shall we say for the lot? as Mr. Tattersall would put it, who, though one of the executive committee, was an absentee, and so was old Laughing Stock, one of the six thoroughbred stallions, entered, and so bad as a lot, that the judges withheld the third prize. Caterer, by Stockwell out of Selina, by Orlando, is a compactly-built, muscular horse, with a good head, neck, back, rib, and ends, thighs, arms, and flat legs, as well as being blessed with a nice springy action. Beacon, by Brother to Stafford out of Miss Bowman by Topholite, is a small wiry-limbed horse, with curby-looking hocks, and no pretensions to a show nag. Chivalrous, by Adventurer out of Auld Acquaint-

ance, by Irish Birdcatcher, is a very nicely made, lengthy horse, with knees and hocks near the ground, and a free mover, and must have taken second honours if sound in wind and limb, and correctly entered. Newry, by Lyncades out of Blanchette, by The Baron, for which the modest sum of £1,000 is asked, is a neat topped, level horse, with small arms and dicky forelegs. Arcesilaus, by Lyncades grandsire Orlando, "grandam Barding School Miss by Plenipotentiary." There is a pretty pedigree which gives the sire and dam of Lyncades, and not a word as to the dam of Arcesilaus, which is a kind of animal that one would expect to see a Grand Turk mounted on. Mulatto by Meccolo, dam by Sesostris, is a coaching-looking nag, with coarse, gummy-looking limbs. The roadster stallions were better, and Prickwillow XI., by Tice's Prickwillow, out of an Arab mare, having furnished into a very nice horse, with the exception of a little lightness in his barrel, and with first-rate action, fairly outpaced Star of the East, which has thickened into a grand-looking nag, but does not move so freely as he did when we first saw him at Skipton. The third horse, King Walter, has a light middle and by no means a good forehead, and we preferred the highly-commended cobby Cleverlegs. There were eight others in the class, and one or two of them fair animals, with action. The four-years-old hunters were next—a class of eleven, with the first and second Islington prize horses in, of which we wrote, "In a fair class of four-year-olds we preferred a stout, hardy, good-looking black horse, of hunting form and action, of Mr. Nelson's, called Othello, to Mr. Newton's upstanding chesnut, Golden Plover, which does not lack form and action, but wants quality and looks soft." Black Jack, by King of Hearts, is the same horse as Othello, whose occupation is not gone, and was placed first, while Golden Plover had to play third to Mr. Cattle's Cigarette, a very nice hunting-looking horse, and a good goer, St. Vincent Taylor's Tophorn, also a hunting-like horse with bone and action, and a first at the Bath and West of England, being highly commended. Golden Drop, by East Coast, a horse which gets very good stock, is own brother to Golden Plover, and known last year as "the prize four-year-old," is a very neatly built horse with good action, and was declared the best in the five years old and upwards, up to not less than 12 stone, or more than 14 stone, beating His Majesty by Lord Hastings, a third prize taker at Islington, and a horse with his head not nicely set on to the shortest of necks, running into anything but hunting shoulders; such a horse, if he makes a mistake when the least distressed, must come to grief. Cockney, the best of all the hunters at Islington, was only third. Since he won at Islington he has been to Norwich, Peterborough, and elsewhere, and with his coat staring looked anything but himself at Alexandra Park. Very many horses in show condition go wrong, and we thought several in the classes when galloping round the ring were anything but clear in their pipes. There were thirty-three in the class, and nothing better looking than Rosamond from Wollaton, Nottingham, a dark chestnut bloodlike little mare by Dalesman, full of the right sort of muscle and a sweet mover, but she fared not better than Mr. Battam's Saladin, a first prize at the Bath and West of England; or Mr. Barnett's neat nag Harum Scarum; Mr. Letts' useful, deep ribbed gray, Criterion; Mr. Trist's clever light-weight hunter, Lastleigh; Mr. Forneran's br. g.; Mr. Sturdy's very neat, but rather over-topped ch. g.; Mr. Bott's Graffham; Messrs. Allen and Haynes' Lena; Mr. Sergeant's Pitman; Mr. Blyth's Windsor; Dr. Waller's Sealskin; and some others, which were not wanting in form and action, and whose numbers we missed in so large a class, which was not surprising considering we had to look out for ourselves as they were rattling fresh horses in all sorts of traps up

and down and turning about on the road where we stood. Lookers-on ought to have some protection, especially as this is the only side on which you can fairly see the judging without paying to go in the stand. There were several very useful horses amongst the eleven five years old and upwards, up to not less than 14 stone, including the following prize takers: Blacklock, Rossington, Hurricane, Carew, and Gambler. Blacklock by Torreador, dam by Robinson, was first at Doncaster, and we described him at Northallerton as a Leicestershire hunter and a grand mover, when second to Tavistock; since then he has greatly improved in form, and being in the best of humours showed himself to perfection when ridden and led; in fact he came up to the description of a made hunter given by a fashionable London dealer. "That horse, sir, seems to have invisible wings, or extra legs, as the case may require them. Nothing stops him, he can jump a house or go through the pantry window. No hounds are too fast, no day too long for him, he has the courage of a lion with the docility of a lamb, and you may ride him with a thread. Weight, did you say, sir? He could carry the national debt and not bate a sixpence." He belongs to the Rev. C. H. Legard, and was as attractive in the ring as Parson Yorick's (Humility) own brother to Rosinante was when ambling through a village. Hurricane, the first prize Islington weight carrier, a very useful horse, was second; and the King, a gentlemanly looking one, scarcely up to the weight, third. Mr. Harvey Bayly's old horse, Rossington, a winner of several prizes, and which at Tattersall's in the Derby week was knocked down to Mr. Wilson for 300 guineas, now handled by Mr. Allen, and going very high and round in his gallop, only came in for a high commendation; and Gambler, a first prize at Manchester, and a third at Islington, a horse with a vulgar forehead, but a strong good mover, for naught. Then Mr. Alayne's The Niger, Mr. Hutton's High Time, and Mr. Stephen's Minnie, and Mr. Trist's Carew, a prize taker in the west, were useful hunting-like horses. Black Jack, Golden Drop, and Blacklock now walked round for the Alexandra Park medal and fifty for the best hunter in the three classes which was awarded to Blacklock. The fairy-like ease with which Lady Walton got over the tan and won first honours at Islington, also won the heart of Mr. Wilson, who values her more than gold, and with Mr. Robinson, her late owner, again on her back, she beat all comers at Alexandra Park, with a clever hack of Mr. Robinson's, Silvertail, second. There were twenty-four in the class, and some very nice nags, including Rosamond, noticed in hunting class, and several of the following noticed at Islington, and here last year: Lady Churchill's Matchless, Messrs. Allen and Haynes, Prince Imperial, a first at Islington, Mr. Wright's Minnie Hawk, Mr. Moffatt's Malabar, Mr. Symond's Prince Charlie, Mr. Parsons' Venus, Mr. Wade's Highlander, Mr. Villar's Yorkshire Lass, noticed at Bath and West of England, and the Earl of Aylesford's Perfection. King Charles III., another purchase by Mr. Wilson, of Mr. Robinson, a clever roadster by Denmark, and going all round with his late owner jockeying him, beat Mr. Robinson's old horse and a great prize-taker, King Charles II., now the property of Mr. Maudsley, and which did not make use of his hind legs as in former times. Mr. Robinson said it went much against the grain to have to beat his old favourite, and grand-made horse, though we think he never was like many of the high steppers, a good honest goer all round, but went as if he had been on the treadmill with his forelegs, and not with the hind ones. Mr. Ritchie's Lincoln is a very clever, nice sized, gentlemanly cob, and Sir Pryse Pryse's The Dean, which we have seen before, a very neat hack and

nice stepper. Miss Moffatt's Isabel, Sir T. Kirkpatrick's Old Times, and J. Parson's Langton were the next best looking. Mr. Wilson was again first in the park hacks and ladies' horses with Sir George Wombwell's well-known prize mare Sunbeam, a very neat, nice stepping hack, in a large class with some very good ones in, which we missed as they were taken for some unaccountable reason into the other ring which is now hidden by some new stands. Where there is so much dodging about there ought to be a man with a bell to give the public who support the show notice. But we return to Mr. Wilson, the purchaser of these prize winners, to say that he is the owner of the famous stallion pony Sir George, which has won so many Royal firsts, and is a great breeder of ponies, having sold many at fabulous prices. Messrs. Ellerby, Beever and Aldridge judged the remaining classes, as we have said, on the road, and had it all to themselves, commencing with the cobs and ponies not exceeding 14.2 which we shall simply run through as many have appeared before at Islington and Alexandria Park, and on Friday came in first in one class and then in another, until we scarcely knew where we were. For instance, Miss Moffatt's Belle, a skewbald, was entered in the cob and pony class not exceeding 14.2, then in pairs not exceeding 14.3, then in single harness not exceeding 15 hands, and again in ponies not exceeding 14 hands. Some of the best looking that we could catch the numbers of were Mr. F. C. Matthew's Reciprocity, Mr. Garnett's Midge, Mr. Wright's Pick of the Basket, Mr. Frisby's Queen Polo and Rattle, Mr. F. P. Newton's Glengynn, Mr. Crowther's Clarissa, Mr. Holeswort's The Swell, Mr. Stephen's Perfection, Mr. Maudsley's Queen of the Fairies, and Mr. Greenaway's Elastic. Tiny, a very clever child's pony, is by Mr. Wilson's Sir George. Of six pairs in harness not exceeding 14.3 Lady Churchill's clever stepping, neat mare, Matchless, with Lottery, was first, and a pair of nice cobs of Mr. Groucock's second, and the before-mentioned skewbald, Belle, with a piebald, Bean, third. Lord Charles Beresford's Snip, a "sensational mover" headed some nice single harness horses exceeding fifteen hands, and Mr. Wayman's Maritana by Lord Calthorpe's Don Carlos, a fair lot not exceeding fifteen hands. It will be seen from this that there is a nice little show of horses.

There will be a parade of all the horses, tent pegging by the Punjabee Military Troupe, and competition for the jumping prizes daily, with a variety of other amusements to be seen in the park and palace for the sum of one shilling.

## PRIZE LIST

## JUDGES.

T. Farrington, Helmsley, York.  
J. M. Richardson, Ulechy, Lincoln.  
A. Maynard, Newton Hall, Durham.  
T. Ellerby, York.  
H. Beever, Barnby Moor, Retford.  
E. Aldridge, Chippenham Court, Slough.

Thoroughbred stallions.—First prize, £50, J. Goodliff's Huatington (Caterer); second, £30, C. Groucock, Hayward's Heath, Sussex (Newry); third, £10, withheld.

Roadster stallions.—First prize, £30, C. Groucock (Prickwillow II.); second, £15, Stand Sun Company, Whitefield, Manchester (Star of the East); third, £10, W. Featherby, Eserick, York (King Walter). Highly commended: J. F. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Mirfield (Cleverleg).

Hunters, four years old.—First prize, £10, T. H. D. Bayly, Edwinstowe House, Newark (Black Jack); second, £20, T. Cattle, Shrigsby, York (Cigarette); third, £10, F. P. Newton, Malton (Golden Plover). Highly commended: St. V. Taylor, Pool Farm, Taunton (Tophorn).

Five years old and upwards, up to not less than 14 stone or

## Agricultural Societies.

### HEREFORDSHIRE.

This was about the best lot of Hereford cattle we have ever seen in a showyard. The classes were well filled, and the quality of the stock could not be disputed. Of course they were at home, and the Alpha and Omega of the exhibition so far as horned stock are concerned. But the entries would have done credit to any Royal showyard; and, as a collection of Hereford cattle, the Show has probably not been surpassed outside the county. The entries of Herefords numbered 73, but there were two classes for groups, so that, allowing for a few absentees, there must have been more than 80 Herefords on the ground.

The first class was for "bull, cow, and offspring," in which were four entries, but only three in their places. Mr. Wm. Taylor's Thoughtful (5063) appeared in bad company, and so got merely the reserve number. The cow was an old one, yellow, and with such a rump as only an old Hereford cow can show, and the calf not a very striking one. Of course this put him entirely out of the hunt. Mr. Lutley's Cupid (5284) won on the strength of his belongings, having with him the cow Teacher 2nd, which stood second in her class at Exeter, and a fairly good bull calf. But the cow decidedly deserves the credit of the award. The second prize went to Mr. T. Myddleton, of Clun, for a very decent group; all were fairly good—Violet the 7th and her heifer calf helping the two-year-old bull, Hartington, as much as he helped them. He was bred by Mr. B. Rogers, of Pembridge. Mr. Aaron Rogers' Grateful, the champion bull at Oxford last year, was entered but could not appear, as the cow, Morella, has since died. He was not at the Royal last year, nor at the Bath and West this year. After this class of groups came that for bulls calved "on or after the 1st of January, 1878," which included, of course, young calves and strong yearlings. This is certainly a mistake, productive of great difficulty to the judges and dissatisfaction to exhibitors. It is impossible to get away from the actual growth and form of a seventeen-months-old yearling, although the promise and character of a ten-months-old calf may be of a higher order of merit; the one is, so far, and the other may be. The Herefordshire Society might easily adapt their standard of ages not only to the requirements of calves and yearlings, but also to the natural ages of the breed, as the calves are dropped as nearly all at one time as possible, namely, in April. No one wants calves until the grass comes, and there is no grass to speak of until then. The first of April would be a good date on which to fix the standard for the age of Hereford cattle. However, the Hereford men ought to know best what is right and convenient, and what is the reverse. Of one thing there can be no manner of doubt, namely, that to have such classes for young bulls and heifers as they have in connection with the Herefordshire Society's meetings appears very absurd to everyone but themselves. Mrs. Sarah Edwards' Coomassie, for example—say eleven months old—had to contend with Ruby, a long, saggy, growing yearling, just beginning to show himself at a little over seventeen months old, and it was not to be wondered at that Ruby won. He was bred by the late Rev. Archer Clive, and exhibited by Mr. R. Bridgford, but he is not of equal quality, nor of as good a character as Coomassie; his horns are not a good colour, and his tail is set on rather high, yet he has good quarters, is good all along the top, and is built on broad lines. Mr. Carwardine's Albert Victor came in for third prize, and Overseer, another of Mr. Carwardine's breeding, was highly commended; he

more than 14 stone.—First prize, £50, F. E. Thompson, Park Street, Hull (Golden Drop); second, £20, C. Rose, Malton (His Majesty); third, £10, A. J. Brown, North Elm-shall, Pontefract (Cockney). Highly commended: P. Ponneran, Wyndham Mews, Montague Square (Br. g.)

Five years old and upwards, up to not less than 14 stone.—First prize, £60, C. H. Legard, Boynton, Brdlington, Yorkshire (Blacklock); second, £20, R. Phipps, Northampton (Hurricane); third, £10, G. H. Piercy, Market Weighton (The King). Highly commended: C. W. Wilson, High Park, Kendal (Rossington).

The Alexandra Park Gold Medal and fifty sovereigns for the best hunter in the three classes.—Prize, C. H. Legard (Blacklock).

Hacks and roadsters, up to not less than 12 stone or more than 14 stone, not under 14.2 hands or over 15.3 hands.—First prize, £20 C. W. Wilson (Lady Watton); second, £10, J. Robinson, Coltman Street, Hull (Lady Silvertail); third, £5, R. Wright, Regent Road, Sal'ford (Minnie Hawk). Reserve number: Messrs. Allen and Haines, Seymour Place, Bryanston Square. Highly commended: The Earl of Aylesford, Albemarle Street (Perfection).

Up to not less than 14 stone, not under 14.2 or over 15.3 hands.—First prize, £20, C. W. Wilson (King Charles III.); second, £10, J. Ritche, Finchley (Lincoln); third, £5, Messrs. Allen and Haines (Prince Imperial). Highly commended: Sir Pryse Pryse, Gogerddan, Shrewsbury (The Dean).

Park hacks and ladies' horses.—First prize, £20, C. W. Wilson (Sunbeam); second, £10, Miss Moffatt, Cottingham Road, S.W. (Malabar); third, £5, Miss Moffatt (Charlie). Highly commended: T. G. Greenaway, Portland Stables, Euston Road (Grand Prix).

Cobs and ponies, not exceeding 14.2 hands.—First prize, £20, F. Holesworth, Shipton, Market Weighton (The Swell); second, £10, W. H. Maudsley, Sharples, Bolton-le-Moors (Queen of the Fairies); third, £5, H. Frisby, James Street, Buckingham Gate (Queen Polo). Highly commended, T. G. Greenaway (Elastic). Commended, H. Frisby (Queen Polo).

Ponies, not exceeding 12.2 hands high, to carry children.—First prize, £10, W. Maudsley (Tiny); second, £5, W. Foster, Grove Villa, Pontefract (Toby). Highly commended, W. Pope, Downham Market, Norfolk (Empress), and Lady M. Gordon, Wilton Terrace, S.W. (Tom Tit).

Pairs of ponies in harness, not exceeding 14.3 hands.—First prize, £20, Lady S. Churchill, Manchester Square (Lottery and Matchless); second, £10, C. Grouceck, (a bay and grey cob); third, £5, Miss Moffatt (Belle and Bean).

Single harness horses, four years old and upwards, exceeding 15 hands. First prize, £20, Lord C. Beresford, Eaton Square (Snip); second, £10, H. B. Boardman, Carnforth, Lincashire (The Squire); third, £5, Stand Stud Company, Whitefield, Manchester (Extravagance). Highly commended, Lord C. Beresford (Confidence). Commended, R. Allen, Lynn, Norfolk (Princess).

Single harness horses, four years old and upwards, exceeding 14 and not exceeding 15 hands.—First prize, £20, H. Wayman, Nelson House, Downham Market (Maritana); second, £10, J. Davis, Endsleigh Street, Euston Square (Florence); third, £5, J. Brown, Penrith, Cumberland (Lady Lonsdale). Highly commended, J. F. Crowther (Lady Clarissa). Commended, Miss Moffatt (Belle).

Ponies in harness, not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, £10, J. Wilson, Enfield (Daisy); second, £10, H. Frisby, (Queen Polo); third, £5, H. B. Boardman, Carcroft, Lancashire (Lady Isabel). Highly commended, H. Frisby (Young Bosco). Commended, Miss Moffatt (Belle).

Arabs.—First prize, £15, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales Arab stallion grey); second, £5 (Arab stallion bay).

THE EGG AND THE RING.—One of the medical journals publishes a letter from a physician detailing the following curious circumstances:—On the 11th of February his wife, after mixing some corn meal for feeding the fowls, missed her wedding ring from her finger, and after a fruitless search gave it up as lost. On the 8th of April, while engaged eating an egg at breakfast, she felt the egg-poon grate against something hard at the bottom of the egg below the yolk, and on further investigation found the lost ring firmly fixed by membranous adhesions to the bottom of the egg. The egg was of extra large size, and was laid the day before.

held second place to Coomassie at Exeter, but they were the only two in the class. Adamant, a thirteen-months'-old bull, bred by Mr. H. N. Edwards and exhibited by Mr. Wm. Taylor, held the reserve. Mr. John Morris showed a very useful bull, Cetewayo, fifteen-months'-old, which would have stood higher on the list if his tail had not been so high; that completely spoilt him, though he is one of a sort one does not often see—long, deep, stylish, and cut out for a big one. Mr. Hungerford Arkwright's Bromhead had a high commendation, but Mr. Edwards's President and Mr. John Ewer's Olive Duke were in the first draft sent out of the ring. This was a capital class, and the judges looked at them a long while before they made their awards. Whether they did the right thing with regard to placing Ruby before Coomassie we shall see when they both get a little older. Certainly there was little room for grumbling, and throughout, the judges—Mr. R. Bach of Bromfield, and Mr. H. Yeomans of Hay—did their duty in a most painstaking and satisfactory manner. The five two-year-old bulls were not the best of all the classes, and Mr. Hungerford Arkwright had an easy victory with Conjurer (5264), which began last year by taking first at Oxford and at Bristol as a calf, and has taken first as a yearling this year at Exeter. He is by Concord (4558) out of a cow by Bayleaf (3675). If he goes on in his present form he will win many a showyard honour yet. Mr. Wm. Taylor's Tredegar 4th was not in his place, and the others do not call for special mention. The old bulls' class contained only three animals. Messrs. Lewes and Powell's Telescope, one of Mr. Wm. Taylor's breeding—by Tredegar (5077) out of a dam by Triumph (2836)—was clearly entitled to first place, and next him was put Mr. H. N. Edwards's Durable, just as they were at the Royal last year.

The heifers calved "on or after 1st of January, 1878" were all ages and sizes as in the case of the corresponding class of the bulls. In this instance a little one won; Mr. Hungerford Arkwright's Antoinett—by Ivington Boy (4662) out of a dam by Sir Oliver 2nd (1733)—being, in everything except her horns and her size, more than a match for Mr. Carwardine's Apple Blossom, though the latter has great merit and is of excellent character. The two-year-old heifers were the class of the show, and here Mr. Hungerford Arkwright's Gaylass and Abigail, which were first and second at Exeter the other day—and the former first at both Royal and Bath and West as a calf last year—were left out in the cold. Cherry 24th, a remarkably good heifer bred by the Messrs. Green, of Leintwardine, was rightly enough placed first. This heifer was first at Ludlow last year, and has furnished, they say, remarkably well since then. At all events she is now an exceedingly good one, of great breadth, depth, and length, and of capital quality; her style and character too are good, and if she goes to London it will probably not be altogether in vain. She is by Wrexham (4260) out of a cow by Zealous (1849). The second prize went to Nancy 2nd by Hildebrand (4626), dam by Sultan (4163), bred by Mr. T. Middleton, of Clun. She is rather short, but her back, chine, and quarters are first-rate. Mr. Aaron Rogers, Mr. F. Platt, and Mr. John Morris were also exhibitors, and the names are a guarantee for the quality of the stock. The heifers in calf or in milk were only three in number, Mr. Wm. Taylor's Lancashire Lass, Mrs. Sarah Edwards's Spangle 3rd, and Mr. T. Myddleton's Nannette, which were placed in the order given. Lancashire Lass is taking the lead of Spangle 3rd this year; she is one of Tredegar's get. Amongst the cows Mrs. Sarah Edwards's Leonora of course put everything else in the shade, although there were some good animals with her. She is the most perfect animal we have ever seen. Then came a strong class of "four breeding cows in milk or in calf," and the

four entries were a show in themselves. Mr. Thomas Nott, of Brampton Brian, won the first honours, and capital cows they were, all of them bred by the exhibitor. Then came Mr. Lutley's lot, only one of which was bred by him, the other three being from the herds of Mr. John Hewer, Mr. J. B. Green, and Mr. W. G. Preece. Mr. Platt's four were not of his breeding, two coming from Mrs. Sarah Edwards, and two from Mr. Aaron Rogers. Mr. William Taylor's four were all bred by himself, but two of them were very old—one 18 years and the other 13 years—so that they had no chance. These are the sort of classes we like to see, as they try the resources of the herd. The judging for the Champion prizes did not take long. Thoughtful was undeniably the best bull, and Leonora of course the best beast in the yard, which secured her the other two prizes.

The few odd entries of Shorthorns, dairy cattle, Channel Islanders, and steers call for no mention. The sheep were useful, consisting of Shropshires and Cotswolds. Amongst the former Mr. Joseph Pulley, Mr. J. C. Farmer, Mr. T. Fenn, and Mr. F. Back were the prize takers; and Mr. Russell Swanwick had no competition to speak of with his Cotswolds. There appeared to be a fairly good show of horses.

## PRIZE LIST. CATTLE.

### HEREFORDS.

Bull, cow, and their offspring.—First prize, J. H. B. Lutley, Brockhampton, Worcester; second, T. Myddleton, Llynaven, Clun, Salop.

Bull, calved on or after the 1st of January, 1878.—First prize, R. Bridgford, Old Castle, Kinnersley; second, Sarah Edwards, Wintereoot, Leominster; third, T. J. Carwardine, Stockton Bury, Leominster.

Two-year-old bull, calved on or after the 1st of January, 1877.—First prize, J. H. Arkwright, Hwupton Court, Leominster; second, R. W. Bridgwater, Great Perthamel, Talgarth.

Bull, calved previous to the 1st of January, 1877.—First prize, J. Lewis and E. Powell, Breinton, Hereford; second, H. N. Edwards, Broadward, Leominster.

Heifer, calved on or after the 1st of January, 1878.—First prize, J. H. Arkwright; second, T. J. Carwardine.

Heifer, calved on or after the 1st of January, 1877.—First prize, J. B. Green and G. H. Green, Marlow Lodge, Leintwardine; second, T. Myddleton.

Heifer in calf or milk, calved on or after the 1st January, 1876.—First prize, W. Taylor, Showle Court, Ledbury; second, Sarah Edwards.

Cows in calf or milk.—First prize, Sarah Edwards; second, R. Bridgford, Old Castle, Kinnersley, Hereford.

Pair of steers calved on or after the 1st January, 1878.—Prize, F. Platt, Upper Breinton, Hereford.

Pair of steers calved on or after the 1st January, 1877.—First prize, F. Platt; second, Sarah Edwards.

Ox or steer.—First prize, F. Platt; second, J. H. Arkwright.

Four breeding cows in milk or in calf.—First prize, T. Nott, Letton Court, Brampton Brian; second, J. B. Lutley, Brockhampton, Worcester.

### SHORTHORN.

Cow and her offspring.—First prize, J. Pulley, Lower Eaton; second, J. Rankin, Bryngwyn.

Bull, calved on or after the 1st January, 1878.—Prize, M. B. Clive, Whitfield.

Bull calved on or after the 1st January, 1877.—Prize, T. M. Hopkins, Lower Wick, Worcester.

Heifer calved on or after the 1st January, 1878.—Prize, T. M. Hopkins.

### CHANNEL ISLANDS.

Cow exceeding three years old.—First prize, Sir H. Croft, Bart., Lngwardine Court; second, T. Maund, Whitehorse Dairy Farm, Hereford.

### DAIRY CATTLE.

Pair of cows of any breed in milk.—Prize, T. Maund.

## CHAMPION PRIZES.

Prize of £25 for the best bull exhibited in any of the classes of the Hereford breed.—Prize, W. Taylor.

Prize of £15 for the best cow or heifer exhibited of the Hereford breed.—Prize, Sarah Edwards.

Prize of £20 for the best bull, cow, or heifer exhibited of the Hereford breed.—Prize, Sarah Edwards.

Prize of £10 for the best ram of any age or breed in the show.—Prize, R. Swanwick, Agricultural College, Cirencester.

## SHEEP.

## SHROP-SHIRE.

Shearling ram.—First prize, J. Pulley, Lower Eaton; second, T. Fenn, Stonebrook House, Ludlow.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, F. Bach, Onibury, Salop.

Five ewes with their lambs.—First prize, J. Pulley.

Five shearling ewes.—First prize, H. Smith, Sutton Mad-dock, Shifnal; second, F. Bach.

## COTSWOLDS.

Shearling ram.—First and second prizes, R. Swanwick.

Ram of any other age.—First and second prizes, R. Swanwick.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—No entry.

Shearling ram.—No entry.

Ram of any other age.—First and second prizes, H. J. Bailey.

Pen of five shearling rams.—No entry.

## PIGS.

## BLACK BREED.

Boar, exceeding nine months old.—Prize, Major Peplow, Garnstone.

Sow in or with pigs.—First prize, W. Wheeler, Long Compton.

## WHITE BREED.

Boar, exceeding nine months old.—Prize, W. Wheeler.

Sow in or with pigs.—Prize, W. Wheeler.

## HORSES.

Thoroughbred stallion, entered in Stud Book, suitable for getting sound and stout weight-carrying produce.—First prize, E. W. Bridgewater, Hayton, Bromfield, Salop; second, V. Galliers, Buckton Park, Leintwardine.

Agricultural entire colt, two or three years old.—First prize, T. Helme, The Broom, Pembridge; second, A. Smith, Eaton Bishop, Hereford.

Agricultural mare and foal.—First prize, Lady Emily Foley, Stoke Edith Park; second, W. J. Lovejoy, The Hermitage, Burghill.

Filly or gelding, three years old.—First prize, R. Bridgford, Old Castle, Kinnersley; second, F. Platt, Upper Breinton.

Filly or gelding, two years old.—Prize, E. Jones, Newton, Leominster.

Filly or colt, one year old.—First prize, F. Platt; second W. Badham, Arkstone Court, Kingston.

## HUNTERS.

Mare and foal, not less than 15 hands.—First prize, H. J. Bailey, Rosedale, Tenbury; second, T. Jowitt, The Old Weir.

Mare or gelding up to 14 stone.—First prize B. H. Hill, The Hendre, Monmouth; second, H. W. Lovejoy.

Mare or gelding up to 12 stone.—First prize, J. L. Barling, King-street, Hereford; second, E. Bourn, Park Farm, Droitwich.

Filly or gelding, four years old.—First prize, W. Till, Balingham Hall, Ross; second, J. Mason, The Lawns, Nunnington.

Filly or gelding, three years old.—First prize, R. Swanwick; second, H. J. Bailey, Rosedale, Tenbury.

Colt or filly, two years old.—First prize, H. J. Bailey; second, A. Sheratt, Ocle Pitchard, Hereford.

Colt or filly, one year old.—First prize, H. J. Bailey; second, R. Swanwick.

## ROADSTERS.

Mare or gelding, not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches.—First prize, J. L. Barling; second, J. H. Arkwright, Hampton Court.

Cob mare or gelding, not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches.—First prize, J. Hill, Felhampton Court, Church Stretton; second, H. J. Bailey.

Pony mare or gelding, not exceeding 13 hands 2 inches.—First prize, R. J. Hereford; second, A. Edwards, Etaam-street, Leominster.

## PETERBOROUGH.

The fortieth show of the Peterborough Society was held on June 19 and 20. There was a good show of horses, cattle and sheep.

## PRIZE LIST.

## HORSES.

Hunters of any age.—First prize, C. Legard, Boynton, Bridlington; second, R. Phipps, Northampton.

Hunters of any age.—First prize, J. H. Stokes, Market Harboro'; second, W. Staplee, Oxney.

Hunters of any age, calculated to carry 12 stone.—First prize, A. J. Brown, North Elmsall Hall, Pontefract; second, W. Wright, Wollaton, Nottingham.

Four-year-old mares or geldings.—First prize, T. Flowers, Ramsey; second, R. Horrell, Oakley.

Best jumper in classes 1, 2, 3, and 4.—First prize, J. Greenham, Blankney; second, E. Waller, Peterboro'; third, J. Harrison, Wansford.

Harness horses, not less than 14 hands high.—First prize, Stand Stud Company, Whitfield; second, H. Wayman, Nelson House, Downham Market.

Three-year-old hunting geldings or fillies.—First prize, W. D. Howell, Sleaford; second, J. Rowell, Manor Farm, Bury.

Two-year-old hunting colts or fillies.—First prize, Hon. C. W. Fitzwilliam, Alwalton; second, Earl of Carysfort, Eiton.

Yearling hunters colts or fillies.—First prize, W. D. Howell; second, J. Goodliffe, Huntingdon.

Hunting mares with foal at foot.—First prize, J. Goodliffe; second, Lord Esme Gordon, Walcot Park.

Best foal in class 14.—Prize, Lord E. Gordon.

Hackney mares, not exceeding 15½ hands, with foal at foot.—Prize, A. Rowell, Bury.

Pair of cart horses, mares or geldings.—First prize, C. Beart, Stow Bardolph; second, W. Rowell, Peterborough.

Cart mare, with foal at foot.—First prize, H. Cooke; second, R. H. Griffin.

Three year old cart filly.—First prize, R. Hopper, Whittlesey; second, J. Tibbett, Askham House, Doddington.

Two year old cart filly.—First prize, M. R. Odam, Farcet; second, W. Looker, Wyton, Huntingdon.

Two year old cart geldings.—First prize, J. Hopper; second, C. Golden, The Grange, Beuwick.

Yearling cart fillies.—First prize, J. Speechley, Yaxley; second, Mr. Vergette.

Yearling cart colts.—First prize, G. Vergette; second, F. Watson, March.

Cart horse (mare or gelding) of any age.—Prize, C. Beart, Stow Bardolph.

## CATTLE.

Fat oxen.—First prize, J. W. Rowland, East Ville, Boston; second, J. D. Astley, Elsham Hall, Brigg.

Fat cows or heifers.—First prize, J. D. Astley; second, G. Chapman, Brook Farm, Exton, Oakham.

Bulls above 2 years old.—First prize, the Marquis of Exeter; second, T. H. Bland, Dingley Grange.

Bulls under 2 years old.—First prize, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York; second, the Marquis of Exeter.

Bull calves under 1 year old.—First prize, the Marquis of Exeter; second, J. J. Ellis, Ellistown.

Best Shorthorn in classes from 26 to 28.—First prize, Marquis of Exeter.

Cows in milk.—First prize, B. St. John Ackers, Painswick, Gloucester; second, G. Ashby, Naseby Woolleys, Rugby.

Heifers in calf or in milk under 3 years old.—First prize, B. St. J. Ackers; second, F. J. S. Foljambe, M.P., Osberton Hall, Worksop.

Heifers under 2 years old.—First prize, C. W. Griffin, Werrington; second, Lady Pigot, West Hall, Weybridge Station.

Calves under 1 year old.—First prize, W. H. Woodhouse, Woolmers Park, Herts; second, the Marquis of Exeter.

Best Shorthorn in classes from 29 to 32.—First prize, B. St. J. Ackers.

Cows or heifers of any breed.—First prize, F. J. S. Foljambe, E-q.; second, J. Turner, Norman Cross, Stilton.

Cows or heifers of the Channel Islands breed.—First prize, Lady Mary Cecil, Burghley House; second, Hon. T. W. Fitzwilliam, The Ferry, Peterboro'.

## SHEEP.

Long-woolled rams of any age.—First and second prizes, H. Smith, the Grove, Cropwell Butler.

Long-woolled shearing rams.—First and second prizes, H. Smith.

Down rams of any age.—First prize, C. U. C. Dormer, Rousham, Baulbury; second, R. M. Knowles, Colston Bassett.

Five long-woolled ewes.—First prize, C. Sell, Poplar Farm; second, Capt. R. C. Catling, Needham Hall, Wisbech.

Five long-woolled shearing ewes.—First prize, Capt. R. C. Catling; second, C. Sell.

Ten long-woolled ewe lambs.—First prize, C. Sell; second, C. Catling.

Five long-woolled wether lambs.—First prize, C. Sell; second, W. Gales, Glington, Market Deeping.

Five cross-bred lambs.—First and second prizes, F. Battcock, Hemingford Abbots, St. Ives.

## Extra Stock.

Five Shropshire shearing ewes.—Prize, C. U. D. Dormer. Five Cotswold ram lambs.—Prize, H. Akers, Black Bourton, Farington.

## PIGS.

Boars, large breed.—No competition.

Boars, small breed.—First prize, S. Spencer, Holywell; second, H. A. Kilham, Tydd S. Mary, Wisbech.

Sows, large breed.—Prize, H. A. Kilham.

Sows, small breed.—First prize, S. Spencer; second, J. L. Row, Woodstone, Peterborough.

Boars, Berkshire breed.—First prize, O. E. Duckering, Whitehoe, Kirtou Lindsey; second, W. G. Makwell, Orton Longueville.

Sows, Berkshire breed.—Prize, C. E. Duckering.

## SUFFOLK.

## MEETING AT LOWESTOFT.

This Show was held on June 19th and 20th. On the whole it was the smallest show the Suffolk Society has held for many years. The entries were—horses, 174; cattle, 66; sheep, 157; pigs, 66; implements, 600. The entry of horses was considerably below that of any Show held within the last ten years; cattle were fewer in number than at Ipswich last year by two only; sheep last year numbered 221; in pigs there was a small increase, and of implements the entry was exactly the same as that at Ipswich. The falling-off in the horses was chiefly in the riding classes, and there was a fair show of agricultural horses. The cattle, on the whole, were quite up to average merit; the sheep show was a good one, though small, and there was a capital lot of pigs.

## PRIZE LIST.

## HORSES.

## AGRICULTURAL.

Stallions having served not less than 20 mares in the county in 1879.—First prize, R. Garrett, Carlton Hall, Saxmundham; second, M. Biddell, Playford.

Three-year-old entire colts, foaled in 1876.—First prize, A. J. Smith, Rendlesham (Abbott Sampson); second, S. Wolton, Batley Abbey (Renown).

Two-year-old entire colts, foaled in 1877.—First prize, M. Biddell; second, H. Wolton, Newbourn Hall (Prince Royal) third, R. Garrett.

One-year-old entire colts, foaled in 1878.—First prize, J. Groat, Woodbridge; second, R. E. Lofft, Troston Hall.

The Catchpole Challenge Cup, value £100, R. Garrett.

## MARES AND FOALS.

Mares with foals at foot.—First prize, D. A. Green, East Donyland (Smart); second, the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, Easton Park.

Foals foaled in 1879.—First prize, R. Garrett; second, Duke of Hamilton and Brandon.

Gast Mares.—First prize, R. Capon, Dennington Lodge; second, the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon; third, J. Groat.

Three-year-old fillies, foaled in 1876.—First prize, H. Biddell; second, R. Garrett.

Two-year-old fillies, foaled in 1877.—First and second prizes, S. Toller, Letheringham Lodge, Wickham Market.

One-year-old fillies, foaled in 1878.—First prize, N. Catchpole, Bramford; second, R. E. Lofft.

## HARNESS.

Match pair for carriage or phaeton purposes, not less than 14.2 hands high, to be exhibited and driven (the first day of the show) in double harness.—First prize, Colonel Windsor Parker, M.P., Clopton Hall; second, J. M. Marsden, Bramfield.

Matched pair of cobs, between 13½ and 14½ hands high, to be shown in double harness.—First prize, J. Groat; second, T. H. Taylor, Earsham Park, Bangay.

## RIDING AND COACHING.

Thoroughbred stallions adapted for getting hunters, having served not less than ten mares in the county in 1879.—First prize, J. Groat; second, Col. F. Barlow, Hasketon.

Roadster stallions, having served not less than ten mares in the county in 1879.—First prize, T. Harper, Bury St. Edmund's; second, J. Groat.

Hunting mares with foal at foot.—First prize, R. E. Lofft; second, S. S. Bateley, Southtown, Yarmouth.

Hackney mares with foals at foot.—Not awarded.

Hunting foal, bred in the county or by the exhibitor.—First prize, R. E. Lofft; second, S. S. Bateley.

Roadster foals, bred in the county or by the exhibitor.—Prize, R. Garrett.

## HUNTERS.

Weight-carrying hunting mares or geldings, not less than five years old, equal to carrying not less than 14 stone.—First prize, A. G. Lucas, Lowestoft; second, C. Dawson, Nacton.

Four-year-old weight-carrying hunting mares or geldings, having been bred in the county or by the exhibitor, and equal to carrying not less than 14 stone.—Prize, Colonel Barlow, Hasketon.

Weight carrying hunting mares or geldings, two or three years old, having been bred in the county or by the exhibitor, and equal to carrying not less than 14 stone.—First prize, R. Garrett; second, withheld.

For the best light-weight hunting mare or gelding (not to be drawn from other classes).—Special prize, W. J. Clark, Thelveton.

Hunters jumping best the first day, special prizes.—First prize, T. Betts, Winfarthing; second, A. G. Lucas.

## RIDERS AND HACKNEYS.

Riding mares or geldings, not under 15 hands high.—First and second prizes, J. Groat.

Hackney mares or geldings, not under 14 hands high, and not exceeding 15 hands.—First prize, R. Capon; second, W. Jex.

Hackney mares or geldings, two or three years old, having been bred in the county or by the exhibitor.—First prize, J. R. Wood, Melton; second, R. E. Lofft.

## PONIES.

Ponies, 13 hands high, and not exceeding 14 hands.—Prize, W. J. Clark.

Ponies, under 13 hands high.—Prize, T. Harper.

## CATTLE.

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled bulls, not under two years old.—First prizes, Executors of the late J. F. Palmer, Wilby, Norfolk; second, A. Taylor, Starston Place.

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled bulls, under two years old.—First prize, R. E. Lofft; second, Executors of the late J. F. Palmer.

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled bull calves, not exceeding 12 months.—Prize, W. G. Collins, Huoston, Bury St. Edmund's.

Suffolk or Norfolk red polled cows, in milk or in calf.—First prize, J. J. Colman; second, J. Hammond, Bale.

Under three-year-old Suffolk or Norfolk red polled heifers, in milk or in calf.—First prize, A. Taylor, Starston Place; second, R. E. Lofft.

Under two-year-old Suffolk or Norfolk red polled heifers.—First prize, J. J. Colman, M.P.; second, G. Gooderham, Monewden.

Special prize for the best collection of Suffolk and Norfolk red polled cattle, J. J. Colman, M.P.

Shorthorn bull, not under two years old.—Prize, Marquis of Exeter, Barghley House, Stamford.

Shorthorn bulls, under two years old.—First prize, T. Rose, Melton Magna; second, E. A. Green, East Donyland.

Shorthorn bull calves, not exceeding one year old.—Prize, T. Rose.

Shorthorn cows, in milk or in calf.—First prize, D. A. Green; second, the Marquis of Exeter.

Shorthorn heifers, under three years old, in milk or in calf.—First and second prizes, N. Catchpole, Bramford.

Shorthorn heifers, under two years old.—First and second prizes, N. Catchpole.

Bulls of any breed, not being red polled, Suffolk Norfolk, or Shorthorn.—Prize, the Marquis of Bristol.

#### SHEEP.

Suffolk tups of any age.—Prize, J. Smith, Thorpe Hall Hasleton.

Shearling Suffolk tups.—First prize, R. Woodgate, Great Waddingfield, Sudbury; second, the Marquis of Bristol.

Suffolk lamb tups.—First prize, the Marquis of Bristol; second, R. Woodgate.

Pens of five shearling ewes.—First prize, R. Woodgate; second, the Marquis of Bristol.

Southdown tups of any age.—Prize, J. J. Colman, M.P.

Southdown shearling tups.—Prize, J. J. Colman, M.P.

Pens of five Southdown shearling ewes.—Prize, J. J. Colman, M.P.

Short or medium-woolled tups of any pure breed (not Suffolk or Southdown), of any age.—Prize, H. Lambert, Great Abington.

Shearling short or medium-woolled tups, of any pure breed (not being Suffolk or Southdown), of any age.—Prize, G. Cook, Horsham Park, Linton.

Pens of five short or medium-woolled shearling ewes, of any pure breed (not being Suffolk or Southdown).—Prize, H. Lambert.

Pens of ten ewes, of any age or breed, which have had lambs this year.—Prize, J. Smith.

Pens of ten shearling ewes, of any breed.—Prize, the Marquis of Bristol.

Pens of ten ewe lambs of any breed.—Prize, J. Smith.

#### PIGS.

Boars of the black breeds, not under one-year-old.—First prize, R. E. Duckering and Sons, Northorpe, Kirton Lindsey; second, G. Pettit, Friston, Saxmundham.

Boars of the black breed, under one-year-old.—First prize, W. W. Flatt, Wantisden; second, G. Pettit.

Sows and pigs of the black breed (the pigs not exceeding ten weeks old).—First prize, G. Pettit.

Breeding sows of the black breed.—First prizes, the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, K.T.; second, W. W. Flatt.

Pens of three young sows of the black breed, pigged since November 1st.—First prize, R. E. Duckering; second, G. Pettit.

Boars of the white breed, not under one-year-old.—First prizes, S. Spencer, Holywell, St. Ives, Hunts; second, R. E. Duckering.

Boars of the white breed, under one-year-old.—First prize, R. E. Duckering; second, S. Spencer.

Sows and pigs of the white breed (the pigs not exceeding ten weeks old).—Prize, S. Spencer.

Breeding sows of the white breed.—First prize, S. Spencer; second, W. Flatt.

Pens of three young sows of the white breed, pigged since November 1st.—First and second prizes, S. Spencer.

#### FARM IMPLEMENTS, &c.

Best collection of implements.—Prize, Woods and Cockedge, Stowmarket.

### THIRSK.

On June 20, the tenth annual show of the society was held in the Old Cricket Field, Thirsk, lent for the occasion by Mr. Hill, of the Fleece Inn. The weather in the morning was threatening, but the sky cleared at noon, and the day was as fine as could be wished, there being almost an uninterrupted continuance of sunshine, which was the more enjoyable and agreeable owing to the cloudy skies and rain so long experienced. Principally owing to the reason just stated, there was a good attendance of company, and the show yard was favoured with the presence of many ladies, it being calculated that more persons entered the show yard than on any previous occasion.

The entries of stock were as follows, namely:—Cattle, 51; sheep, 72; pigs, 49; horses, 244; poultry, 211; butter and eggs, 20; implements, 72; total, 719, being an increase of over 100 as compared with last year. The display of cattle

was of a superior character. The bull class for animals above one and under two years of age was well represented. Mr. Rudsdale, of Danby, secured the first honours with a prime beast, whose sire was Mr. Booth's celebrated bull King James, said to be one of the best bulls of his class in the kingdom. Mr. Yeates, of Studley, was second with a splendid bull bred by himself. The cows in calf or milk looked well on being brought into the ring, and Mr. Stamper, of Oswaldkirk, carried off both first and second prizes, with animals that well deserved their marks of distinction. Perhaps the most important class amongst cattle was that for fat beasts, a magnificent lot competing. Mr. Hall, Stockton-on-Tees, obtained the prize of three guineas with a fine red and white heifer of good symmetry and proportions, and of great weight. In the sheep and pig department there was nothing to call for any special remark, the various classes being as well or better represented than at any former show, some of the animals shown being really prime, particularly as regarded ewes and large breed pigs. There was a splendid display of horses, not only as regarded number, but also quality. The brood mares for breeding weight-carrying hunters constituted a prime class, and the animals belonging to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Wilkinson were quite up to the mark of excellence. This yearling hunter was highly spoken of in every respect, and the two and three years old fillies and geldings for the field numbered nearly fifty animals, the whole of whom were in prime condition, and promise to become good hunters in future seasons. The agricultural animals in the various classes were creditable to the show, and the class for jumping brought into the ring twelve animals, who competed gallantly for the prizes in the presence of a dense mass of spectators fringing the enclosure, and a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen who occupied the grand stand. The special prize of £5 5s., given by Colonel the Hon. L. P. Dawnay, for the best harness horse or pony, was awarded to Mr. Stubbs, Clifton Green, York, and the second prize of £2 2s. was given to Mr. Bowman, St. Andrewgate, York, with Charley. The exhibition of poultry was extensive, and of considerable merit generally, this being the time of the year for the domestic feathered tribe appearing to the best advantage. A display of butter and eggs formed a pleasing feature of the show, and the implement section attracted a fair share of attention, amongst the exhibits being a great variety of articles modern in character, used in the cultivation of the land.

### THORNE.

This annual Show was held on June 13th. The weather was favourable, and the Show a great success, the entries far exceeding those of last year. More than 190 horses were shown, and among them were many animals of a first-rate quality, especially the hunters, agriculturals, and roadsters. Cattle and sheep were very numerous, and among the exhibitors were some of the principal breeders in the district. There was an extensive exhibition of pigs, dogs, and poultry, and especially of butter and eggs, in which class nine prizes were offered. Among the extra stock the celebrated greyhound "Market Day," the winner of the Scarbrick Champion Cup and the Southern Champion Cup, was exhibited. There was a large attendance of the public. The following are the principal prize winners:—

HORSES.—Agricultural mare and foal, J. Coulman, J.P., Red House, Thorne; 2, M. Askren, Drain House, Levels. Hunter mare and foal, T. Mason, Doncaster; 2, P. Featherstone, Moor Town, Brandesburton, Beverley. Roadster mare and foal, J. T. Brown, Althorpe; 2, F. Clayter, Awkley and Retford. Agricultural or draught.—Yearling colt or filly, 1 and 2, W. Johnson, Hatfield. Two-year-old gelding or filly, J. Askham, Goole Hall, Bliffe, Selby; 2, F. Featiman, Cherry Orchard, Selby. Three-year-old gelding or filly, W. Pinder, Haldenby Hall; 2, J. J. Jefferson, Thorganby House, Dunnington, York. Pair of draught horses, used exclusively for agriculture, being the property of the exhibitor, J. H. Simpson, Conisborough; 2, J. T. Brown, Althorpe. Gelding or mare, any age, J. T. Brown; 2, P. Shircliffe, Thorne. Hunters.—Yearling colt or filly, T. Dudding, Garihporpe; 2,

H. n. Alexander F. Hood, Airnyn Hall. Two-year old gelding or filly, 1 and 2, T. Dudding. Three-year-old gelding or filly, A. J. Brown; North Elmsall Hall, Pontefract; 2, T. Dudding, Garthorpe. Gelding or mare, any age, F. E. Thompson, Elm Tree House, Hull; 2, John Wressell, Raventhorpe Farm, Brigg. Carriage.—Yearling colt or filly, R. H. Johnson, Plockerby Hall, Goole; 2, J. T. Brown, Athorpe, Doncaster. Two-year-old gelding or filly, 1 and 2, G. R. Varley, jun., Temple Rest, Selby. Gelding or mare, any age, J. and T. Reader, Beacon Farm, Holme, York; 2, John Johnson, Bingham Hall. Roadsters.—Yearling colt or filly, R. James, High Drewton, Beverley; 2, James Roberts, Armthorpe, Doncaster. Two-year-old gelding or filly, C. and F. Leake, Flixleat Hall, Howden; 2, Wm. Wainwright, South Duffield. Three-year-old gelding or filly, T. J. Browne, White House, Athorpe; 2, H. Thompson, Whittemore, Selby. Gelding or mare, any age, J. Robinson, Cleveland House, Hull; 2, J. F. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Miffield. Weight-carrying colt, any age or sex, J. Robinson; 2, W. H. Blackman, Wressle, Howden. Lady's hackney, any age or sex, J. Robinson; 2, T. F. Morrel, Hellsby Hall, Rotherham. Pony, not exceeding 14 hands, W. Foster, Grove Villas, Pontefract; 2, Frank Holdsworth, Shipton. Pony, not exceeding 12 hands, Wm. Foster; 2, Jonas Webb, Melton Ross, Uisceby. Gelding or mare, driven in harness, J. F. Crowther; 2, J. Hemingway, Thorne. Cob, gelding, or mare under 14 3 hands, in single harness, driven in the cheek and without bearing rein, R. Gledhill, Bradford; 2, J. Hemingway.

CATTLE.—Bull, any age, John Rowley, Stubbs, Walden, Pontefract; 2, Henry Fawcett, Old Bramhope, Otley. Bull, not exceeding two years old, M. Lamb, Caley Farm, Otley; 2, John Rowley. Bull calf, not exceeding one year old, Henry Fawcett; 2, B. Fletcher, Carlton, Yeadox. Heifer calf, not exceeding one year old, Jonas Webb, Melton Ross, Uisceby; 2, F. Harrison, King Street, Thorne. Cow, in calf or milk, 1 and 2, Henry Fawcett. Heifer, in calf or milk, under three years old, 1 and 2, Jonas Webb. Heifer, not exceeding two years old, M. Lamb; 2, Henry Fawcett. Best heifer (cow or heifer), in store condition, bred and owned by a tenant farmer of under 200 acres, in the parishes of Hatfield, Thorne, Stainforth, Fishlake, and Sykehouse, William Hurst, Tith Farm, Hatfield Woodhouse.

SHEEP.—One-shear improved Lincoln or long-woolled ram, W. Roe, North Scarle Field, Newark; 2, John Nelson, Kettleby Thorpe, near Brigg. Improved Lincoln or long-woolled ram, any age, John Nelson; 2, Alfred Croysdale, Whitley Bridge, Pontefract. Pen of five improved Lincoln or long-woolled ewes, having suckled lambs up to the day of the show, W. Roe; 2, T. J. Smith, Hatfield, Doncaster. Pen of five improved Lincoln or long-woolled gimmers, W. Roe; 2, T. J. Smith. Pen of five improved Lincoln or long-woolled rams, W. Roe; 2, M. Askren, Drain House, Levels. Tup lamb (within 20 miles of Thorne), E. Coulman, Plains House, Levels, Thorne; 2, George Outwin, Hatfield Park, Doncaster.

PIGS.—Boar, any breed, John Harris, Hatfield; 2, Thompson Hannam, Leeds. Sow, any breed, Edmund Ellis, Doncaster; 2, T. Hannam. Open gilt, any age, R. Addinall, Doncaster; 2, T. Hannam. Cottager's pig, Joe Dean, Ferry Bridge; 2, C. Brooks, Hatfield Wood House. Boar, property of exhibitor, resident within ten miles of Thorne, S. C. Brunyee, Sand Hall; 2, J. Harris, Hatfield.—*Leeds Mercury.*

HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL.

The half-yearly general meeting of this society was held on June 18th, Mr. Copland in the chair. The names of new members, 108 in number, were read.

FERTIL SHOW, 1879.

Mr. MENZIES, in the absence of Colonel Gillon of Walthouse, said—I have in the first place, to report that the competition for the premium of £150 for the best draught stallion, to serve in the district of the show, took place at Perth on the 14th of February, when 38 horses were entered, and that the premium was awarded to Mr. David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley, for his stallion "Luck's All." I have in the next place, to report that the arrangements for the meeting at Perth, which will be held from the 29th of July to the 1st of August inclusive, are progressing as satisfactorily as could be desired. The entries closed on the 13th inst., and the following is a statement of the head of stock, &c., compared with the last show at Perth in 1871:—

	Perth, 1879	Perth, 1871.
Cattle.....	380	376
Horses .....	250	177
Sheep .....	500	684
Swine.....	60	71
Poultry .....	250	301
Wool.....	10	—
Dairy produce .....	60	88
Implements.....	2,000	1,948

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Professor Wilson said—"I have to report that the examination of candidates for the diploma and certificates in agriculture took place on the 31st March and 1st and 2nd of April, and that the following passed:—For Diploma—John Malcolm Aitken, Crieff; John Craig, Innergeldie, Comrie; James Cannan, Urieoch, Castle Douglas; Arthur E. Brooke Hunt, B.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, Peers Court, Dursley, Gloucestershire; John Wilson, Jun., Fairfield, Lorton, Cockermouth. For First-Class Certificate—Michael Falcon, Svaiburn, Workington; Law ord D. Glover, Findon, Worthing. For Second-Class Certificate—James McLaughan, Cobleugh, Dinnit, Aberdeenshire; Robert M. Malloch, Balhaldie, Braco, Perthshire; Robert Menzies Traill, Orkney. The two prizes of £6 and £4 given by the Society to the class of agriculture in the Edinburgh University were this year awarded by special examination to—1st, William Martin, Dumfriesshire; 2nd, W. J. N. Liddall, Edinburgh. Mr. Liddall afterwards resigned in favour of Robert Menzies Traill, Kirkwall; and R. M. Malloch, Braco, Perthshire.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. MYLNE, in the absence of Colonel Gillon, said:—"I have to report that the annual examination for the society's veterinary certificate took place on the 7th and 8th April, when six students presented themselves for the final examination, and the whole passed. The preliminary examination of younger students was held at the same time, when 21 entered their names, and 14 passed.

KELSO SHOW, 1880.

Mr. MENZIES further reported that the arrangements for the Kelso Show, 1880, were just in the same position as they generally were at this time, and he need not trouble the meeting by going into details.

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICES.

The Hon. GEORGE WALDEGRAVE LESLIE moved—"That it be referred to the Hall and Chambers Committee to consider the number of eligible houses in Edinburgh now in the market, and to report upon any really suitable house or houses for the offices of this society, where also the society's chemist may be able to carry out analyses of manures, feeding stuffs, &c., for the benefit of members of the society, in the same manner as is now so efficiently carried out by the Royal Agricultural Society of England."

After a long discussion this resolution was carried.

CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. MACKENZIE of Portmore said that Dr. Aitken's lectures had been attended with much interest by between fifty to eighty, and he had to intimate that they would be continued in future on days more suitable for tenant-farmers. We are unable to find space for the report of the Chemical Committee.

BANKERS' BATTLE.—Under this heading the *Rock* gives the following anecdote, in which the two greatest (pecuniary) potentates of the age were concerned, on what it regards as good authority:—At the time of the last great commercial crisis, when the money market was just beginning to show signs of "tightness," Messrs. Rothschild lodged a large sum (£300,000 we believe) in Lord Overstone's bank—(then Jones, Loyd, and Co.). This seemed so strange a procedure that it aroused the Noble Lord's suspicions, and he bid his cashier put the money away in a parcel by itself and await further orders; which was done accordingly. Meanwhile money grew more and more in demand, and just when the pressure was at its height Messrs. Rothschild drew a cheque for the £300,000 hoping, no doubt, thereby to embarrass their puissant rival. So far from that, Lord Overstone had the exquisite satisfaction of returning the parcel of money precisely in the state in which he had received it some months before. It was such a *bagatelle* that he had not even cared to make use of it!

## LORD DERBY ON AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

Lord Derby presided at the annual meeting of the Lancashire Farmers' Club and Chamber of Agriculture, held at the Liverpool Town Hall on June 9th. The report of the Council expressed anxious concern at the present and prospective position of agriculture, and stated that the foreign competition in animal and vegetable produce had so increased quantities and reduced prices that the future was regarded with apprehension by home producers. The continually adverse weather added to the farmer's perplexity, while high rents, tithes, and local taxes pressed heavily upon his energy. Though labour was lower, it was still dearer than in the last cycle of depression, and so also was the cost of all farming requisites. Often, too, farmers had to contend with restrictions as to cropping and with uncertainty as to occupation, some living in constant fear that they would not be compensated for inexhausted improvements if served with six months' notice to quit. On the latter point the Council considered that such compensation should either be provided by special agreement between landlord and tenant or legally secured by the Legislature.

Lord DERBY, who was cordially received, said he had attended at the request of the Club, many members of which thought it desirable they should confer on the present unsatisfactory condition of the agricultural interest, and to consider whether anything could be done for its advantage, a point upon which there was much diversity of opinion. His lordship proceeded: Were we to consider that the distress which prevailed among farmers was likely to be permanent or was it temporary in its character? That was a question on which a good deal depended, and it was not easy to answer with certainty. He inclined to the more hopeful view. We had had in the last two or three years a combination of circumstances which were not likely to recur all together. We had had, generally speaking, bad harvests at home. We had had during the same time abundant supplies from abroad, which, to the general public was of course a gain, but which had robbed the farmer of his usual compensation for short crops—a high price for his produce. He had sold little, and he had sold that little cheap. We had had great industrial depression, the effect of which on the demand for agricultural produce had been very perceptible. Further, we had lived for a long time in constant apprehension of a war on a large scale, and we had actually been engaged in two wars on a small scale. Now, any one of these troubles might occur again, and probably would. But it was very long odds that we did not have them all, one on the back of the other. No doubt there was plausibility in the argument of those who contended that we were only now experiencing the full effect of the free trade measures of 30 years ago. It took time, they told us, to develop a new industry and to organise the means of transit; but that was now done, and the British farmer could never again compete against the corn of California and the western prairies, to say nothing of countries still more distant. Possibly those who spoke in that sense might be right—at least so far as corn was concerned, for corn was easily transported, was easily stored, and would keep. But he did not think we need be discouraged as yet by anything that we had seen as to the import of foreign cattle. In meat, and milk, and vegetables, and some other articles of produce, we ought to be able to hold our own. If we had against us cheapness and abundance of land in other quarters of the globe, we had in our favour nearness to the market; and even ocean steamers would not reduce the Atlantic to a mere ferry. Generally, he should put it in this way:—In regard of whatever would not bear keeping we had a natural protection against the foreigner; and in regard to whatever cultivation required minute care and personal oversight, the small, highly cultivated farm at home and cheap labour—he meant in comparison with that of the colonies—possessed advantages which they were not likely to lose. Looking to the present only, it was impossible to deny that in some parts of England farmers had great reason to complain. Allowing for some natural exaggeration, there was no doubt that the distress about which so much was said was severe in some counties, real in most, and felt to

some extent, though it might be slightly, in all. There were some suggested remedies which it was only necessary to mention in order to put them out of the way. Nobody in Lancashire was likely to ask for a return to protection; and even those who talked about reciprocity and the protection of British industry as regarded other branches of production admitted that imported food could not again be taxed. So they might pass on to something more practical. One of the subjects most frequently discussed by Chambers of Agriculture and farmers' meetings was the incidence of local taxation. Local taxes, it was said, fell more heavily on land than on other kinds of property. (Hear, hear.) He did not undertake to prove that their incidence was in all respects perfectly just; but he was compelled, against his own interest, to point out that the farmer, though certainly he was concerned, was not the person primarily concerned in the matter. If all rates whatsoever were taken off, he would not be a gainer in the long run. What was taken off from rates would fairly enough be added on in rent. And the same argument applied to the various proposals which we heard of from time to time for putting rates on to the owner instead of the occupier. In regard to the malt-tax, no doubt it was a heavy charge upon a certain class of lands, and had the inconvenience of falling unequally on different parts of the country. But it was not a charge on the farmer, except in the same sense as rent was so. Take away the tax and the landlord pocketed the difference. Lord Derby said he would not do more than touch upon the question, deeply interesting as it was, whether we should make matters better by establishing (if we could do it) a class of cultivators who should be also freeholders. He repeated what he had said more than once before, that he should like to see that experiment fairly tried. There was land enough in the market, and if a few capitalists chose to join, buy an estate, and divide it into small lots, they might practically test the question by selling these off, letting the purchasers pay by instalments spread over a long term of years. The obvious advantage gained, if the experiment succeeded, was that they would work on their own ground more zealously than they would on anybody else's. The equally obvious drawback was that purchasers would not only have no spare capital to expend on the soil, but, until they had paid off the purchase money, would be in the position of very heavily encumbered owners. Between these opposite considerations only an actual trial could decide. But even if that solution were a practical one, it was one which would take generations to work out, and for tenant farmers who did not want to buy their farms, and for the most part had not the capital to buy them, it was no solution at all. For the same reason we might ignore the vexed question of large or small estates. The farm, not the estate, was the unit to be dealt with. For example, the farms in a given district were each on an average about 100 acres in extent. It made absolutely no difference to the way in which they were worked, whether one, ten, or fifty, were under the same landlord. One exception only to that rule he would make—there were landowners who were owners only in name, whose estates really belonged to their creditors, and who were driven to press hard upon their tenants because they were hard pressed themselves. If the present depression continued, matters would become worse and worse for such persons, and the question might arise whether some such summary remedy as was applied by the Encumbered Estates Act in Ireland might not become necessary here. That was for Parliament and for the country to decide; in the meanwhile he would strongly warn landowners against that common delusion that it was always better to hold on to an estate, however encumbered, rather than to sell, because the price of land was continually rising. No doubt that had been the experience of the last fifty years, but it did not follow that the experience of the next fifty years might not be, on the whole, in an opposite direction. Passing to the relations between landlord and tenant, a great deal of mischief was done by both parties to the discussion preferring to shelter themselves under general terms which each side interpreted in its own favour. The English tenant recognised the fact that his relation to his landlord was one of contract; and, if he understood the subject rightly, the difficulties which from time to time arose related almost exclusively to matters for which the contract had not sufficiently provided. That view of the case suggested the remedy which would usually be effective—don't leave these points unprovided for when you enter on a farm. We sometimes heard it said, "Freedom to contract is

nonsense; the parties are on too unequal terms; the law must step in to protect the weaker side." Now, he did not meet that argument by a denial of the right of the State to interfere. The practical objections to legislative interference with contracts were exceedingly strong. If the incoming tenant was strong enough to make his own terms, he wanted no protection; if he was not, he would agree to any evasion of the legal conditions which the owner might propose. It should be recollected that every owner had the choice of various expedients to escape from an obligation to which he objected. He might keep his lands in his own hands, and rich men, whose fortune was mostly in money and who owned estates rather for pleasure than profit, were likely to do so if they found the alternative was to lose all control over them. He might, again, let it only to tenants who he knew were not able or not likely to insist on legal rights against him, and, of course, these would not be of the improving or independent class. Or, thirdly, he might fix a rent higher than he intended actually to receive, and keep the difference in reserve to be collected only in the event of a dispute between himself and his tenant. This showed the importance of keeping to the plain rule of life, that of letting the two parties to a bargain settle the terms between them. But he would go further. There never was a time when it was less necessary for tenant-farmers to ask the State to make contracts for them. In the present state of things they were masters of the situation. With farms lying unoccupied all over the country, it was the farmer's own fault if he accepted a lease with provisions in it which he thought objectionable. These remarks as to leaving contracts free applied in principle to all of the three main subjects of agricultural discussion—restrictions on cultivation, game, and unexhausted improvements. But there were differences of detail, and a word on each might not be out of place. One of the demands often made by the Chambers of Agriculture was for what they called "free cultivation." He did not think the phrase a happy one. Everybody was free to cultivate his own land as he pleased, and freedom by law to cultivate somebody else's land as the cultivator pleased meant a transfer of ownership if it meant anything. The question was hardly one for Parliament to deal with. So long as an owner was left free not to let his land at all, or to let it to whomsoever he pleased, it was on the face of it inconsistent to forbid him to impose such restrictions on the cultivation as the tenant was willing to accept. But he did not doubt that there was a great deal of truth and force in the complaint that leases were often clogged with conditions not applicable to the wants of modern farming, probably not intended to be enforced, but kept up merely by the force of routine. The grievance, he thought, might be settled without any serious difficulty. He should have no objection to such a change in the law as would give the game to the tenants, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary; but, as it would almost always be a subject of agreement, the change so made would be one rather of form than fact. Some people contended that the landlord should have no power of reserving the game. But that would not only be an arbitrary restriction, it would be altogether useless. The tenant having the game might let it, and he would naturally let it back again to the owner. To prohibit that would involve the absurdity that every owner would be able to shoot over his neighbour's land, but not on his own; to allow it would leave things virtually as they were. A tenant had a right to protection from all damage by game greater than what he bargained for when he took his farm. Something was said in the report as to the shortness of the present notice to quit—six months wherever the new Act had not been brought into operation. He thought, considering the character of modern farming, the complaint was a reasonable one. Some owners gave 12 months; that was not an inconveniently long delay for a landlord re-entering into possession, and he thought it might fairly be made the rule in all cases. As to unexhausted improvements, that was not a question which could be treated in a few sentences. No one wished that the landlord should confiscate the result of the tenant's outlay; on the other should the landlord had a right to protect himself against having to pay for so-called improvements made by the tenant, which might be of no use to him and might not add to the letting value of the farm. These were the two rocks between which he had to steer (Hear, hear). He believed the last Act on the subject embodied as fair a solution of the points in dispute as we were likely to arrive at. Most of the trouble on this

question arose from want of care in the first instance. He had more than once asked farmers why they had laid out their money without security, knowing, perhaps, that their farms were likely to go into the market. Generally the answer was that they supposed they would be fairly dealt with. Well, if men would not exercise ordinary prudence, the fault was their own when they suffered (hear). The farmers had always been in a stronger position than they knew of, and if they only made up their own minds as to what terms they thought fair in regard to this question of improvements they required no help from the outside. Landlords did not, as far as he could ever see, want to claim what was not their own. They had a strong feeling in favour of settling such claims amicably and quietly; and, apart from personal feeling and from a sense of justice, they were too much afraid of injuring their party and their class to be willing to quarrel with those who had the electoral command of the counties in their own hands (Hear, Hear). Farmers would spoil their own and each other's chances by being too thick on the ground. Let those who had sons whom they were bringing up to their business look outside this island. In America and Australia there would be room for centuries to come, and in those countries, as long as a man was on good terms with himself, he could not quarrel with his landlord (laughter and cheers).

The report was adopted.

## ROADS AND ROADWAYS.

A paper read before the Civil and Mechanical Engineers' Society, by Mr. George Wailer Willcocks, Associate Institute C.E.

The highways of a country are the veins through which the life blood of the body social courses and the commercial activity of a community is as dependent upon its means of communication as the life of the human frame upon the arterial system. In populous towns especially are not wide clean streets as essential to health as a proper water supply and good drainage?

The subject of roads is practically boundless, for the term "road" may be applied to an Indian track, railway, or even canal, but in this paper the author confines himself to roads traversed by vehicles with unflanged wheels, drawn by animal power or by traction engines.

The Greeks do not seem to have given much attention to the formation of roads, and it may seem surprising that Athens, notwithstanding its renowned architects and magnificent buildings, was a dirty ill-drained town. It is easy, however, to account for the absence of country roads for Hellas has, considering its size, about the largest extent of coast of any country in Europe. In the wars they seldom made a permanent conquest of inland territory like their successors in power the Romans, who pushed their way over the greater part of the then known world. The Roman roads, many of which exist at the present day, are monuments of the skill and enterprise of these great masters. The author proceeded to give a detailed description of the construction of the Roman roads.

Dr Dyonysius Lardner said a road should be level, smooth, and hard, or non-elastic. The truth of Newton's first law of motion cannot be proved by direct experiment, but we certainly all know that the more external influences are reduced so much the more does motion become direct and uniform.

The subject is divided into two parts, country roads and town roads or streets.

### COUNTRY ROADS.

Selecting the route of a road through hilly country is by no means the easy matter which many non-professional men imagine. Persons interested in the promotion of a new thoroughfare often grudge the first expense incurred by engineers in prospecting, thinking that almost a casual glance of the country is sufficient, but before finally deciding the line careful surveys should be made, and trial sections taken, in fact the work is similar and requires the same amount of care and attention as that necessary to be exercised in the construction of a railway. Some of us, no doubt, call to mind very modern roads laid out by biassed or ignorant surveyors, which have become absolute eyesores, detrimental to adjoining building land. The sites are ruined, because perhaps it would

have been better, nay imperative, to have made the road a few yards on one side or the other.

Great attention should be paid to the nature of rivers, streams, water courses, and general drainage of the land.

Information should be obtained from the oldest inhabitants of the district concerning the height of floods, in order that the bridges and culverts may be built large enough to carry off the maximum amount of water without causing flooding to neighbouring land. Gradients should be rendered as light as possible, not only to ease the traction of carriages but also to prevent the washing out of road materials. Breaking the wheels has a tendency to tear up the road, and instead of the usual method adopted it would be advisable to place a wide piece of wood under the wheels of heavy wagons. This in some parts of the continent is rendered compulsory. Roads resemble many organic objects in requiring air and light, and therefore it is not advisable to hedge them too much, but only so that the fences are strong enough for the protection of farmers.

The ground surface below the structure of the road should be properly prepared to receive the stones, as any extra amount of metalling is a poor and expensive remedy for compensating any neglect in this respect. The metalling, although of the best quality, will be of no avail, unless the foundation is fit to receive it.

The ground if soft should be consolidated by either rolling or punning, and if likely to be wet shallow grips should be cut transversely and filled in with dry work.

The importance of drainage cannot be over-estimated, as drainage may render a road good which was previously inferior. When possible drains should be made on either side of a highway in such a manner that water can readily fall into them from the road.

Considerable discussion arose between the partisans of Telford and McAdam as to the best method of building the superstructure; Telford maintaining it was necessary to have a rigid foundation properly constructed of large stones, hand laid, thereby forming a solid and non elastic surface, and McAdam that it was only requisite to place the metalling directly on the ground and that elasticity improved the road. McAdam was opposed to the system of mixing a binding of sand or gravel with the broken stone, so much adopted in the present day by road makers.

In selecting material for the construction of his road the engineer is, to a great extent, obliged to take such as he can obtain from the locality, which is not always of the best. It is often found cheaper to use a good road metalling brought from a distance and costing three or four times as much as local inferior stone, as the subsequent expense of maintenance is considerably reduced.

Stone for the purposes of road making should be hard and tough to bear the strains, blows, and vibrations of heavy carts. The stone should also be able to withstand all atmospheric influences without the disintegration of its parts.

Among the Trappean rocks, which are noted for their hardness, are found the best stones for road metalling. The limestones of the older formations are the only limestone, that can be recommended. Flints and silicious materials although hard, are too brittle for heavy traffic, although they are extensively used in the south and south west of England, where the chalk system is so predominant.

The reader explained the construction and cost of roads in Ireland and Ceylon.

The maintenance of roads in Ceylon in the mountain zone is from 4d. to 6d. per square yard per annum, and in the plains or maritime provinces from 2d. to 3d. per square yard per annum. As compared with the maintenance of roads in Great Britain this cost would seem excessive, but the conditions are totally different, the mountain roads having to bear a very heavy traffic, consisting of vehicles with one pair of wheels, the tyres of which are only 2½ inches wide, carrying an average weight of 1½ tons drawn by bullocks, and the mean annual rainfall in the higher ground is 167 inches, compared to 34 inches, the mean annual rainfall of the whole of the United Kingdom.

#### TOWN ROADS OR STREETS.

In dealing with streets it is obvious that one has to consider a set of circumstances differing very widely from those with which we had to bear in mind while treating of country roads such as the continuous traffic, and the sanitary and other requirements of the inhabitants. To some extent the interests

of the ratepayers and owners of horses conflict, but as the trade of a town is to such an extent dependent on the carriage of goods and passengers it is better to join in one issue and have a pavement combining as much as possible the requirements of both parties.

We have insisted, while speaking of country roads, upon the necessity of a good foundation; but this is of far more importance in a street, as the very best system of road service would fail unless the substructure is firm.

#### MACADAMISED STREETS.

In small towns and in the less busy streets of large towns macadamised roads are common, they are, however, not suitable for streets with much traffic on account of the cost and frequency of repairs, and the great expense of scavengering. From these causes it becomes in large towns the most expensive roadway. In many parts of London the metalling employed is larger than that requisite for the purposes of making a good road. A ring 2½ inches in diameter is the maximum size through which metalling should pass, and, in fact, a ring 2 inches in diameter is large enough, but stones which would not pass through a ring 3 inches in diameter are frequently seen.

Some authorities, however, argue that when rollers are used large stones are better, but the heavy rollers so often used instead of pressing the material into place crush the stones and disturb the foundations, and although a road so made may at first look very pretty the traffic will soon show its weak points. Streets such as Parliament Street cost from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per square yard per annum to keep them in repair (without scavengering); some other streets cost even more.

#### STONE PAVING.

Paving with stone is the most ancient system of forming a road surface since road-making became a science. The Romans adopted this method, and still the important thoroughfares of our large towns are constructed on the same principles. Although expensive to lay it lasts longer than any other kind of road, so that in the long run it becomes the cheapest kind of pavement (asphalte perhaps excepted), but the noise, accumulation of dirt, and wear and tear to horses and carriages are serious drawbacks. In London the joints between the setts are grouted with lias lime to render the surface impervious to water, but in Hull, Manchester, and other northern towns the joints are filled with an artificial asphalte.

Generally it may be said that a granite pavement in the metropolis, well laid on good concrete foundation, will last, with occasional repairs, upwards of twenty years, and at a cost to the ratepayers of only about 10d. per square yard per annum, including in that annual cost the cost of a new pavement and its maintenance. The author described the construction of the streets in London, Manchester, Hull, Warrington, and Exeter.

#### ASPHALTE.

Although there has been a certain amount of prejudice against asphalte we still find the Val de Travers Asphalte Company (who have led the van and fought the battles in favour of asphalte) laying down their asphalte extensively in the city of London. Asphalte becomes harder after having been laid a short time owing to the weight brought to bear on the surface compressing the component parts of the substance. Mr. Cobb, in his report to the Paving Committee for the town of Cambridge, 1878, said: "With our slight traffic it seems not unreasonable to infer that a properly laid asphalte road in Cambridge would last half a century, and that with but little repair." Asphalte has certainly the disadvantage of not always affording secure foothold to horses during dirty or damp weather, but in dry or very wet weather this drawback is reduced to a minimum. However excellent asphalte may be for a level street it cannot be recommended for steep gradients. Asphalte makes, without exception, the best of footways, it is smooth, clean, and pleasant to walk on. Asphalte being impervious no water can accumulate and cause unhealthy dampness. The author described the difference between the compressed and liquid asphalte and the modes of laying.

#### WOOD PAVING.

In countries where timber is abundant wood has long been in vogue for carriageways. Wood paving should be laid in a street with a moderate traffic and plenty of sun and air. In confined places it soon rots and becomes a source of much

unhealthiness. The blocks should be laid on a firm foundation of concrete, and as far as possible the surface should be impervious. Fir is the wood chiefly used for paving, as the harder woods being worn smooth become dangerous and slippery. The best sizes for blocks are 3 inches wide, 9 inches long, and from 5 to 6 inches deep, and care should be taken that they are cut from the parts nearest the heart of the tree. Wood should be well cleansed, for otherwise it retains all sorts of organic filth. The Improved Wood Paving Company were the first to introduce wood pavement on scientific principles. Various improvements by this and other companies have considerably extended the wearing power of wooden pavements. Mr. Croskay was the first to advocate a close-jointed wood pavement, so that a surface of the street constructed on his method would resemble the floor of a house with the grain of the wood vertical. Henson's wood pavement is also a close jointed wood pavement laid on tarred felt. It has been laid in Oxford and Fleet Streets, and has given general satisfaction. The asphaltic wood pavement has been laid in the Strand. The blocks are bedded on a layer of asphalt, and the joints are partly filled with the same substance. Shiel's composite wood pavement has been laid at Victoria Station, and has been severely tested. It is the best wood pavement for steep gradients, and consists of wood and asphaltic concrete. Messrs. W. Laing and Co., of Parliament Street, Westminster, are the agents for the patentees. Prosser's wood pavement is composed of blocks of wood cut at an angle of 60 degrees, the grain of the wood running in the same direction. It has been laid at the London Bridge Station of the London, Brighton, and South-Coast Railway. Messrs. John Mowlem and Co., of Millbank, lay their blocks on concrete, which are afterwards grouted with lime and sand.

### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH AND IRISH MILLERS.

On June 11th the annual meeting and congress of this Association was held in the hall of the Worshipful Company of Bakers, Harp Lane, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman Hadley, who was supported by Mr. Edwin Ransom, of Bedford; Mr. R. H. Appleton, of Stockton-on-Tees; Mr. Muir, of Glasgow; Mr. Richardson, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. H. J. Sandersou, Mr. Ford, Mr. Daw, Mr. Ingleby, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Downing, Mr. Warburton, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that they had met to commemorate their first annual meeting, and he trusted the meeting would be as successful as the one held last year. Although they confessed to a somewhat moderate programme their aspirations were of a high and noble character. The successful formation of the Association might be justly regarded as one of the greatest achievements of the present time by their class; for at one time it was a prevalent opinion that it was impossible for millers to unite for the promotion of their common interest. During the past year they had not only formed the London Millers' Association, but also Liverpool, Northampton, Colchester, Devon County, Herts, Wilts, and Dorset, and in Sheffield and other places. The Association took an important part in the legislation of central and in obtaining a new Weights and Measures Act, and also in the exposition of the bearing of the new factories Acts on flour millers. Useful work had also been done in respect of important subjects on fire insurance and improved methods of milling. As to the future, he said that still greater efforts might be made to secure the organisation of all great milling centres during the present year. That could be done in two ways. First, by an address from the Council to the influential millers in different parts of the country urging them to call a meeting of their brethren and bring before them the benefits of organisation and connection with the National Association; and, secondly, by personal visitation of the chief districts by the secretary, who should arrange meetings for the purpose of explaining the objects and advantages of organisation. With regard to the manufacture of flour, millers throughout the kingdom were suffering very much from competition—not so much from personal competition amongst themselves as from foreign competition. It was very important that millers should protect themselves against the inundating importation of flour, and they should aim at

getting the best machinery, and should endeavour to secure the best and most economical methods of converting wheat into flour. In combining heartily against attacks of foreign manufacturers they would find the means of doing away with local and personal jealousies. The following words of Mr. Bain, before a convention in America would give a clue to what they were threatened with from America: "I see no reason why, with cheap fuel and large water-power, cheap transportation, late improvements in the processes of milling, and first-class machinery in nearly every large mill in the United States, a bushel of wheat should leave this country except in the shape of flour. Whilst our English friends justly ridicule the proposal of our Pennsylvanian members, who seriously suggested an export duty on wheat, they kindly furnish us with a Roland for our Oiver in the person of a Lincolnshire miller, who just as seriously suggests, as the only remedy for the decadence of British milling interests, the taxation of American flour, while American wheat should come in duty free." However it was not to protection nor to reciprocity they should look for relief. There was nothing to be hoped for from those means, and it was folly to expect any permanent benefit from the adoption of reciprocity. The Conservatives were now as deeply committed to free trade as were Liberals, and it was only recently that the leader of the present Government scouted the idea of returning to reciprocity as protection in disguise. Reciprocity meant retaliation. In this country we had been engaged in taking off duties to show to the world that we could, acting upon free trade principles, carry on our commerce without fear of the rivalry of any other nation. As regarded the flour trade England was peculiarly situated, because we were the receivers of the surplus of all the grain-producing countries in the world, whether from America, Australia, Russia, Germany, Turkey, or Hungary, and the position of the English miller was peculiar, because he had to treat those various kinds of grain, which, having each a different character, required a different manipulation. In consequence of this state of things, however, they enjoyed advantages possessed by no other flour-producing country, and it was their duty to turn that knowledge to the best account. There was one country which he had not mentioned which would soon exercise a vast influence upon our markets, and that country was one of our colonies. It was a colony which possessed capabilities unequalled by any other colony in the world, and it was Manitoba, in the extreme West of North America—a country which would give us wheat in quantities more vast than the quantities we received from the United States. With a proper knowledge of the trade, and with excellencies and economy in the reconstruction and working of the mill, they need not fear even the threatened inundation of flour from America. Milling in this country might be said to be in its infancy. The nature of raw material to be converted by the manufacturer into the finished product ought to be thoroughly understood. With the physical properties of wheat every miller was no doubt more or less familiar, but it was to be feared that a great many would come off very badly if they were subjected to a moderately rigid grain with regard to its chemical composition. That, therefore, was a matter to which they should devote a special study, because due appreciation of chemical composition of wheat was necessary to enable them to discover the best method of converting it into flour. He thought the Council of Association might well direct their attention to the establishment—as in Paris and Vienna—of standard samples of flour, or rather an approximation to standard samples. Whatever could be done by millers in other countries could be done by millers in England. English millers were not prepared to admit superiority. It was simply a question of the intelligent adaptation of the means to accomplish a certain end, and it would be a libel upon them to suppose that with the ample means at their disposal they would be unable to produce flour which would be equal to that produced in any part of the world.

Mr. J. B. CHATEKTON (the Secretary) then read the report of the Council of Association, which referred to the work accomplished during the past year, and touched upon the branch associations established; the dinner which took place at Bristol, the "Weights and Measures Act 1875," the manufacture of flour, the Bankruptcy Bill, and other matters.

The CHAIRMAN moved, and Mr. APPLETON seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

The statement of accounts next read were also approved, after which the meeting resolved "That in recognition of the services of the Secretary he be voted £100 for the past year."

Mr. APPLETON proposed that Mr. Alderman Hadley be elected president for the ensuing year.

Mr. DOWNING seconded the proposition, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledgement of his re-election, said that during the past year the Association had got through a considerable amount of useful work. The work to him had not been unmix'd with pleasure for it had brought him into contact with many in the trade he had not known before. If they all pulled together unitedly they could do a great deal of good for the trade. If they only worked harmoniously to protect their interests they would meet with that which was due to them and to the trade they carried on, and in which many of them had invested much time, labour, and money.

Mr. HENRY ROBINSON was re-elected treasurer, and the following nine members of the Council, who retired in accordance with the rules, were re-elected—Messrs. John Allen (City Flour Mills, Gloucester), James Appleford (Old Northam Mills, Southampton), R. H. Appleton (Cleveland Flour Mills, Stockton-on-Tees), F. Ashby (Steam Flour Mills, Croydon), James Christie (King's Road, Chelsea), James Davidson (Phoenix Corn Mills, Newcastle-upon-Tyne), Thomas Downing (Crayford, Kent), John Fairclough (Mersey Mills, Warrington), and George Ford (City Flour Mills, London).

After the adoption of the report of the Practical Committee, read by the Secretary, and some remarks by Mr. Thomas Muir (of Glasgow) upon his experiments as to rolling operations, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Ashby, seconded by Mr. Daw, that the questions of insurance policies and contracts be referred to the Commercial Committee to consider and report.

Mr. E. RANSOM (Bedford), then read a paper on "The Future Action of the Association with regard to Weights and Measures," in the course of which he said that he was a strong supporter of the cental. The hundred weight should by law be abolished in favour of the cental or new hundred-weight, as defined by the order in Council of the 4th of February, 1879. He also urged that the Australian and American ton of 2,000 lb. should replace our present ton. It was scarcely probable that any Government would initiate a great change such as that which he advocated without (what it would consider) a similarly great and consistent demonstration, not only from every part of the country, but from every trade concerned. In order to secure such an agitation it was needful that there should be both enthusiasm and perseverance; it must be consistent, not petulant, for the "vested interests" of the ancient hundred-weight were enormous. Among a few points which presented themselves to his mind in favour of such an agitation, were, first, the neglected provisos of the new Act, viz. the flat bushel for large things, the avoidance of heaped measure, and of the words "quarter," "bushel," "peck," &c., for any weight, as they afforded scope for wholesale prosecutions against individuals, officials, and newspapers. Second, and chiefly, was that a radical change was required in the Board of Trades' system of corn returns, which might almost be said to be rotten and false from the top to the bottom. The Government were interested in a reform, and the time seemed already ripe for abolishing all reference to measure in its returns.

Mr. WARBURTON also spoke on the subject, and said there was a great deal of work to be done before they could expect to see a rational system of weights adopted in England. Thanks were due to the Association for having taken up the question so earnestly.

Mr. R. H. APPLETON next introduced the subject of "Fire Insurance," observing that the importance of the question was fully recognised both by American and German millers, for in their programme it occupied a very conspicuous place. He then proceeded to lay before the meeting some practical suggestions, speaking from his own experience, as to the prevention of fires and the readiest means to be adopted to extinguish them when they occurred.

At the conclusion of the discussion which followed, the meeting resolved, on the motion of Mr. FORD, to appoint a special Committee in order to take into consideration the subject of Fire Insurance.

Mr. H. J. SANDERSON introduced the question of "Roller Milling," by reading a paper explanatory of Nagel and Kacmp's patent system, and in his opening remarks he said that there appeared to be signs that the mill stone had nearly run its course.

A paper on the same subject by Mr. Henry Simin (who was unavoidably absent), was read by Mr. INGLEBY, which was followed by a short discussion.

The proceedings were terminated by a vote of thanks to the President.

## THE IMPORTATION AND FEEDING OF AMERICAN CATTLE.

At a meeting of the East Lothian Agricultural Club, held at Haddington on Friday, June 6, Mr. PATON, Standingstone, called attention to an article in the *Sportsman* of the 12th May, respecting the importation and feeding of American cattle. That article, he said, was written mainly to show that American cattle would pay much better than home-bred animals for feeding, and appearing as it did in the columns of an influential paper, he did not think the Club should allow it to pass unnoticed. In the first place he would observe that the article bore the marks of having been written by or at the instigation of one who was interested in the importation of live cattle from America. It went so far as to give the names of those who had fed such cattle to advantage, and since its publication he had met some of the gentlemen referred to, and had conversed with them on the subject. They informed him that the cattle paid very well, but there was this important addition, that they were bought early and sold early before the fall in the market. One great drawback to the feeding of American cattle, as he had been informed by the gentlemen named, was that many of the animals never quieted down but remained in a wild state, causing great bother to the feeders, while others again were not so wild, but did not feed well, and in almost every case they had caused a deal of extra trouble in feeding. A correspondence has been published regarding the diseased cattle which came from the States, and a certain Professor—evidently employed by interested parties—had reported that no disease had been imported from America. Two other Veterinary Professors went from Scotland, however, to inspect the animals alleged to have been infected, and they pronounced the animals to have been diseased beyond all room for cavil or doubt, and in that opinion they were backed by the Government inspectors. All the best obtainable authorities were therefore against the opinion of this solitary Professor, who appeared to be working for interested parties. He thought the farmers of this country could not allow such tactics to go unchallenged, and without asserting their conviction that the restrictions now in force were directly for the benefit of consumers, while any arguments got up for the purpose of showing that farmers suffered hardship by those restrictions could never be countenanced in agricultural circles. In his opinion, the Government had taken a wise step alike in the interests of consumer and producer. He might also mention that on talking to the gentlemen already referred to, he put the question, "Would you or any of your neighbours be willing to have any of the present restrictions relaxed?" The reply was "Certainly not; we prefer the restrictions to remain as they are." It was a noteworthy fact that since the adoption of these restrictions there had been less cattle disease throughout the country than for many years past. In such circumstances he believed it to be their duty to watch and see that any side wind which would alter matters for the worse should be checked in time. Lean cattle were at present rather scarce and dear, but that would be remedied in a very short time. Many who never bred cattle before were now taking to it in earnest, and in some counties in the west of Scotland where cheese and other dairy product were almost exclusively attended to, farmers were turning their attention to the rearing of cattle. There was no doubt prices would soon be equalised, but meantime they must keep a vigilant look-out and nip in the bud all attempts to misrepresent the effect of restrictions which had for their object the protection of the cattle of this country against disease.

DOCTOR (to his son): "Johnny, wouldn't your like to be a doctor?" "No, father." "Why Johnny?" "Because I couldn't event kill a fly."

# Farmers' Clubs.

## CARMARTHENSHIRE.

### THE VALUE OF PEDIGREE.

At the last meeting of the Carmarthenshire Farmers' Club, Mr. Buckley, of Castle Gorfod, read the following paper on the above subject.

The old saying that "like produces like" is only true to a limited extent, and leads, and has led, by following it beyond that limit, to disappointment and loss. As a general and undeviating principle to be acted upon by breeders of stock, nothing can be more fallacious. We often, for instance, see about this season of the year paraded up and down a prancing highly-fed stallion—handsome and taking in appearance; but he is altogether incapable, with any degree of dependence, to be relied upon for propagating anything as good as himself in his offspring—or, indeed, any one good feature or quality he may appear to possess. He has no pedigree, or a very imperfect one, and is probably altogether a chance animal, kept as it was thought he gave some promise when a foal of becoming a fine horse. Do not trust him, for he cannot give you any assurance of fulfilling what he professes. If his offspring happen to have any good points or qualities, they will be counterbalanced by other bad ones. I have often called to mind a remark made at an agricultural meeting by Mr. Gwyn, some years ago, to the effect that he would rather breed from an indifferent-looking animal with a pedigree than a handsome one without, inasmuch that the former would do more than he promised, and the latter less, which were certain in accordance with my own views. We sometimes hear or read that certain breeds of our cattle, sheep, pigs, or other of our domestic animals, have originated from a cross with other distinct breeds—say, for instance, that a cross between the Cotswold and Southdown sheep produced the Shropshire or other Down sheep. That this cannot be the case—that we cannot improve a breed, or form a fresh intermediate breed, by the crossing of two distinct breeds is now a settled question. We know from experience that a first cross between two improved or pedigree breeds usually produces a robust, beautiful, and often profitable intermediate animal, but that type of animal cannot be continued, even when you have produced a male and female of the same intermediate cross, for, breeding among themselves, they begin to cry back in the next generation, and so going on they eventually become a lot of mongrels. In Scotland the first cross of a pure Shorthorn with their Ayrshire cows was, and I believe is still, much practised, as it gave them a larger and very profitable dairy cow. I have possessed a cow of this cross; but it can only be procured by resorting to the same pure first cross. So also a cross between a pure Shorthorn and Alderney cow produces perhaps the best dairy cow known—she is not only larger and much improved in symmetry, correcting the sharp points, and flatness of sides, and giving roundity and breadth, but increasing the flow of milk without much reducing its richness. But this cow, which I have seen, can only be produced by the first pure cross, as stated. What then becomes of Mr. Darwin's theory if two breeds of the same species cannot produce a new intermediate distinct species. We know that the most they can do is to produce a sterile hybrid—a barren mule. If new species have been produced, as stated, where are they? We will only glance in passing at his theory of the "origin of species," by which the whole animal kingdom has originated, and been evolved from a germ—ourselves among the rest—through the monkey and ape order, requiring, however, the small period of some hundreds of thousands of years. Mr. Darwin derives the origin of all cattle from two or three species of fossil bones found in the tertiary deposits, and classed as *Bos primigenius*, *Bos longifrons*, and *Bos trochocerus*, and has clothed them with flesh in his imagination. We are certainly, however, indebted to Mr. Darwin for his long and laborious researches and interesting observations as to many hidden processes of nature, but we cannot agree with his deductions from them—so fallacious and leading to conclusions that really appear foolish. How different from the greatest philosopher and astronomer, Sir Isaac Newton, who arrived at his great discoveries by testing the truth at every step as he proceeded! But to return a little nearer to our subject—"Pedigree." As no breed of our usual farm

stock has been so long and so systematically improved as the Shorthorn, I cannot, I think, do better to illustrate my subject than to trace a little, as time will allow, the course pursued in their improvement. There had existed on the banks of the river Tees, and its locality extending into Yorkshire, a beautiful breed of cattle known as the Teewater, or Old Durham, breed. They had been bred by farmers and gentlemen farmers with much care for a period long antecedent to the time that Charles and Robert Colling and other noted contemporary breeders gave special attention to improve them in a more systematic way. It is, however, from their time—that is about the year 1875—that the more organised improvement of this famous breed commenced. Mr. Charles Colling, of Ketton, in the county of Durham, figures as the most noted improver of the breed. How, then, did he set about the work? Certainly not by the introduction of the blood of other breeds, by crossing with them. Permanent excellence, we may rely upon it, has never yet been attained in any of our breeds of farm stock by the crude union of incompatible qualities that nature refuses to blend. I would, however, just remark here that Mr. Charles Colling did, at the desire of Colonel O'Gallaghan, take a cross with a polled Galloway heifer, and the result was a bull calf that took mainly after his sire. He had horns, &c., showing the superior power, even at that period, of the Shorthorn to imprint his nature on his offspring. This cross was, however, in after breeding kept quite distinct from his other stock, and considered inferior for many generations. It was called the "Alloy," and sold as such at his sale in 1810. How a mere slight variation, to which the oldest established breeds are subject, such as a dark smudge or spot on the muzzle, even at this day be attributed to the Alloy is a marvel. If the Zulu type, which has no doubt been bred in for untold generations, were crossed, for instance, with the mixed English type, it would not easily be got rid of, but show its ugly face through several descents; and perhaps in some more remote descent, when thought to be clear of it, it might again peep out in some most unwelcome feature. No, Mr. Charles Colling did not resort to other breeds, but commenced by selecting with care and judgment from the breed of Durham Shorthorns in his own neighbourhood, and which had already attained considerable excellence. He bought Old Favourite and her daughter, Young Strawberry, which had particularly attracted his attention, of Mr. John Maynard, their breeder, and he had some difficulty, it seems, in prevailing upon him to sell them. In the bull Hubback he had noticed, with other good qualities, an uncommon inclination to fatten, and bought him of his brother Robert and his partner, Mr. Waistell, who owned him at that time. He bought the famous Duchess heifer of the agent of the Duke of Northumberland, whose stock was noted, having been bred with care for many years. But to follow the descent through the different families of improved Shorthorns, the Princesses, Duchesses, Daisies, Fortunes, &c., with their eminent breeders down to the present time, would (were I able to do it) take very much more time than is allowed at this Club for introducing a subject for discussion. These, it is believed, may be called the origin of the celebrated improved Shorthorn breed of cattle, which for early maturity, inclination to fatten, and to acquire the greatest weight with the least offal, are doubtless unequalled by any other breed of cattle in the world. There are, it is stated, right line descendants from those named, and other stock of Colling's. It is not surprising that a breed of cattle with such a pedigree, and bred with care long before the time of Colling, should have arrived at such excellence, and have accumulated the power to transmit those most valuable qualities to their offspring. It must require great attention and skill to keep the breed up to the high state of perfection it has acquired. No doubt mistakes have frequently been made by inexperienced breeders, who, while selecting for the fuller development of one particular point or quality, would sustain a falling off in other. Or by breeding too long in one family (known as in and in breeding) with the object of bringing out more fully some particular excellence possessed by that family, he (the breeder) may be brought to a standstill by the supervening of delicacy of constitution and barrenness. To be a successful breeder and judge of improved stock, whether cattle, sheep, or any other stock, requires considerable experience with a correct eye as to form and proportion, and a hand or touch appreciative of quality. Now, my desire in this address is to arrive at an intelligent understanding as to the great con-

trolling principle in the formation of those points and qualities it is so desirable to produce in our farm stock of every kind, and, indeed, of all our domestic animals, for the same great pervading natural laws operate alike through the whole. How, then, is the power attained by which the forms and qualities possessed by an animal of an improved breed is transmitted to his or her offspring? It is not attained by having been possessed and transmitted through a number of generations in direct descent? And does not this power of transmission to offspring acquire strength on every fresh or new transmission? And is not this equally true of each separate quality or point transmitted? And is it not true also of qualities or points to be avoided as well as of those desired? The breeder of improved stock will form his judgment as to these particulars by examination of the pedigree, in which the Herd Book of the breed will assist him. The word blood so commonly used to denote a thorough-bred animal, as in speaking of a blood horse, cannot denote anything but pedigree, as the blood of a blood horse, chemically considered, would not of course differ from the blood of a cart horse. Well, the improvement of our native Blacks is at length taken in hand; and happily, by noblemen, gentlemen, and farmers, who doubtless have both the skill and the means of carrying it out. And our black cattle are perhaps in much the same position and circumstances, having already acquired some advance, as the old Durhams were when the Collings, Maynards, and others commenced with them. By following the same course—selecting animals—the best that can be found possessing the desired qualities, and breeding those qualities in, they will soon acquire the power of reproducing in their offspring the same excellencies, which power will increase and strengthen as the cultivation of the breed is continued. It would be rather presumptuous in me to draw a model of what the future improved native Black is to become; but I think I may say that she is not to be exactly of the Shorthorn type; but she is to be quite as handsome. The dairy profits must be taken care of. As she will be a larger animal, and more well to do in her appearance, she must give more and richer milk, for there will be no want of plenty of good food. Her dairy qualifications will somewhat modify her form. I should like to see greater breadth, and a rounder barrel standing on shorter legs. A smaller and finer head, with a placid eye, particularly in the bulls. The horns can scarcely be improved with their elegant curve-white, tipped with black. A more mellow hide covered with plenty of soft black hair.

She's broad in her ribs, and long in her rump,  
A straight and flat back, without ever a hump,  
She's wide in her hips, and calm in her eyes,  
She's fine in her shoulders, not thin in her thighs.  
She's light in her neck, and small in her tail,  
She's wide in her breast, and good at the pail,  
She's fine in her bone, and silky of skin—  
She's a grazier's without, and a butcher's within.

The steers will be splendid beasts, and bring the drovers to our fairs and markets in droves. Good stock are always attractive, and command the fair and market, and the best price. That we may know where the best animals are to be found, and who owns them, we should possess "The Welsh Black Cattle Herd Book," and try to get our stock good enough to be entered in it. Our native cattle acclimatised, and indeed formed to our climate, soil, and treatment for ages, must with their robust constitution be more susceptible of profitable cultivation than any transplanted breed. Mr. R. H. Harvey's observations in the second volume of the "Welsh Black Cattle Herd Book, published at the *Welshman* office, are interesting. His experience in having bred the North and South Wales cattle together for fifteen years, and without deterioration, but with improvement, must be conclusive that they are the same breed, for had they been distinct breeds, deterioration (which is the test) would soon have appeared, and there would have been no uniformity in his herd of cattle. The wonder rather is that the North and South Wales cattle having been bred separately for a long period, according to the taste of their owners, and with the natural variations to which they would be subject, that the difference of type is not greater. All breeds, even the most ancient and isolated, are subject, more or less, to variation; and that variation, if a desirable one, is sometimes cultivated and more fully developed. What are called the Wild White Cattle in Chilling-

ham Park, of which there are records of these being there in the thirteenth century, sometimes throw a spotted calf, perhaps once in two or three years. It is, however, it is said, always killed by the keepers. These beautiful white cattle are no more aboriginally wild than our native Blacks would be under the same treatment. The Wild White Cattle in the Duke of Hamilton's Park slightly vary—those at Chartley are larger, with other small variation of type, which shows that animals of the same breed, if isolated or bred separately, will not keep a strictly uniform type. The Black cattle were indigenous to Breconshire at no very distant period. I was rather surprised to find this was the case in reading an old book lent to me, of which I shall endeavour to get another sight. The Herefords have supplanted them.

#### FRAMLINGHAM.

Recently at the Framlingham Farmers' Club, Dr. J. E. Taylor, of the Ipswich Museum, delivered a lecture upon "The Origin, Circulation, and Functions of Phosphates." Mr. Goodwyn Goodwyn presided.

Dr. TAYLOR commenced by showing that it was now universally accepted that phosphates performed very important functions in the animal economy, but it was a matter of recent discovery that they were equally important to the health and vigorous growth of plants, and more especially of cereals and leguminous plants. By a peculiar selection, of which there was no historical account, the vegetable food of man had come to be composed of just those very plants, or parts of plants, which naturally contained most phosphates, such as wheat, maize, peas, &c. We heard a great deal of phosphates at the present time, when agriculturists were endeavouring to obtain from the soil as much as it could possibly yield. For some time past agricultural operations in this respect had been at high pressure pitch. When we remembered the quantity of phosphates which were taken in an organic state from cultivated soils, that this process went on year after year, and that in cultivated areas, like Norfolk and Suffolk, it might possibly have been going on for a thousand years past, it was very evident that the soil must have lost its fertility, if in some form or another these phosphates had not been returned to it. Instead of that, however, it was a notable fact that the soils under cultivation in East Anglia, and particularly in Suffolk and Norfolk, were, perhaps, more fertile now than at any period in the history of this country. Soils might be said to possess two kinds of fertility—oue, their natural fertility, in which the cultivator found the constituents in the soils without having prepared them; and the other their acquired fertility, which represented the amount of manurial wealth with which the soil had been saturated. The lecturer then proceeded to notice how phosphorus occurred in nature. Having showed that phosphorus was one of the 64 elementary bodies with which the chemist had to deal, and that it combined, as phosphoric acid, with a great many other substances, as lead, iron, magnesia, copper, alumina, &c., he observed that it was in the condition of phosphate of lime that it seemed to be most acceptable both to plants and to man. In the flesh of animals the phosphorus existed as a phosphate of magnesia or potash; in the bones of man as a phosphate of lime. Phosphoric acid was also found in the yolk of eggs, and it was most important as one of the constituents of the grey matter of the brain, as well as of the nervous system generally, and without its presence no brain or nerve system could be in a healthy or active condition. In nature phosphorus occurred combined in the various ways he had mentioned, but he would confine his remarks to the phosphate of lime deposits, simply premising that the extraction of phosphorus from iron—as in the ironstone—had been one of the latest achievements of metallurgical chemistry. The phosphorus in iron rendered it brittle and almost unworkable—certainly incapable of being converted into steel. Phosphate of lime occurred in the igneous rocks, and in those rocks which had been changed by intense heat in the shape of a crystallised mineral of a glass-green colour, called apatite. In Canada, among the metamorphic rocks, the thickest deposit of apatite in the world was worked, for in places this mineral there reached a thickness of ten feet, three feet of the central part of the vein being perfectly pure, or as nearly so as possible. In England phosphates of lime occurred in nearly every geological formation, but they were only worked at a profit in the

lower and upper greensands at Farnham, in Bedfordshire, and in Cambridgeshire, and at the base of the red crag in Suffolk. In Germany they occurred as deposits, filling up the hollows and fissures in old limestone rocks; and it was not difficult to see how these deposits had been formed, for these limestone rocks were overlaid by a thick sheet of volcanic ashes of ancient date, and these volcanic ashes contained nearly a half per cent. of phosphates. It was clear that these phosphates had been dissolved out of the overlying stratum by the action of percolating water, and had been carried down and precipitated in the hollows of the limestone beneath where they were now being worked by Mr. Arthur Packard, a son of Mr. Alderman Packard, of Ipswich. The phosphates of the South of France, Dr. Taylor went on to say, were richest of their kind in the world, and certainly to a geologist were the most interesting in point of origin. They also occurred filling up what had once been great caves and wide fissures in the oolitic limestone, and in some places it could be seen that the phosphate of lime had been deposited layer upon layer, like the coats of an onion, until the caves had been filled up, the phosphate being even as rich as 90 per cent. It varied from this degree of richness to about 30 per cent., and singularly enough, when it was found in the latter state of poverty, it was always associated with bones and teeth of extinct animals, inasmuch that the miners did not like to meet with these interesting relics of a former world because they invariably indicated a poor state of phosphate. These teeth and bones were well known to geologists, who were able to tell the period at which they lived. It was the Miocene period, when over this area of France enormous herds of animals roamed and left their bones to bleach, just as the bisous now do on the prairies of America. The bones of animals contained 55 per cent. of phosphate of lime, and when the skeletons of these ancient animals were exposed to the weather the phosphate of lime was dissolved out of it by its action, and carried down to and gradually precipitated in the caverns and fissures. In that way the French phosphates were formed. The red crag phosphates of Suffolk were exceedingly interesting to the geologist, for they often enclosed fossils; but, singularly enough, although they were found in the red crag, they were never found enclosing red crag fossils, but always fossils of the London clay period. There could be no question that the phosphatic nodules, formerly and erroneously called coprolites when they were believed to be the feces of animals, were of organic origin. They represented, in short, that portion of phosphorus which had previously entered into the structure of the soft parts of animals whose hard parts were found in the fossil state. Phosphorated-hydrogen, set fire from the decomposing bodies of animals along the floor of the London clay sea, had been decomposing, and phosphoric acid had combined with lime, little lumps or nodules of flints in the chalk had been formed. The bones and teeth and shells of the greensand in Cambridgeshire represented derivative fossils from three or four of the oolitic formations, and at present their origin was not definitely known. Singularly enough we never met with coprolitic nodules in their own position except in beds of clay. Clay, when it was in a muddy state, would allow of phosphatic segregation, whereas sandstones and limestones could do so with very great difficulty; and so whenever we came to study the shales of the Silurian rocks or of the coal measures, or of the lias, we always found abundant nodules of phosphate, although they were very rarely rich enough to be worked. The rocks containing these had been, during all the ages of the world's history, when they formed part of the dry land, exposed to the weather action, and the phosphates, after having been formed, were again broken up, redissolved, and perhaps carried to the sea, to enter once more into the structures of animals of a later period. The fact that phosphates are found as the result of all animal life in every geological period at once indicates their necessity to the animal frame. On the dry lands, whatever phosphates may be present must be in a slow state of dissolving away; and where forests exist it is evident that the mineral contained in the soil would simply migrate from the soil into the forests, and back again when the forests decomposed into the soil. Although there would be a slight loss from the weather action upon such soils, as fast as the rocks containing such phosphates weathered they gave up their phosphates to the soil. During the great ice period, before man appeared on earth, all the rocks in the North, North-east, and North-west had been broken up and pounded by ice action, and the remains had been strewn over the greater part

of England, as the upper houlder clay well testifies. We therefore find ready to our hand in this respect a soil containing certain quantities of phosphates, which have been liberated out of these broken rocks. But if we are to obtain rich crops of cereals it can only be done by giving to the soil that which seems absolutely necessary to their growth. An analysis of the different conditions of the different stages of the growth of wheat plants shows how important phosphorus is to them. When a wheat plant is in its young stage of growth, say when it is budding forth its first pair of leaves, the amount of phosphorus it contains is small. When grown to half its size we find the phosphorus proportionately greater; then when it begins to form the ear it has increased still more; and then there seems to be a sudden increase in the secretion of phosphorus, and in its passage up to that part of the plant where it is needed, viz., the head, just at the flowering stage. The pollen of all plants contains phosphorus, and as wheat and all cereals are what are called wind fertilised plants, they are known to secrete more pollen than is absolutely necessary, in order to enable the wind to blow it about, and thus to ensure perfect crossing, it follows there must be a great yielding up, or waste, in the phosphorus contained in the ear of wheat at the time of flowering. This phosphorus is absolutely necessary to the wheat plant to enable it to secrete abundant pollen. When the flower head has been fertilised, the wheat grain begins to set and increase. The phosphorus in the wheat plant seems now to migrate to this particular part, so that when wheat corn is perfectly ripened a larger portion of phosphorus is contained in it than at any previous period of the plant. Nothing could more plainly prove the function of phosphorus than this. When we place artificial phosphates in the soil we place them in the condition called soluble, or superphosphates, which are composed, when genuine, of a mixture of sulphate of lime mono-calcic, di-calcic, and tri-calcic phosphates, in which mono-calcic phosphates should prevail. Phosphate is now soluble, or nearly so, although the soils contain abundance of iron, a good deal of this phosphate, when placed in them, will unquestionably be precipitated in the insoluble condition. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that farmers, before they apply these phosphates, should know something of the nature of the soils upon which they are intended to be placed, and also of the crops they are intending to rear. Clover, for instance, does not require so much phosphorus as turnips, or peas, or wheat. Still, although a portion of the phosphate remains in the soil in an insoluble condition, there can be little question that it will be again obtained from it in subsequent years, although slowly, for the delicate roots of plants have the power of making it once more soluble even from its precipitated condition. This was proved by Professor Sach, who simply obtained polished slabs of phosphate of lime, covered with a little sand<sup>1</sup> which was moistened, and then he planted seeds in them. The seeds germinated, their roots struck through the sand, reached the polished surface of the phosphate of lime slabs, and there dissolved out such quantities of the phosphate as they required, leaving on the polished slab an etched outline of the work that had been done. It should be remarked that lime seemed to be the carrier for the phosphorus of the plant, for phosphorus was found in a plant although the lime with which it had been previously accompanied might not be chemically found there. It might be said, therefore, that phosphate of lime was the readiest condition in which to apply phosphorus to the soil so as to enable the plants to absorb and assimilate it. A good deal had been said lately in the newspapers about potatoes being cultivated by farmers, and, as far as he was concerned, he was certainly in favour of it, if it was only in order that people who lived in towns might get cheaper and better potatoes than at the present time. The potato had been derided by some physiologists, but there could be no question as to its benefit, especially to people who have to use their brains, for the potato contains a great deal of phosphoric acid, and the potato skins a still larger quantity, and in an easy assimilable state by the human stomach. Therefore phosphates, in the shape of artificial manures, were quite as beneficial and necessary to potato culture as they were to the other. The bones of animals, although more or less solid, were in a constant state of being taken down or build up with phosphates. The phosphate of lime taken down from them is carried in the feces of animals, and it was this that made the manure of animals really beneficial. In man the fecal phosphates were carried

away chiefly in the urine, whilst in animals it was in their dung. Therefore animal droppings so far contained more phosphates than night soils. Dr. Taylor pointed out that in nature there was a circulation of phosphates as elaborate and perfect as the circulation of blood in the body and water in the atmosphere. There was only the same amount of phosphates in existence now there had been when life first began on the globe, and the phosphates so necessary to animal organization, as well as to the vegetable kingdom at the present day, had been equally necessary in all past time, for it very likely entered into the structure of creation after creation of extinct animals and plants, and had been left by them to us as a legacy. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN asked how farmers were to tell the requirements of their soils, and whether scientific knowledge was necessary; and Mr. R. Garrard asked whether corn or roots benefited most by superphosphate, he having noticed the effect of it more in turnips than in barley.

Mr. TAYLOR said the larger bulk of the turnip crop always containing phosphate, as phosphate of potash, showed that turnips required more, but wheat would require more, still he did not consider chemical analysis of a soil necessary, experience and observation enabling one to tell the characteristics of the soil. He also further explained a formation of the phosphatic nodules called coprolites. Replying to Mr. Youngman the lecturer spoke of "How Crops Grow," by Professor Church, as the only useful manual. In reply to other questions, he said he should imagine a top dressing was the best method of application, since the rain would carry it down, but for heavy soils ploughing in might be better. For potato crops ploughing in would probably be best. Rain would rather assist the assimilation of phosphates except in very porous soils; the sun would not affect the matter. The top dressing for wheat would probably be best applied soon after germination.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving a vote of thanks, expressed to Dr. Taylor the obligations of the Club for the simple and lucid way in which he had brought before it a scientific and difficult subject.

Dr. TAYLOR suitably acknowledged the compliment.

The Rev. W. W. BIRD, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, suggested that a course of lectures at Framlingham would be much appreciated as at Ipswich; and Mr. Jeaffreson expressed similar views.

## M I D L A N D.

At the last meeting of the Midland Farmers' Club, Mr. H. A. Howman presiding, a paper was read by Mr. W. C. B. CAVE upon the breeding and management of horses. After briefly glancing at the history of the horse and its varieties, he recommended those who bred horses to do so with a distinct object. Now that it was not only desirable but essential to farm on commercial rules, and to make every department of the farm pay, it would be worth while for farmers to study carefully whether it would not be more to their advantage and profit to breed only first-class animals. He did not mean pedigree stock at fancy prices, but good saleable animals—a course which only required a small extra outlay at starting. When they considered that a horse was not saleable for road work until he was five or six years old, the folly of breeding rubbish must be apparent. To those who alleged that breeding horses did not pay, he would reply "Try it." Let them consider the demand there was for a 15-2 up to 16 hands half-bred horse, useful on the farm until five years old, and then suitable for a trooper, omnibus, van, single-horse car, &c. It was the most saleable kind of horse a man could breed. When also was there not a demand for a good cart horse? He did not mean little, undersized rubbish that some breeders in this district went in for, and which were never saleable except for farm work; but he meant a horse from 16 to 17 hands at least, which the breeder could work on his farm up to five years old, and then sell for 60 guineas and upwards. Every farmer might, if he would, sell one or more of such horses every year. These suggestions were intended only for breeders who did not adopt the course he recommended. That there must be many who did adopt it was visible in their own town in the noble animals they saw in their railway teams, and notably the omnibus horses of Messrs. Allsopp's Omnibus Company. The buying and selling of horses was a delicate

subject for him to touch upon, but he would give his opinion, and his hearers must reserve their judgment. A buyer should adopt one of two courses; he should either buy from a dealer and sell to a dealer, or he should buy at auction and sell at auction. The mistake many buyers made was to buy from a dealer and sell at auction. If they bought at auction, they must set the advantage in price against the risk. Auctions when honestly conducted, and where the buyer's interest was considered equally with the seller's, were undoubtedly valuable mediums for disposal or purchase. He did not agree with those who would not put a hunter in harness. His impression was that there was no better means of keeping him in condition during the summer than light exercise in harness, and his experience was that hunters fetched a better price if they had been broken to harness. There was one matter in connection with the purchase and sale of horses which deserved the strongest reprobation. He meant the system of bribery which some gentlemen tolerated on the part of their servants. A dealer had a horse for sale, but before a gentleman bought it the groom or coachman must see it, and unless the dealer promised the latter a bribe they knew what was frequently the result. The blame in the matter rested principally upon the masters for not acting more independently. With regard to the care and management of horses, Mr. Cave condemned harsh treatment, attributing to it a very large percentage of the vices which were found in horses. If there was one reform more needed than another in the management of horses, it was the shoeing of them. He was of opinion that wherever possible, as, for example, in the case of farm horses, hacks, and carriage horses, the shoe should be as light as was practicable, and there should be no calkings upon them. The ground surface of the shoe should be accurately level and the shoe should be made to fit the foot, not the foot pared to fit the shoe. The nails should be as small and as few and as far from the heel as was consistent with security. In the case of hunters, it was necessary to have calkings on the hind shoes to prevent the animal from slipping, but the other side should be raised by thickening to correspond. For heavy draught horses, clips, toe-pieces, and calkings were unfortunately indispensable; but the calking should not be too long, and, above all, the weight should be equally distributed over the foot by the toe-pieces being made the same height as the calking. It was really painful to witness the evident pain with which some of their town horses travelled. They appeared to be walking on stilts instead of shoes. The true function of the frog did not seem to be generally understood. It would and it should give security to the tread, but too frequently the shoeing smith either left it untouched when it became bruised and injured, or he pared it away until it took no bearing at all, and was therefore unfit to perform the duty for which it was intended. Unfortunately, in this as in other matters, prejudice had such a firm hold that 90 per cent. of their shoeing smiths refused to believe that any improvement was possible. Mr. Cave also gave some practical hints respecting the feeding of horses, strongly advocating the use of cut and bruised food.—Some discussion followed, in which Mr. Lowe commended the reader of the paper for his denunciation of bribery in connection with horse-dealing. Unfortunately, similar things existed in connection with other trades, and he wished that they were subject to the same fearless condemnation.

Mr. R. H. MASEN expressed a doubt as to the profitability of horse-breeding by farmers, except it was done in stud farms. He knew that if a man bred half a score during the year of the carriage or the nag kind, he was an exceedingly fortunate fellow if he brought more than two or three of them up to the scratch perfectly sound. Hence it was that the breed of horses was particularly dear, as so small a proportion of them were kept sound until a working age. They were of very little service during their first years, whereas a cart colt earned his keep at two years old. When they bred a bullock they knew they could get a good price for him even though he had a chipped knee or a blind eye, but those defects in a horse simply precluded all chance of remunerative sale. Thus he thought that breeding cattle would be considered more profitable in the Midland Counties than horse breeding. He believed that horses bred on hilly ground were much better than those bred on flat ground, because every day the colt was bringing his muscular action into play, and was likely to prove a much more serviceable animal than though

he had been bred in a marshy district. In his idea the main principle of breeding was never to use a half-bred sire of any kind. For agricultural purposes they could not do better than employ a Clydesdale.

## WEALTH OF NATIONS.

A CATECHISM FOR THE TIMES.

The following catechism relating to questions raised by the present reaction in favour of Protection has been sent to us for publication. The writer has evidently thought much on the subject, and we give his statement without committing ourselves to everything that he says:—

What is wealth? It consists in a man being able to supply all his wants with the least possible effort.

Where does wealth come from? It comes from labour effectually applied to the soil and other kinds of industry, such as growing corn, cotton, wool, meat, &c., the raising of coal, iron, copper, tin, &c., and by manufacturing articles for the use of man.

Is gold wealth? No, gold is acknowledged by the world to be worth a certain quantity of labour, and all things are adjusted according to the requirements of each person, and gold is an acknowledged medium of exchange. Gold is, really, accumulated labour, or it represents it better than consumable or perishable goods.

Can a country be poor and yet have plenty of gold? Yes, Spain during, or after the American conquest had her harbour full of ships laden with gold and the people starving. It taught the people wherein wealth consisted, viz., not in gold, but in being able to supply their necessities.

Why has England become so rich? Because of her natural advantages; her soil is one of the richest and her climate one of the best in the world; she has a greater abundance of mineral wealth than any other country; her inhabitants are the most industrious. Her motive power (coal) is of better quality and more accessible than in any other country. With the above advantages she has undersold the world's market. She has now such abundance of capital, machinery and skilled labour, that with free trade and cheap food, she can still export, during 1877 and 1878, 252 million pounds worth of produce per year in spite of the protective duties abroad.

Would she not continue to grow rich if a protective duty was put on corn? No, not so fast. The labour market would rise throughout every department of industry, the articles exported could not be made so cheaply, and foreigners would undersell her manufacturers. Exactly in the same way as when the coal famine was in force. Manufacturing interests would soon flag, but in the coal famine it did not last long enough for us to see the ultimate effect.

Give an instance as to how that will work? Well, suppose a manufactory was obliged to be worked at sea, and fresh water was necessary to work it. The captain was a protectionist, and said, "This is my own ship, I shall produce all the fresh water that is supplied at £10 per pipe, although it could be purchased from passing vessels at 10s. per pipe." It would cost them so much for water that other free trading manufactories would buy fresh water and beat them in the world's market. Whether it is cheap bread, coal, money or water it is all the same.

Now, let us imagine another instance. Suppose flour, meat, clothing, and tools can be imported at such a cheap rate that a man can supply his necessary wants by two days labour, and suppose the same articles when produced at home cost him four days labour, it is plain that in the former case he has time on his hands to enrich his country, than by working more time to keep his own incompetent producers and manufacturers from starving. The home manufacturers should discontinue their trade when beaten, like the Cornish miners did with copper, when they found that the same

article could be raised in South America near the surface, and did not require the same expenditure upon labour; they went out to South America. Every labourer can see that it is to his advantage to buy things from abroad at half the price they can be produced at home, because his labour produces more wealth and supplies his wants to a greater extent than by paying double the price for home manufactured goods and leaving half his wants unsupplied.

Can a country be rich and have no gold? Yes, if exchange could be as easily effected without as with it. When one man has plenty of food in a cold climate, and no clothing, he is not rich, but if he exchanges his food for clothing, he increases his wealth; wealth being useless except to add to the comfort of man. The French are rich in wine and corn, the Spanish and Portuguese in wine, the Dutch in cheese and butter, the Americans in corn and meat, the Australians in flocks, and the Californians in gold. A mutual exchange enriches each country. But suppose we can grow corn at £15 per load, and the foreigners can supply us at £10 per load. If we buy of the foreigner, do we not lose the £15 which comes from our native soil? No; we lose £5 per load by producing it at home. If the world's market is £10 per load we lose nothing, because we hold the same value whether it is in gold or wheat, and can turn it into gold if we do not want it for food. But, bread happens to be a more suitable food for the body of man than gold. If wheat cannot be grown at the price of the world's market, all our manufacturers find they can be outsold, because living is cheaper abroad, and people can afford to sell articles at prices which would starve those who live under the artificial prices of Protection. If we have Protection our farmers become rich at the expense of the rest of the community. They soon find theirs to be the best business extant, they cease to strive to compete with foreigners, but take to fox hunting, shooting, and coursing, keep plenty of game, &c., which help to consume the wealth of the land—all which they have a right to do, but not at the consumers' expense. If the farmers find they cannot compete with foreigners, they must agitate for lower rents, less tithe, fewer taxes, less game, less expensive labour, better farms, better machinery, and more skilled labour. The writer can see no other way.

Many persons think that if we exchange gold for foreign produce, we shall lose all our wealth. They do not realise that if we had a shower of sovereigns or £5 notes all over the world we should be no richer. The result would be that gold would be depreciated in value. If we all had £1,000 now, where we had £1 yesterday, we should be able, at an auction sale, to bid 1,000 times higher than yesterday and all articles would rise to that extent. But if it should rain "cats and dogs," beef and mutton, bread and butter, clothing and boots and all other necessities, then our world would suddenly become rich indeed.

Mr. D. McCulloch, in the *Fortnightly Review* for last month, states that "For several years past the Americans have had two price lists, one for Canada and the other for the United States. The price for Canada depends upon the necessity they are under to make sales, and it is often as much as 30 per cent. below their own price." Mr. McCulloch looks upon that state of things as an evil, surely any one would be glad to purchase his requirements at a reduction of 30 per cent., and it must be a blessing to all except the home producers, and they ought not to be a hindrance to the welfare of the rest of the inhabitants. He also states that "for years past 17½ per cent. protective duty has been levied on agricultural implements, and yet the farmers of Canada are supplied with as good quality, and at a cheaper price than any foreign country could supply them." If so, where is the need

for Protection, which he is writing to prove? One would think he was afraid that his own countrymen would prefer foreign goods of inferior quality, and at a higher price.  
H.C.

### AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION IN IRELAND.

The Dublin Correspondent of the *Times* writes under date May 29:—

"The pressure upon the agricultural classes, which has been felt throughout the United Kingdom, has hitherto been borne with patient endurance by Ireland, through proofs of its severity are to be found in the records of the Bankruptcy Court, and the general stringency of their banking accounts. No open expression of discontent, however, has been made, except in a few remote districts, in which it appears to have been responsive to suggestions made for political purposes. Although the trying season of winter had passed, and there is now a goodly promise of improvement, the weather having taken a favourable turn, and vegetation now reviving, still, as the landlord or agent pays his customary round of visits to collect his rents, it is not to be wondered at that signs of embarrassment and suffering should be more apparent and complaints become more bitter. It is probable, however, that if a short comparison were made between the condition of the agricultural classes at both sides of the Irish Channel it would be found that those on this side are, on the whole, better off. There has been no spontaneous movement on their part to denote anything like the destitution which is reported to exist in some districts in England, and, while giving due credit to them for an unwillingness to express their straitened circumstances, it is hardly to be supposed, that, with abundant means at hand for letting their misery be known, they should have resisted in keeping it so well concealed. It must not be expected, however, that they will continue much longer to sit down in silence and apathy under the burden of their privations and perplexities. A hint has been given which has quickened their intelligence, and murmurs of distress, which have a tone of menace in them, are beginning to be heard. The subject of a reduction of rent has been broached in two or three places in the west, and the tenants have been recommended to demand an abatement. Some instances are related of tenants who have followed the advice so far as, with the full rent in their hand, to insist upon obtaining a remission of 20 per cent. These, it may be assumed, are rare and exceptional cases, occurring in a remote district, where very strong opinions have been propagated with respect to the rights of property, but there are symptoms of an incipient agitation against rent and rates appearing in other quarters which may cause more uneasiness. What is to be said of the following resolution which was proposed at the full meeting of the Naas Board of Guardians yesterday, by Mr. F. B. Fitzpatrick:—

"That the present agricultural depression, and the painful prospects of worse times and widespread distress call for the greatest economy in the administration of the finances of this union; that a committee be appointed to decide and report on the most expedient mode of retrenchment, and consequently reducing the rates in the future to the lowest possible standard. That relief from the landlords is urgently required in another direction—viz., by an immediate reduction of rent to an equitable proportion with current prices and past agricultural produce—and that we deem it our duty as popular representatives to express our painful regret and astonishment that the landlords, with very few honourable exceptions, hold to the hard-and-fast line of rents only reasonable and just in better times, and do not come forward in response to the demands of the country with a programme of a reasonable revision of rents. That such ill policy and want of sympathy with the people of the country on the part of the landlords call for greater union among the tenant farmers for their mutual protection and self-interest, and for a more active and outspoken line of conduct, and to meet their landlords with a more formal and outspoken expression of their necessities." The Chairman of the Board, Mr. John Latouche, D.L., objected to put the resolution on the grounds that it had nothing to do with the business of a Poor-Law Board, and that it conveyed censure on the landlords of the country which was not deserved. He remarked that the guardians had all worked amicably hitherto,

and he would not be a party to any attempt to sow dissension between them. As a landlord himself he did not think he deserved the censure conveyed in the resolution. It involved a charge of misconduct towards his tenantry that was unfounded. The relation existing between him and his tenantry was of a very friendly nature, and none of them had complained to him that he charged too high a rent. Mr. Fenelon observed that the Chairman had made it a personal question. It was not so, but it was well known that what Mr. Fitzpatrick had pointed to was badly required by the country. Mr. Fitzpatrick assured the Chairman three years ago he did not object to the discussion of Mr. Butt's Land Bill, which was much stronger in its purport than Mr. Fitzpatrick's resolution, and the motion in favour of the Bill was only carried by the Chairman abstaining from voting. If the elected guardians of the people, he said, were prevented from discussing that vital matter, then nothing was easier for them than to erect a platform and hold a public meeting in Naas. The Baron de Robeck observed that that was the course which they ought to take. Mr. Fenelon went on to say that if the landlords did not hear them there they would have to do so, perhaps in another place and in a more disagreeable manner, where the very boldest ideas prevailed. As he persisted in pressing the resolution, the Chairman vacated the chair, and left the room, followed by all the *ex officio* guardians—Major Burrows, D.L., Major Brereton, J.P., Baron de Robeck, D.L., Mr. West Manders, J.P., Mr. R. Moore, J.P., Mr. W. Owens, J.P., Mr. Fletcher Moon, J.P., Mr. J. Hornidge, J.P., and Mr. S. G. Ireland, J.P. After they had withdrawn, Mr. Fenelon was voted into the chair, and the resolution was then proposed, and Mr. Tracy, one of the guardians, said he would vote for it if it would do the tenants any good. He proceeded to put some questions to the mover, but the Chairman objected, and required him to put an amendment if he chose. This he declined to do, and complained that the Chairman wanted to stifle discussion. The resolution was then adopted unanimously, and the guardians constituted themselves a committee to consider the part relating to the rules. In this case it will be seen that the agitators practically admit that the question of rent does not affect the county of Kildare at all, as they make no complaint against the landlords, but they desire to take part in a general movement which is intended to dictate to the landlords, and will be likely to have mischievous effects."

### THE DEPRESSED STATE OF AGRICULTURE.

At a recent meeting of the Herefordshire Chamber of Agriculture Mr. DUCKHAM read the following paper:—

The subject which I have been asked to address you upon is, I feel, to be one of great national importance. Most unquestionably the real wealth of every nation consists in the fertility of its soil and the means taken to develop it. Mineral wealth is restricted and exhaustible, but science has shown us that the fertility of the soil is not only capable of being maintained, but year by year improved; by the application of certain ingredients in a concentrated form to supply that which has been taken from it in the more bulky form to meet the wants of the consumer. That it is wisely ordained by Him who cannot err that the very atmosphere we breathe—light, buoyant, and pure as it is—tends to that common end, that the leaves which are the lungs of the plant take in and absorb for the nourishment of the root, that which in its turn shall supply food for both man and beast, as well as to enrich the soil for future productions. These things being so it becomes apparent how important is the interest which is now felt to be in such a depressed state, and the necessity for an inquiry into the causes of that depression, and if possible suggest remedies for its relief. This nation, as at present constituted, is a great and mighty nation, governing the seas with its fleets, and by its commercial enterprise obtaining food for its dense population from every quarter of the globe, and I pray God that that proud position may ever be retained. Yet I feel that it should be the first consideration of the legislation to foster and guard its inmost wealth by wise and judicious laws, and that the further wants of the people should be supplemented by equally wise and judicious regulations. Whether those desiderata, great and national as they are, have been duly considered by those who have been entrusted with those

important duties, are questions of most paramount importance, and will form the subject of the first portion of my address for your consideration. But, before doing so, I will briefly notice some of the ideas which have been addressed to the public through the columns of some of the leading journals of the day. The idea of agricultural depression has been ridiculed. The lower prices of bye-gone days have been held up to the public gaze. The extravagant manner of living of those engaged in agriculture, and even the education and cultivation of the minds of their children, have been adduced as reasons for the cry of depression, whilst others have volunteered to teach them their business. They have been told by some not to grow corn, but to make the produce of the land walk to market in the shape of meat; others have said, "Go in for the more profitable part of your business, dairy;" others "Steam cultivate, drain, and highly manure." Thus have a whole host of tutors volunteered their advice, but few, if any, amongst them have ventured to touch upon the root of the evil; but on the other hand, they have most perseveringly endeavoured to write down the few practical men who, like myself, have had the temerity to challenge their assertions. That there is an almost unprecedented wave of depression passing over this kingdom, and that it is most severely felt by both the agricultural and commercial interests, is only too well known by those engaged in either pursuit to require anything to be said by me to prove it. That those interests have in former years passed through similar vicissitudes and emerged from them and flourished, is most unquestionable, and that they may do so again must be the fervent hope of all, and of none more so than myself, as I believe the real interests of both trade and agriculture are so beautifully interwoven that it becomes a difficult question to solve when that of the one ceases and the other begins.

#### OUR CATTLE TRAFFIC AND FOREIGN POLICY IN CORN AND CATTLE.

Forty years have now passed since the establishment of free trade in stock, and few that I now address can remember the depression which followed the repeal of the prohibitory laws. I may with confidence state that it was much greater than the depreciation we are now experiencing in the value of our live stock. Good steers were then sold at £10 per head, which would now be worth £20 or even more; but the elasticity of the trade of this country was then rapidly developing itself, and things soon began to right themselves, when that direful calamity, the introduction of foreign diseases, which were previously unknown in England, spread with alarming rapidity throughout the length and breadth of the land, and laid waste many valuable herds. Yet no legislation took place to check their ravages, and thus many millions worth of the food of the country was lost, and a very great portion of its increasing wealth was year by year sent to foreign countries to obtain that food which would otherwise have been produced at home, and of a much better quality. Ten years later, viz., in 1849, the repeal of the corn laws caused another depression in agriculture, and a great gloom and many serious forebodings as to the future of agriculture in England pervaded during that depression, which extended over a period of nearly four years. Within that period I sold good red wheat at 4s. 5d., and beans at 3s. 6d. per bushel; beef at 5d., and excellent two-year-old wethers out of wool at 4½d. per lb.; whilst wool realised from 10d to 1s. per lb. And I think I may say, without fear of contradiction, that never was that characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon race—of struggling under difficulties with a determination to overcome them—more grandly displayed than by the farmers of England at that period. They had fought bravely at the hustings, and they won the fight which expelled from power Lord John Russell and his supporters, who had advocated an 8s. per qr. fixed duty; but the influence of the potato famine, with all its concomitant evils, and the rapidly developing trade of the country, compelled his successor to introduce a more sweeping measure and 1s. per qr. was substituted for that of 8s., as previously proposed. That shilling has since been removed.

The discovery of the gold fields of California, and subsequently in Australia, gave a great impetus to the trade of this country, and was beginning to be felt by the agriculturists just previous to the outbreak of the Crimean War. But that war closed the Russian ports, and gave a sudden rise in value to our cereals, and those diseases which were undermining the inmost wealth of this country, and annually withdrawing so many millions sterling, were allowed not only to exist unmo-

lest, but daily fresh virus to be brought into the country, and the cry raised, for their restriction remained unheeded by the legislature and ridiculed by the consumer. Whilst even many of the stockowners who did not actually suffer losses in their herds and flocks were themselves content to leave things as they were so flushed were they with the temporary improvement in prices of all kinds of agricultural produce caused by that calamitous war. Little had then been done towards developing the producing powers of America, and the outbreak of civil war in that great country further retarded their development. This was quickly followed by the Franco-Prussian War, and as all those years England remained at peace, and not only retained, but enormously increased, its commercial position. Almost fabulous fortunes were amassed in a very brief space of time by those engaged in trade and commerce. During that period those engaged in agriculture had to contend with a succession of adverse seasons, yet the visionary prospects of high prices being maintained induced landed proprietors and their agents to demand higher rents—a demand which many refused to comply with, whilst others felt compelled to submit to it, as the mere rumour of a change brought numerous applicants for their farms, such was the keen competition for land under the visionary and very transient season of agricultural prosperity.

But to return to our cattle traffic. The cattle plague was introduced in 1865, and allowed to extend itself unchecked and apparently uncared for by the Legislature, until its ravages threatened the sweeping away of the whole of the cattle of the kingdom before measures were taken to stamp it out. The restrictions that were then enforced rendered the kingdom free of the other diseases which had for so many years inflicted so much distress, and in very many cases ruin. Such dear-bought experience and the nonmistakeable effect of the enforcement of rigid regulations should have satisfied the most sceptical of both our "home and foreign cattle traffic" being stringently dealt with. But it was not so. The prosperity of our trade and commerce was too great to admit of any interruption, even when so important an element as the food of the people was being suicidally swept away from the land. The statistics obtained by this Chamber in 1873 show the estimated losses sustained in this county during the year 1872 amounted to £155,226. Based upon that estimate, I made a comparative estimate of the loss sustained in the United Kingdom during that year, showing the enormous sum of £19,510,707; whilst £4,606,532 represented the value of the imported live stock, being less than a fourth of the loss. This information from myself, and much more from others, was laid before a select committee of the House of Commons, only to be pooh-poohed, and the judicious regulations asked for were not granted. Thus diseases continued to lay waste our home produce until the reintroduction of cattle plague in 1877 caused the readoption of stringent regulations, with the same happy results which had attended those of 1866.

After the patient inquiry by the committee of the House of Lords, the Lord President of the Privy Council introduced a Bill, which passed the Upper House, but, despite all the convincing evidence that had been given, and the experience of the very severe national losses which had been sustained, and the further satisfactory proof which to all unbiassed minds clearly pointed out the course which should be pursued, that Bill was most severely assailed in the House of Commons by the imaginary representatives of the people, and the manner in which it was divested of some of its provisions has been made the vain boast of its opponents, but fortunately sufficient powers were vested in the Privy Council to deal promptly with the reintroduction of disease, and also to enforce such judicious regulations for our home traffic as have hitherto satisfactorily guarded our herds and flocks from further losses. There is now every prospect that free trade in live stock will become a valuable supplement to our home productions, instead of being, as it hitherto has been, an insidious destroyer of the people's food. From the best information obtainable I made a calculation of the loss sustained by the nation from imported diseases during the past 33 years, and, calculating the losses at compound interest, I found that they exceeded four hundred millions sterling. It has been argued that the losses fell upon the consumer, but I maintain that the producer suffered first; that those visitations unduly enhanced the price of animal food; that they caused great privations to those consumers possessing limited

incomes and enriched the producers of other countries at the expense of this nation.

The continued drain upon one branch of industry for so many years could not take place without being most severely felt. In fact, many were ruined by it, and others very seriously injured. Whilst this was so on the one hand, it raised the price of animal food to fictitious prices on the other hand, which tended to support the false value set upon land, under the influence of the Crimean war, which was bolstered up by the civil war in the United States, and subsequently by the Franco Prussian war.

So sensitive are the foreign producers of the effect that such wars have upon this nation that when, with the speed of lightning, the electric spark conveyed the warlike news from England to America in 1876 an almost indescribable scene occurred in the Corn Exchange of New York. The daily papers the next morning represented the corn merchants as screaming with delight at the probability of England being engaged in war with Russia.

#### THE EFFECT OF THE REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS ON BRITISH AGRICULTURE AND THE NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION.

The altered conditions of agriculture and the increasing wants of the country induced a higher class of cultivation by the free use of fertilizers and a heavy expenditure annually for feeding stuff, so that by increased production the difficulty of foreign competition may be faced; and here, too, came improved machinery and implements to economise and render more effectual the labour employed. But all this required the investment of more capital, and gave rise to the demand for security for that capital by an equitable tenant right. After much discussion an Act was passed having professedly that object in view, but, its permissive nature giving power to bar its provisions, its application is only very partially adopted; in fact, it is generally rendered nugatory, and the very modest motion of Mr. Samuelson for the formation of a committee of inquiry was rejected by a considerable majority of the House of Commons.

The severe damages done to crops caused by the over-preservation of game have been repeatedly urged upon the Legislature, but hitherto without effect, and most severe losses continue to be imposed which are by no means confined to the lands where game is rigidly preserved. The destruction of the balance of nature and the prohibition of the use of the gun have so seriously tended to increase such birds as the woodpigeon, lark, j.ckdaw, and rook, that they have become most serious destroyers of our root, clover, and corn crops. I am well aware of the value of the rook as an insectivorous bird, but when they are harboured to the extent we now see them the good they do is more than counterbalanced by the evil. I am also well aware that the law gives the game to the tenant, but like the Agricultural Holdings Act, its provisions are usually barred.

#### FREEDOM OF OCCUPATION.

The prohibitory agreements enforced as to cropping and the disposal of the produce of the land are in many cases such that the tenant is a mere farm bailiff, tied hand and foot, only with the following important exceptions: He has to find the capital to stock and cultivate his farm, he has to pay all rent, tithes, and taxes, to incur all risks of seasons, and to pay for all artificial manures and feeding stuffs, which frequently equal another rent.

#### OUR INCREASED TAXATION.

The tithe rent charge, which is now upwards of twelve per cent. above the commutation, may fairly be taken first on the list. The system under which the tithe averages are obtained is most unfair to those who have to pay. Originally returns were supposed to be obtained from the Hereford market, but the law was systematically evaded, and the returns made were so insignificant, that Hereford was expunged from the list of markets. Yet the corn sold in Hereford market is no insignificant quantity, and much of it passes into factors' hands to be re-sold in distant markets, where returns are made with the factor's profit and cost of transit added to the price realised by the grower, without the original low price being considered. Besides this, the Commutation Act was based upon the price at which wheat, barley, and oats sold per imperial bushel, but the facility afforded to both buyer and seller of selling by weight has caused the substitution of weight for measure, and, as the weight is usually in excess of measure, some four or five per

cent. is thus unfairly added to that impost. In noticing our taxation, it must be remembered that the law supposes that farmers make a profit equal to half their rental. I wish my experience confirmed that supposition, and, I have no doubt many men will re-echo that wish. The School Boards have in many districts imposed an income tax of 2s. in the pound, and where they do not exist a voluntary contribution is obtained to meet the expenses. In this county the lunatic asylum, which was to cost £40,000, I believe I am right in saying, exceeded £80,000, and imposes an income tax of 2d. in the pound. The maintenance of the disarranged roads imposes about a shilling in the pound. The injustice of that imposition has frequently been urged by the over-burdened ratepayers, who condemned the removal of the turnpike gates before some equitable provision was made for the proper maintenance of the roads, and it may truly be said they "asked for a fish, and by the Highway Act of 1878 they are given a scorpion." Oh! but it is said these are landlords' matters. Truly when a change of occupation takes place they become so, but until it does they are, as I have described them, fresh impositions of income tax, and here I must express my surprise that in these days of depression farmers do not generally appeal against our national income tax now that it is seriously increased.

#### THE ADVERSE SEASONS.

I have frequently heard the remark that the last three or four years have been most trying seasons. According to my observations we have had fifteen successive trying years. Commencing in 1864, which was the driest season on record, nothing has been experienced like it since 1826. In the years 1868, 1870, 1874, and 1876 we had similar severe droughts. In such seasons it is next to impossible to secure the growth of either roots or clover crops, and as these crops form the basis for the succeeding corn crops it must be apparent that the influence of such droughts is most disastrous, and the higher the state of cultivation the more severely are they felt, as the expenditure in manures, &c., is rendered futile, and the pastures become so dried up that fires frequently take place from the sparks of steam engines. To return to the seasons, 1876 was a cold, wet, and blighty year. In 1867 we had a severe frost on the 24th June which again blighted our prospects for corn. 1872 was another cold, wet year, and much of the hay crops were flooded, and nearly the whole spoil or very seriously damaged. The disastrous seasons of 1877 and 1878 are too vivid on the mind to require any remark from me respecting them.

With such disastrous seasons, such visitations of diseases in our herds and flocks as those I have described, such serious increased taxation, and with rents unduly raised so that no margin can be left to meet adversity, it can be little matter for surprise that such severe depression is now felt when the free trade policy of the country is brought uninterruptedly to compete in our markets, and the produce of the vast corn fields of America, and the herds of the almost boundless prairie lands are poured into this country. I was much surprised a short time since upon reading in the *Times* Mr. Scott's estimate of the cost of production of wheat and cattle in America, wherein he gave the rent of land as costing ten dollars or £2 per acre. It may be so in some parts of the Eastern States, although I doubt even that, but it is from the far West that we have to look, of both Canada and America, for the produce with which we shall have to compete. Those vast territories where free grants of land are made to settlers who will agree to cultivate it for five years. The corn grown in the far West is now conveyed by rail to Chicago, where it is shipped on that vast inland sea (Lake Michigan) from thence to be conveyed to any part of the known world. The fertility of the pastures, and the peculiar feeding properties of the herbage in the vast plains of Texas and surrounding States, where inclement weather is unknown, and many thousands of cattle graze all the year round on the pastures which, until very recently were only kept for their hides, tallow, &c. The natural advantages of those districts for rearing cattle are such that no European country can compete with, and the cost per head of transit by no means counterbalances the advantages they possess. The rate is, I am assured, now down to 50s. per head. Dairy produce we have long had from America, and the farmers in dairy districts are feeling the depression in the value of their produce as severely as we are, therefore it is not any use directing attention to that branch

of our industry. Soil and climate must direct the course of husbandry for which they are best adapted.

#### FREE TRADE VERSUS RECIPROCIITY.

It is worthy of remark that the industries which forced the principles of free trade in cattle and corn upon the attention of the Legislature, under the plea of lowering the cost of production, are become the foremost in the rank demanding "Reciprocity," which is merely another name for "Protection," as it is well known that all other countries enact heavy import duties, England alone admitting almost everything duty free. This is by some termed a suicidal policy, and it really does appear a heavy handicapping. A writer in this week's *Chambers of Agriculture Journal*, who has clearly a great love for the old country, but now resident in America, strongly urges a protective duty of twenty-five per cent. upon all importations from other countries that will not adopt the principle of "Reciprocity," and with much force argues in favour of the establishment of such a principle with our enormous colonial possessions, advancing that their producing powers, particularly those of Canada, are equal to all the requirements of this country. I may here remark that I have often wondered that the minds of emigrants have not been more directed to the far West of Canada rather than the United States.

England is no longer the workshop of the world, and it is much to be deplored that the *prestige* so long enjoyed for the excellency of its manufactured goods has been in certain branches so seriously sacrificed by a thirst for rapidly obtaining wealth inducing the manufacture of inferior articles. Whilst this has been the case with the manufacturers, the very opposite has taken place with the agriculturists, and thus almost all kinds of farming stock are in demand for the improvement of the various breeds in foreign countries.

It cannot be supposed that England can continue to submit to the drain of wealth which is now being made from our shores for manufactured goods of almost every describable kind, in addition to that which has for so many years been sent to procure food for the people, without some corresponding return. When or in what way that return of prosperity will come is a matter of most serious consideration. So long as the trade of the country continues to suffer so severely from foreign competition, and remains so depressed as it is, so long, I fear, will the present depressed state of agriculture continue.

## THE FUTURE OF BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Edward Herring, of Altofts, read a paper at the last meeting of the West Riding Chamber of Agriculture, on "The Future of British Agriculture," in the course of which he said:—

We are treading the threshold of a great epoch in agriculture, which demands a complete preparation, and to that end I will submit to your notice several facts which, on discussion, may enable us to shake off existing impediments and equip ourselves for the powerful competition that we already feel, and shall be obliged to fight in the immediate future. The question is, Are we as farmers individually effective? Is every acre of land we cultivate producing what it might produce? Do we make as much beef, mutton, wool, and other articles, as we might? Is every requirement so well calculated that when the frost and snow of a long winter disappear our horses are strong and well shod, harness in good order, ploughs and wippletrees ready. Is there seed corn or guano to buy when the season arrives for their use? Are the turnips done, because not pitted before the storms set in, and, in consequence, sheep and bullocks sold off prematurely, involving serious loss? Is your grass mower complete—to every nut being tight and knife well rivetted—when hay time comes? When harvest comes upon us suddenly, maybe, is every machine and workman ready, each harvest cart or waggon in good running order, roads rutless, thatch pegs and cords in their places, with ready-drawn thatching straw at hand—in fact, everything prearranged so far as human foresight can attain to the minutest detail, that there may be no let or hindrance in the prosecution of our work? Having glanced at the history of agriculture from a scientific point of view, Mr. Herring concluded—But although scientific men have

contributed much, the main elements of solid progress rest with the skill and observant farmer, many of whom have worked out results with an energy and perseverance truly commendable, known only to fame in their own locality, perhaps, yet leaving footprints on the sands of time. It is, however, left for Cousin Jonathan to arouse us from our lethargy by the spear of competition—a competition that is already making every farmer in this land ask himself the question, How am I to pay my way with wheat and barley at 1s. a stone, and other cereals brought to our very door from across the ocean, of superior quality and at a lower price than that for which we can grow them; also cheese, butter, bacon, eggs, &c. Lastly comes the last straw that breaks the camel's back—fresh meat and cattle disease. The question before us resolves itself into this: Can we, by a reformed and progressive system of management, successfully compete with the foreigner? My reply is, I firmly believe we can. I base my conclusions on the indisputable fact that there is abundant room for improvement amongst us. It has been truly said, and proved to demonstration, that "bad and middling farming is the rule, good farming the exception." The cause of bad and middling farming being the rule will be found in the fact that until recent years education was not considered essential, nor even useful, to the youth who should tend the cattle or follow the plough—orgetful, or rather I may say ignorant of our living in an age of progress, when all must "move on," be he burgher or peasant. That we may look upon the farmer of the future, let us imagine that his parents have wisely determined to give him every advantage of a sound education to fit him for the struggle—given also that he is in possession of the natural gifts of energy, perseverance, application, industry, and morality. He must, besides being proficient in the three R's, have a deep practical knowledge of chemistry, be acquainted with botany, geology, animal and vegetable physiology. All the better for his future if for five years he can be spared the usefulness on the farm, likely enough to be looked upon by his parents, to learn what cannot be acquired at school—viz., business habits in some large city establishment. He will then be in a pre-eminent position to master the minutiae of his new profession, and will soon surpass in practice him who, uneducated, has risen from the occupation of erow and pig tender to that of ploughman, hedger, and stacker. The chemistry of our *prolége* enables him to know the composition and mechanical properties of the soil he tills, the exact depth it may be worked, and what ingredients or manures he must add in order to obtain the best possible results from his crop. I believe the time is not far distant when those persons not possessed of the requisite knowledge will seek the advice of the chemist as we do the physician for our bodily restoration. How many thousands of pounds have been ignorantly thrown away in the purchase of unsuitable manures! Chemistry, too, will aid him in the choice of feeding stuffs for his cattle, and will at once point out to him the most economic means of transferring the vegetable into the animal kingdom. Here, also, will animal physiology render him assistance as well, in the diagnosis of disease with which he, notwithstanding good management, will have to cope. Botany and vegetable physiology will explain to him why wheat yields well and barley perishes in drought—why he should plough deeply for roots and shallow for grain. Many excellent farmers will, I know, sneer at the coming man, but let it be understood that learning, minus the natural gifts of energy, perseverance, tact, and discretion, is of little avail. Besides well-ordered brains, the farmer must have sufficient capital, or woe betide him! Far better be lacking in acres than in pounds. Hand-to-mouth farming is simply ruinous in its consequences. Having then secured the man and his money, let us look out for a farm for him. So important a matter as the rent must be carefully fixed. Of late, so keen has been the competition for farms, one over-bidding another, that rents have been driven upwards by the tenant himself, not the landlord, who, however, is too frequently blamed. A decided reduction must take place if farming is to prosper, otherwise landowners will have to take them in hand, with the usual result of loss and no rent. If anything is to save the British farmer, it must be his ability to profitably convert his vegetable produce into beef and mutton. Hitherto, as a profitable transaction, apart from the manure made to grow corn, feeding has not been a success. No doubt one cause of that is the great length of time

before animals reach the knife. The prevalent idea that an animal ought to be three or four years old before it is put up to feed is gradually being exploded, and old over-fed animals will, I hope, be banished from the shows for fat stock. As meat manufacturers our motto must be "Quick returns and fresh faces." It has been allowed on all sides for some years past that if any farm pays its occupier it is the sheep farm, especially where the plan of early feeding is adopted. Turning briefly to the probable crops and cropping of the future, I believe that green crops, at least for drawing off the land, will not increase in breadth or expense of production as we better understand the feeding of stock. Whether corn growing will pay or not depends on so many circumstances—seasons, foreign supply, trade, and emigration—that, as I stated at the beginning of this paper, it would be to court certain failure to venture prediction. Still, by better cultivation all round, and by laying down to grass tenacious and unsuitable soils, difficult to work, and often inconveniently situated for haulage, a much higher average may be reached. The seed which is to be put into the ground will not hereafter be the "tailings," but selected and often changed, suitable also to the soil and situation. No longer may we crop our land by hard and fast lines of ignorantly framed agreement. The future farmer will be free to act as his knowledge and skill directs him, and the exigencies of the times demand. Many and various have been the nostrums propounded to cure the present distress. Amongst others a return to primitive habits of life. Penuriosity, rather than prodigality, generally speaking, is the fault of the farmer. For those who have risen above serfdom I plead that a higher standard is required than sufficed for their forefathers, yet a standard demanding no lavish expenditure for its maintenance. The farmer quite as much as the tradesman requires relaxation from business, in whatever form most agreeable to his tastes. For some years I have made it an annual practice to give all my workpeople, in addition to a harvest supper, a summer day's excursion to a watering place or to the Yorkshire Show, granting them their day's wages and expenses. Apart from the pleasure in ministering to the comfort of others, it will be found a very profitable transaction. The narrow prejudices of many of our workpeople would be removed by their seeing that the world extends beyond the confines of their own village and neighbouring market town. Another cure propounded is a return to protection, in the garb of "reciprocity." With Mr. Forster, the illustrious member for Bradford, I believe "nobody in England has any chance of getting it; because you may depend upon it that the large body of consumers are too powerful; especially the agricultural interests, knowing that they cannot get back any protection to their food, and knowing that the country will not bear that, will not, as they have said through the mouths of two or three of their best speakers, allow the protection which they have been forced to give up to be carried out at their expense by the manufacturers." The word reciprocity bears too much resemblance to the old Jewish law of "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" to be acceptable to an Englishman. Then we have applauded the generous consideration of many landlords who have returned to their tenants a very acceptable percentage of rent. It is only a very temporary relief, however—a putting off of the evil day. A whole year's rent would no doubt put many a struggling tenant on his legs; but few owners, if willing, are in a position to do that. Far better for them to effect the necessary improvements on their estates, or, failing that, the tenant should have compulsory power of compensation granted him by law, whereby he could be recouped on leaving his holding for the value of all unexhausted improvements effected by him. With an eye to the future, let us continue to support our valuable agricultural societies, which supply us with information, and provoke in us a commendable spirit of emulation—watching that they do not become the mere encouragers of fanciers and experimenters rather than the competing ground of tenant farmers. Our chambers of agriculture and farmers' clubs, when vigorously encouraged, will do more towards making British farming a success than any other institution.

DEPRESSION.—First city man (Optimist). How's business with you? I can't help thinking things are looking bet— Second city man (Pessimist). "Drifting fast to the workhouse! And what makes me doubly anxious is, I can't think who'll be left to pay the poor-rate!"—*Punch*.

## OUR CROP PROSPECTS.

Mr. Thos. C. Scott writes to the *Times*:—

The most conspicuous feature at the present time is the lateness and deficiency of grass. Almost no stock has as yet been turned out anywhere—a month after the usual time. The great hay crop of last year has been nearly all consumed, and the prospect this year is very indifferent; for not only is meadow grass late and stunted, but much of it will have to be grazed for want of keep on the ordinary pastures. These circumstances have caused young stock to fall in price and half-fat animals to be sent to the butcher, and if we had not lost the monopoly in the supply of beef and mutton, they would have enhanced their prices, instead of which they are on the decline. Hay, however, being an article of expensive carriage, and one of which we cannot therefore depend on a foreign supply, is not unlikely to be double its present low price by the time the growing crop is secured.

The price of Wheat, on the contrary, is no longer affected by home prospects and the weather, otherwise the backwardness of the crop at the present time, the thinness of the plants on the ground, and the all but certain reduced area sown would enhance it, instead of which it is declining both in this country and in France, where the crop prospects are much worse than our own. The only data we have for anticipating a good wheat yield, in spite of present appearances, is the lateness of the crop, which renders it comparatively safe against subsequent checks in its growth, early luxuriance seldom preceding a good crop, and the certainty that the hay crop will be a deficient one, a sure forerunner of a proportionately good wheat yield.

Barley has had an indifferent seed bed, and, in addition to the usual break, much ploughed-up wheat land has been sown, so that the area under this crop is likely to be much larger than that of last year. Oat sowing was frequently interrupted by rain and snow, and the crop is, therefore, at least a fortnight later than usual. Fine summer weather in the south may remedy this, but it may be a serious drawback to the crop in the north, where it is often overtaken by winter weather before it is reaped. Green crop sowing has been seriously delayed by the weather, so much so, that mangel wurtzel is even now being sown in the metropolitan counties; whereas to insure a *maximum* crop it should have been sown six or seven weeks ago. The sowing of Swedish turnips and kohlrabi is being proceeded with, but not on such fine seed beds as they require, and if the present cold winds continue the young plants are certain to fall a prey to the fly.

On the whole, then, there appears no very redeeming prospect "looming in the future" for the rent-paying farmer, and no panacea appears as yet to have been found to enable him to meet his onerous obligations in existing circumstances.

## THE NITRATE OF SODA WAR.

The *Times* comments as follows upon the war now raging between Chili on the one side and Peru and Bolivia on the other:—

As to the merits of the quarrel there can be little doubt that the sympathy of outsiders and neutrals must be given, as we said not long ago, to Chili. The struggle is in the main a commercial one, and Chili is contending for freedom of trade, while Peru has, in its own interests, taken the side of restriction and monopoly. The mineral wealth of the desert territory of Bolivia which intervenes between the frontiers of Chili and Peru has been largely developed of late years by Chilean capitalists. It was very natural, therefore, that the Chilean Government should desire to come to some direct understanding with that of Bolivia as to the import and export duties to be levied on commodities passing through the Bolivian ports whose trade had been entirely developed by the enterprise of Chilean citizens. A treaty for this purpose was concluded and ratified in 1875, and until a short time ago it seemed to be working to the satisfaction of both parties to it. The Chilean industry of the territory in question was the working of silver mines and the production of nitrate of soda, the latter, as is well known, a valuable ingredient in the manufacture of agricultural manure. The working of this produce aroused the commercial jealousy of Peru, which derives a large profit from its vast deposits of guano. The Government of Peru had

already established a monopoly over the production of nitrate of soda within its own territory, to the injury of Chilean capitalists, who had commenced the industry, and having concluded an injurious commercial treaty with Bolivia, it endeavoured further to extinguish the Chilean trade in nitrate of soda by the purchase of the Chilean works established on Bolivian territory in the neighbourhood of the port of Antofagasta. This effort failed, but the Bolivian Government, in violation of its treaty engagements with Chile, and in fulfilment, as is supposed, of a private arrangement with Peru, imposed a few months ago a tax on the export of nitrate of soda and other products from the ports under its control. The Chilean Government at once protested against this measure, but the Bolivian authorities proceeded to levy the tax by force, and occupied the nitrate of soda works. Thereupon the Chilean Government despatched troops in sufficient strength to overcome the Bolivian resistance, and this action seems to have been regarded at Peru as equivalent to a declaration of war. Explanations were demanded at Lima on behalf of the Chilean Government and refused, and the Chilean fleet was thereupon despatched to blockade the port of Iquique. It is reported that Bolivia is now about to take an active part in the struggle, and has collected a force of 6,000 men, destined, if Peru can furnish them with transport, to attempt the recapture of Calama, which has fallen into Chilean hands. So far as we can judge at present, the substantial right seems to be on the side of Chile. Bolivia has to all appearances violated a solemn engagement, and Peru has simply used its power and influence in the endeavour to extinguish an enterprising rival in trade. It is quite possible that there may be something to be said on the other side of the question; but as matters at present stand it would appear that Peru has pursued a purely selfish policy and one very injurious to an interest in which the whole world has a share. Meanwhile it is difficult to see what advantage can come to any one from this untoward struggle. The much-vexed agricultural interest in this country and elsewhere will suffer yet again from the scarcity and increased price of one of its most important commodities; for even if trade were not impeded, nitrate of soda, the *causa belli*, has been declared to be contraband of war.

### THE TIPTREE BUDGET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The cool complacency with which farmers and their friends talk of the duties incumbent on landlords towards everybody, except their own order, is eminently edifying. They are to let tenants do with their land exactly what they please—they are to impose no covenants which will secure proper cultivation—tenants are to “stand no repairs”—the landlord is to lay out any amount of money which may suit the fancy of a sentimental husbandman, in new handsome cottages for men, and enlarged, commodious, farm buildings, “suited to the spirit of the age”—and finally he is to let his land at a rent that will not cover the interest, or the capital spent on the homestead, to say nothing of the purchase money of the acres. Couldn't these apostles of what are called “liberal covenants,” go a little further, and modestly suggest to an oppressive “landocracy”—I think that is now the nickname for the unfortunate owners of “dirty acres”—that in place of *paying* rent, the tenant should receive an *honorarium* for cultivating them?

But I write, not to dispense opinions, or criticise strictures, but rather to ask a question. My much respected friend and fellow citizen, Mr. Mechi, has done that which the wisest of men longed for his enemy to do—he has written a book—and from time to time he reports in your columns and elsewhere, his annual balance sheet. These have been handled roughly by men, who, because they have done all their lives, that which he has done better in his later years, think he has no right to know what they arrogate as the monopoly only of their own experience. The sage of Tiptree is assailed by determined sceptics. They can't do what he accomplishes, and therefore they flatly deny his statements, and

challenge his facts. His Triptolemean achievements are relegated to the region of the nebulous Mrs. Harris, of whom the envious Mrs. Prig ventured to say, “I don't believe there's no such person!” I have no vocation *tan-to componere lites*. In both the critics and the criticised, such diversity of arithmetical principle is revealed in their several statements of account, that, in common with many others, I despair at coming to any assured conclusion by taking up the slate and “doing a sum;” and I therefore propose to approach the issue by another route. The solution of the question involved, is literally of infinite national importance. Can any people surmise the ruin of their agriculture? Can England live without her yeomen, and her peasantry? Can the Constitution, can our social economy survive the deletion of our peers, our landed gentry, our clergy, and the thousand auxiliary interests that hang upon their life? If it be cheaper to import than grow and produce, what is to pay our rates and taxes? What is to recruit our army, if we are all to become winkle-weavers and thrunsters? You record thousands of farms reduced to half-rent—as many more thrown on the hands of their owners—a bankrupt tenantry, and struggling squires. I have accounted for this as for the famines in India, China, Morocco, Egypt, formerly in Ireland, as what the Roman law called *dammum fatale*—the act of God—the result of a general law of cycles of seasons, which Joseph had the wisdom to allow for, but which we have entirely ignored.—Is the depression the result of cases inherent in our own normal condition? or has it its source in antecedents altogether exceptional? Land is dearer in France than in England; dearer in Italy, in the Netherlands, Holland, in our Channel Islands. In fact, where in Europe is it to be purchased at so low a rate as the price of Tiptree Farm? Are the burdeus on land less abroad than here? In other words, is the Protection which prevails all over the Continent, and in America, less burdensome than Free Trade? Our farming tenantry and peasantry are entirely exempted from the onerous duties imposed to sustain “native industry” in other countries; they are not doubly taxed as those of the United States, Canada, France, Germany are—once by the State, but more heavily by the protected fellow citizens. The burdeus borne by our agriculturists are the creatures of their own extravagance—178 millions spent in imported meat and drink—145 millions in home-brewed beer, spirits and tobacco. No nation can long stand that; no other nation does endure it.

But the question I want you and your readers to answer, is this:—The four last seasons have been quite as unpropitious at Tiptree as anywhere else. It has had its long winters, frosty springs, snowy summers, and rotting, rainy, harvest homes. The soil, I understand to consist of third-rate heavy “three horse” land. At £25 per acre for the freehold, what better indeed could be expected? In the last *most unfavourable year* Mr. Mechi reports all his wheat crops as yielding an 37 bushels to the acre; this in the worst season, against an average of 12 bushels in a fine season in America, and 5½ in Russia. In France, in the best years, the yield is greatly below Tiptree at the worst. Two of Mr. Mechi's fields produced, the one 6½, the other five quarters, or 52 and 40 bushels respectively. In 1868, one field yielded 64 bushels, and 40 acres averaged 56 per acre, followed in 1869 by 52 bushels. In 1878, the barley averaged 36 bushels. What would the good land and culture do in average seasons? Now, either these quotations are not consistent with fact, or, in my apprehension, they solve the whole question of free competition. Is it, or is it not true that the land in this country and climate, so inferior as to be worth only, at the outside, one-fourth of the price current for the arable land of France, the Netherlands

or Germany, yields in the very worst season more than three to four times as much as that of the United States, Canada, or Russia, in the best? All the rival wrangling about balance sheets, omitted items of charge, saddlers' bills, and farriers' accounts, are disposed of by this state of the case. Wages are higher, tradesmen's charges are heavier in the New World than in the Old. It costs as much to re-claim, plough, harrow, sow, reap, stock and thrash an acre yielding twelve bushels as the same area yielding sixty. The farm house, stables, cowsheds, barns, granaries, waggons, ploughs, have to be paid for in Illinois, Minnesota, or Ontario, just as certainly as in Essex. The homesteads of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, or Holland, are not less ample or expensive than our own. To be sure, the people work harder and longer, and are paid less, are more frugal, less wasteful and expensive than ours. But what can be done at Tiptree, can be achieved all over the United Kingdom. It has no abnormally favourable conditions. The sun has been as sparing, the frost and rain as lavish of their presence, at Mr. Mechi's farm, as anywhere else. If we can raise on one acre as much as other cultivators can on four, it is unnecessary to look anywhere else than to our own mismanagement, if we cannot make the two ends meet with a good lap over. Lord Derby keeps telling us we can grow twice as much as we do. We have the wealthiest customers in the world to take, at our own doors, every corn and horn we can grow and breed. We have seen that foreign produce cannot be sent from Colorado to Mark Lane, Liverpool, or Glasgow by any means for nothing. Continental farmers are not ruined. The Swiss, the Dutch, the French, the Channel Islands tillers live and thrive—but they do not cultivate forty acres badly in place of ten acres well. The facts and the advice of Mr. Mechi point to the conclusion that our farmers should occupy half as much land and till it twice as highly as they do. Perhaps peasant proprietories should be largely interspersed among them. Perhaps also if tenancies were converted into copyholds at a ground rent with option of enfranchisement, our agriculture might be rejuvenated. At all events there are the details of the culture and produce of Tiptree Farm in the most adverse seasons. Are they trustworthy? If they be, is it not quite clear that we can meet habitually low prices by larger crops, and beat the greater cheapness of foreign production by a greater average growth per acre?

No doubt even the highest prices and the largest production will not enable any class to bear up against improvidence and extravagance. Wise men save in good seasons to provide for the deficiencies of those which are bad. Free trade has rendered vast compensating advantages to the tillers of the soil. It has relieved them of the taxes they paid for home-protected trades and in colonial differential duties. It has increased the purchase power of wages and incomes by at least 50 per cent. If the profits of the farmer have been reduced, so in quite as great a measure have his personal and domestic expenses for the like commodities. If he has not chosen to avail himself of the advantage—if cheapness has not induced him to save more, but only to consume more—if he has preferred self-indulgence to self-denial, it is very clear that he cannot both have his cake and eat it.

I am, Sir, &c., SIDNEY SMITH.

*The Manor, Feltham, June, 1879.*

**SOMETHING LIKE A FAMILY MAN.**—We learn from one of our contemporaries that John Dunn has no fewer than seventeen Zulu wives, and "a corresponding number of children." Whatever that may be in precise figures, it is clear that this gentleman must have added a large increment to the already numerous family of the "Dunn Browns."—*Punch.*

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The following circular has just been issued "to farmers and others interested in agricultural reform:"—

It has been long felt by many farmers, as well as by others who understand the necessities of modern farming, that the conditions under which the cultivation of the soil is carried on are highly detrimental to agricultural prosperity, and, as obstructive to increased production, prejudicial to the interests to both landlords and tenants, as well as of the public at large.

The serious position in which landlords and tenants find themselves placed urgently demands that every legitimate effort be made to encourage the development of the resources of the soil, and the preliminary step in this direction must be to free the business of farming from the trammels of unjust laws, and the cultivation of the soil from the unwise and in many cases absurd restrictions which obstruct its improvement.

The hopes of Agricultural Reform have hitherto proved delusive, and the reason plainly is because the interests of those engaged in agriculture are not adequately represented in Parliament.

The first thing towards the redress of those Agricultural grievances which have to be dealt with by Parliament is manifestly the election of men who really represent the interests of agriculture.

To accomplish this, farmers have only to assert their political independence and elect candidates who really represent their views, and thoroughly possess their confidence.

The Farmers' Alliance is organised to help towards the return of such representatives, as the proper constitutional means for the redress of the grievances complained of, and to promote the other objects stated in the Provisional Programme, by the united action of all who are in favour of Agricultural Reform.

### PROGRAMME OF THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

(Subject to amendment at a General Conference of Members, to be held in London, July 2nd, 1879).

1. To secure the better representation of tenant-farmers in Parliament.
2. To stimulate the improved cultivation of the land by obtaining security for the capital of tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings.
3. To encourage greater freedom in the cultivation of the soil and the disposal of its produce.
4. To obtain the abolition of class privileges involved in the Laws of Distress and Hypothec.
5. To promote the reform of the Game Laws.
6. To obtain the alteration of all legal presumptions which operate unfairly against tenant-farmers.
7. To secure to ratepayers their legitimate share in County Government.
8. To obtain a fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant.

The subscription constituting membership is fixed at 5s. per annum, or £5 for life; but to meet the large expenses necessary for the objects of the Alliance it is hoped that many members will contribute to the funds in excess of the minimum subscription.

A Donation Fund has been opened to meet the preliminary expenses, to which the subscriptions of well-wishers are invited.

The success of the Alliance must depend on the zealous and willing co-operation of those whom it is proposed to benefit, and they can at present co-operate most effectively by joining the Alliance themselves, and by inviting the attention of friends and neighbours to its objects, and soliciting them to become members.

Signed on behalf of the provisional committee:

JAMES HOWARD, Chairman.  
 JAMES W. BARCLAY, } Vice-Chairmen.  
 R. P. BLENNERHASSETT, }  
 WILLIAM E. BEAR, Hon. Sec.

Temporary Offices, 265, Strand, London, W.C.  
 May, 1879.

The following Gentlemen have consented to act on the Provisional Committee, with power to add to their number:—

- Mr. W. Alexander, Bent, Kincardineshire.  
 „ John C. Allen, Cole Green, Hertford.  
 „ Thos. Aveling, Rochester.  
 Sir G. Balfour, M.P. for Kincardineshire.  
 Mr. T. Bell, Gateshead-on-Tyne, Durham.  
 „ R. P. Bleuncharhasset, M.P.  
 „ J. D. Broughton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.  
 „ J. C. Brown, M.P., Horsham, Sussex.  
 „ James Byrne, Shanballymore.  
 „ A. McNeel Caird, Genoch, Dunragit, N.B.  
 „ Thos. J. Clarke, Rugby, Warwickshire.  
 „ D. Carror, Edinburgh.  
 Capt. Delf, Walton-on-Naze, Essex.  
 Mr. J. Newton Delf, Bungay, Norfolk.  
 „ T. Eary, M.P., Newark, Notts.  
 „ J. G. Edwards, Stockbridge, Hants.  
 „ Richard England, Wells, Norfolk.  
 „ Henry Evershed, Kennington Park Road.  
 „ W. Fowler, Leytonstone, Essex.  
 „ Joshua Freeman, Dersingham, Norfolk.  
 „ F. Freeman, M.A., Tottenham.  
 „ T. Gayford, Thetford, Norfolk.  
 „ Wm. Goodlet, Bisham, Forfar.  
 „ S. Hadland, Clattercote, Warwickshire.  
 „ C. T. Hicks, Gt. Holland, Essex.  
 „ James Howard, Clapham Park, Beds.  
 „ J. P. Homer, Hmsworth, Dorset.  
 „ G. W. Latham, Sandback, Cheshire.  
 „ P. Lemon, Reepham, Norfolk.  
 „ F. Long, Stowmarket, Suffolk.  
 „ James Long, Henlow, Beds.  
 „ Wm. Lyall, Caddonley, Selkirk.  
 „ Wm. McCombie, Tillyfour, Aberdeen.  
 „ John McCulloch, Denbie Mains, Locherbie, N.B.  
 „ F. J. Maun, Shropham, Norfolk.  
 „ T. M. Nicol, Kerriemuir, N.B.  
 „ James Odams, Bishop Stortford Herts.  
 „ Wm. Hiddell, Hundalee, Jedburgh.  
 „ W. H. Robarts, 46, Museum Street, W.C.  
 „ W. Roper, Frint, Tambridge Wells, Kent.  
 „ Thos. Rose, Melton Magna, Norfolk.  
 „ Edward Scriven, Leamington, Warwickshire.  
 Prof. Sheldon, Sheen, Derbyshire.  
 Mr. R. Smith, Kimberley, Norfolk.  
 „ Wm. Smith, Stone of Morphie, Kincardineshire.  
 „ John Sweetman, Drumbaragh, Wells.  
 „ Garrett Taylor, Norwich.  
 „ J. O. Howard Taylor, Thorpe, Norwich.  
 „ J. Thorn, Kirkbythore, Westmoreland.  
 „ J. Twaite, Carleton Forehoe, Norfolk.  
 Capt. Verney, R.N., Anzelsea.  
 Sir D. Wedderburn, M.P. for Haddington.  
 Mr. Charles Whitehead, Maidstone.  
 „ J. S. Willison, Maxwelton, N.B.

Treasurer: Mr. James Odams, The Grange, Bishop Stortford.  
 Hon. Secretary: Mr. William E. Bear, 265, Strand, W.C.

A Conference of Members only will be held at Exeter Hall, London, on the Wednesday of the Royal Agricultural Show week, July 2nd, 1879, at 2 p.m., to be followed by a Public Meeting at 8 p.m. in the same place.

The following is a copy of Mr. Long's (of Henlow, Beds) address to the farmers of Bedfordshire:—

#### TO THE TENANT FARMERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE.

Gentlemen,—You have no doubt seen in either the daily or county papers some notice of a “Farmers’ Alliance” formed at a meeting in London, consisting of Members of Parliament, tenant farmers, and others interested in promoting the prosperity of agriculture. A programme has been issued stating the objects of this alliance; and a committee formed, of which Mr. James Howard is appointed chairman.

As one of the class of tenant farmers in the county of Bedford I feel it a duty to offer him thus publicly my hearty thanks for the efforts he is making on their behalf; and for this alliance movement, which, I presume, he was the first to

set on foot. The clear and excellent letters on agricultural depression, which were written by that gentleman to the *Times* during last month, must, I think, have convinced the public that there is need for some movement on the tenant farmers’ behalf; to afford him that security for his capital invested in the land which the Agricultural Holdings Act acknowledged to be his right, but which also it allowed every landlord to evade.

It seems to me to be the interest and the plain duty of every tenant farmer in England to join this Farmers’ Alliance and to give it his support. Some perhaps may say “What good will come of it?” “What alteration in the law as between landlord and tenant can make farming profitable with bad seasons and low prices?” Certainly none; but this is no reason why that which is the tenant’s own should not be legally secured to him, which at present it is not. Others may say that the objects of this “Farmers’ Alliance” are too sweeping and comprehensive, and involve too much. This certainly need not hinder anyone from joining it. There is no fear (the Agricultural Holdings Act to wit) that any Government will grant too much; nor, indeed, do tenant farmers desire anything unreasonable or unfair.

No one can travel from Bedford to Oxford, or the same distance in other parts of the country, without being convinced of the greatly deteriorated condition of the land. Something, it is plain, is necessary to be done if it is retained in cultivation at all. What must it be? The panacea of some landlords is, “Put more capital into your land.” This, however, is only half their meaning; they mean also, “Put more capital into your land that we may be sure of keeping up our rents and cropping restrictions;” well-knowing, as they do, that under the present state of the law the tenant, as soon as he has invested it, has placed his capital absolutely under their control. But where is the money to come from? or who will invest it in such times as these at such a risk? I do not for a moment imply that all, or even the majority of, landlords having this meaning, though in too many instances, where they themselves have not, the agent is known to act upon it, and this causes even greater dissatisfaction.

I have, together with all the tenants on the Henlow Grange estate, the satisfaction to occupy under a good and liberal landlord, who allows his tenants the fullest liberty of cultivation and sale of produce; and, although this has existed for some years, yet I venture to assert without boasting, and without fear of contradiction, that the cultivation of the parish of Henlow will compare not unavourably with that of any other parish in the county. I refer to this, not only to prove that freedom of cultivation is not injurious to the land, but rather induces a larger outlay upon it. I do not know if this will be any part of the programme of the “Farmers’ Alliance.” My own opinion and belief is, and has always been, that a two years’ notice to quit, with entire freedom of cultivation and sale of produce, up to the time of notice, and from that time a compulsory and strict adherence to the four-course husbandry in accordance with its present meaning, would be a much better alteration in the law than any compensation clauses. It would be much more simple; applicable in every county; and, I believe, would satisfy the great body of tenant farmers, without in any way injuring the landlords’ interest; it would avoid all valuations between them, which might be a fruitful source of dissatisfaction, and all consequent appeals to the Law Courts. I hope the Farmers’ Alliance may adopt this view. It is, I believe, the principle which is acted on over all the Earl of Leicester’s estates.

As to any alteration in the Game Laws in England, I confess that I do not see what can be done. The law at present gives the right of sporting to the tenant; and he by private arrangement contracts himself out of it. As to any moral right, there must be the same right to keep pheasants and hares as poultry and pigs; the moral wrong is where game is kept—as is too often the case—at the tenant’s expense. This, however, must be left to right itself. In a thickly-populated and highly-civilized country the value of sporting rights will undoubtedly increase, and agriculture will have to adapt itself to the phase of the times.

I certainly do not desire, nor do I believe that the great body of tenant farmers in England desire, to see any change in the ownership of land; they desire only a legal security for the capital they invest in it, and liberty to cultivate as they please. This, I believe, is the main object of the

Farmers' Alliance, and for this reason I hope that every tenant farmer in Bedfordshire will join it. Every other interest in England has some organization amongst its members for its who protection; the tenant farmers, though representing (according to Mr. Caird) four hundred millions sterling, have none. Now is the time for them to join one. Send 10s., or at least 5s., to the Secretary of the Alliance, Mr. W. E. Bear, 265, Strand, London, without delay.

A general election is not far distant. The tenant farmers will hold the return of county members in their own hands, and they have the ballot to protect them. If they vote for any one, be he who he may, who will not pledge himself to at least the principle of giving the tenant farmer a legal security for the capital he invests—locks up—in the land, they are not worthy of a vote at all.

MILK PRESERVATIVES.

The following paper was read before the Society of Public Analysts, on April 30th, by G. W. Wigner, F.C.S. :—

The trade in milk preservatives appears to have increased of late, the larger number of quack nostrums in use, and the greater extent to which they are advertised, tending to prove that this is the case; but the most convincing proof is to be found in the fact, that the relative proportions of ash and solids not fat in commercial samples sold in London are not so uniform as used to be the case in genuine milk, or even so uniform as used to be the case with ordinary samples of milk, whether genuine or watered, as purchased by inspectors. There is therefore a strong inference that as the ash shows a relative increase, mineral matter of some kind has in many cases been purposely added. It is of course highly improbable that this would be added simply for the purpose of increasing either the specific gravity, or the amount of solids not fat; the proportion which could be added for such a purpose would not be sufficient to effect the object sought, and the mineral substances used must be added either as preservatives, or as antiseptics, or must be contained in the form of mineral impurities in common annatto, or some other colouring matter which has been added to the milk.

I have recently examined a few of these colouring matters and preservative fluids, so-called, in order to see what is being used at the present time for the purpose of mixing with milk, and I append a few notes on the results of the analyses.

—'s Extract of Annatto is a very dark-coloured liquid, quite free suspended from matter, sp. gr. 1.040. It contains:—

Volatile organic matter ... ..	2.78	per cent.
Ash (mineral matter) ... ..	3.95	”

Total solid matter ... ..	6.74	”
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The Ash contained Fe, Na, K, Ca, Al, SO<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, with a trace of NH<sub>3</sub>.

This liquid is sold at 2s. 9d. per pint, and it is evident therefore that it could not pay to use it for the mere purpose of increasing the “solids not fat” in watered milk, while it is equally impossible that the large amount of ash may sensibly alter the ratio between solids not fat and ash in a sample of milk to which it has been added for other purposes. Obviously the only use which could be made of it by a dairyman is to give a higher colour to milk, butter and cheese.

—'s Cake Annatto at 4s. 6d. per lb contains:—

Moisture... ..	51.2	per cent.
Volatile organic matter ... ..	25.3	”
Ash (mineral matter) ... ..	23.4	”

A qualitative examination of the ash showed Fe, Na, K, Ca, Mg, SO<sub>3</sub>, PO<sub>5</sub>, Cl, CO<sub>2</sub>.

It will be seen that the relative proportions of ash and volatile organic matter do not materially differ from the Extract of Annatto last referred to, and the results of the qualitative examination are sufficiently similar to render it highly probable that the Cake has been prepared from Extract of Annatto of this class by merely evaporating it to dryness so as to render it more portable. It is clear that this Cake Annatto is a far cheaper material to use for colouring, inasmuch as at 4s. 6d. per pound it possesses about four times the relative colouring power—value for value—that the

Extract does. There can, I think, be little question that it has been mixed with foreign mineral matters, and these of course may seriously affect the ash of milk with which it has been used; it could not, however, be profitably used to increase the amount of total solids, or to diminish the apparent amount of water in milk.

—'s Cream Sweetener is a liquid sold in canisters at 2s. 9d. per pint, and 16s. per gallon. The instructions issued by the manufacturers state that it is to be added in the proportion of one pint to sixteen imperial gallons, or in very hot or thundery weather it is advisable to use a quart to the sixteen gallons. It is expressly stated that it is perfectly free from adulteration, and that it “assists greatly in throwing up the cream, and even increases the percentage.” An examination of the fluid shows that it has a sp. gr. of 1.070.

Total solids ... ..	12.5	per cent.
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Ash (mineral matter) ... ..	4.1	”
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The most noticeable feature is that the Sweetener contains a large proportion of glucose; the ash consists almost entirely of borax and carbonate of soda. Traces of iron are present, but there is no salicylic acid.

It will be seen that in this case the sp. gr. might sometimes cause a sample of milk to give slightly erratic results, and the addition of glucose to milk or sugar is certainly, in my opinion, a fraudulent admixture. But however this may be, it seems scarcely feasible that any dairyman could use such a compound as this, at the advertised price, for the mere purpose of strengthening watered milk. Even if there were the inclination on the part of any dairyman to adulterate in this way, no profit could possibly ensue to him, but only to the makers of such a nostrum.

—'s Pure Antiseptic Powder fully justifies its name, or any rate the first adjective, for it consists of pure boracic acid; the retail value of boracic acid is about 8d. per lb., and one cannot help pitying the poor milkman who buys this patent medicine at the rate of 1s. per 6-oz packet. The directions for use are very interesting: 6 oz. is to be dissolved in a gallon of warm water, and each can is to have  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 gill (according to the weather) of the solution to every gallon of milk it contains, and is then to be set aside for the cream to rise. Clearly the makers of this powder are under the impression that dairymen generally want to prepare skimmed milk, instead of to sell the genuine article, as under the Act they are bound to do.

—'s Food Preserver has one merit, or perhaps I should say the proprietors have the merit of being candid, for they coolly say in their advertisement that “if those using it do not object to risk a prosecution under the Adulteration Act, it may be diluted with advantage, as its solution, at the rate of an ounce in a quart of boiling water will give a fluid,” &c. This seems to be about as clear instructions for adulteration as any I have recently met with. However, this Food Preserver, which is described as a harmless, odourless, colourless and tasteless powder, and which is sold at the rate of 6d. per ounce packet, or 5s. per pound tin, consists simply and solely of borax. From a list before me I find that the price of borax is about 6d. per pound. I cannot wonder, therefore, that the proprietors find it profitable not only to manufacture, but to advertise such a preparation.

There is another advertisement going the round of the dairy papers of another compound said to have been of immense value in preserving milk, and which the vendors say may be safely used, because it has been certified by medical authorities. This also consists simply of borax.

In conclusion I think Public Analysts would do well to carefully examine the ash of milk for the purpose of detecting borax, or any of these other substances, and then use their judgment as to what future steps should be taken. I think I need hardly say what course I should myself pursue.

“A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.”—Old woman (of the ancient faith, dropping on her knee. “Oh, yer Riv'ence gi' me a Blessin'! Ritualistic Curate. “Augh—my good woman, you mistake. I'm—ah—not of your church.”—Old woman. “Musha, thin bad luck 'e ye for a Deceiver!!” (Shuffles off in great wrath.—Punch.

## "A BOLD PEASANTRY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Has it ever occurred to the students of social science to reflect on the fact that the number of persons engaged in agriculture in these islands is less in the year 1879 than it was at the census of 1821? In the interval we have nearly doubled our population. We have added millions of acres to our cultivated area. Yet there stands the striking phenomenon that the greatly enlarged acreage is tilled by a smaller proportion of hands. When Malthus was "the rage," the export of our people was reckoned a gain to the nation. We have learnt by experience that man is worth a great deal more than his meat—and it is certain that with numbers nearly doubled, they are so little redundant that there is a scarcity in the supply of labour that has raised wages fifty per cent. within thirty years. Yet, the larger pay seems not to arrest the tide of migration. It is computed that each person reared to the producing age costs somebody £120, and when he has just reached the faculty of self-support, we make a present of him to our colonies or the United States. The drain from the rural districts seems the most drastic. Our peasantry get more nomadic. Those who remain behind are those chiefly who are not worth much to anybody. What is the cause of the exodus?

Doubtless the rapid development of manufactures and trade, raising wages to a much higher figure than those which agriculture can afford, draws all the more able from the country to the towns. But the depletion of the rural districts has also other causes. In Scotland, farms, as a rule, are remote from villages, and every farm has upon it cottages, not a few with pig-styes, and even cow-houses for the married men, and out-houses or bothies for the single. The labourers are engaged by the year, not by the week, and they are paid, to a great extent, in kind—a rent-free cottage, land for potatoes and vegetables, grass for a cow, or an ample ration of milk, an allowance of coals delivered to them, and a large consignment of oatmeal. The amount of money or "dry siller" as they call it, is little, and paid only at the half-yearly terms, as a rule. By these arrangements the families are kept out of the village, with all its low life and bad public-house example and morals; the men have no weekly dole of coin to be spent in drink, whereto they may be tempted by tipping neighbours; the families are kept in a sufficiency of wholesome food; the children are born and bred on the farm, and imbibe sentiments of attachment to it as to a *natale solum*—all are under the eye of the farmer, and the motherly care of the farmer's wife and daughters, to whom they go in all their troubles; the "minister" and the school-master are a sort of connecting-link between all, and co-operate in seeing the family religiously educated and punctual in their attendance on the ordinances of worship. The longer engagement imparts strength to the mutual sympathies of master and man, and the latter is put upon the necessity of good conduct, because the permanent character of their mutual relations makes the farmer vigilant in requiring evidences of prior respectability and fitness, while the labourer cannot get an engagement unless his antecedents are satisfactory. By this arrangement also the peasant is educated to his calling. A Scotch hind can do everything about a farm—plough, sow, hedge, build ricks, thatch, take care of horses, and in short do all sorts of farm work. The "Cotter's Saturday Night" of Burns is no mere fancy picture. It is true to the life, as I have tested it a thousand times. The "big ha' Bible" is in every house. Family worship is not forgotten, the parish clergyman examines the whole household once every half-year, and if the children answer badly, the schoolmaster is called to account. I have known many Scotch hinds rise to be farmers. I have

walked with them at the plough; all of them were read in their Bibles, in Burns, some even in Scott and Allan Ramsay. They are stalwart, because being chiefly paid in food, ample wholesome nourishment is served to the whole family, whether the necessaries of life be cheap or dear. They are sober, because they have no weekly money to spend, and they live away from the villages, and under the eye of their employers and wives on the farm. Theft, "tarryfingers" as they term the tendency, is almost a superstition among them, like the evil eye in the east. The pilferer among them "lives a man forbid." Receivers are not at hand to tempt them, as they would be if they lived away from the farm, and haunted the beer-house, while their lads and lasses are kept away from the evil influences of the loose fish of either sex in the hamlets.

The contrast which this social arrangement presents to that under my observation on this side of the Tweed is striking and humiliating. There are parishes even in the metropolitan county where sobriety is the exception and drunkenness the rule. Scarcely any of the labourers are housed on the farms where they work. Let me describe one. Its area is about 1,500 acres, its population 1,827, it has 13 public and beer-houses. I do not think one farm accommodates the families that work for it. Not one peasant has a cow. The use of milk is the exception rather than the rule, even for the children. There is a handful of teetotallers. The rest are habitually bemused with beer; some of their wives with gin. Many have been in gaol, not a few for theft. Their hire for service is weekly. Liberated for robbing one master they are engaged by his neighbour next week, and no questions asked. A garden, even a pig-stye, is the exception. There are convenient receiving-houses for the stolen corn. Scotland is contrasted with England for the greater proportion of its illegitimate births. The assumption is a fallacy attributable to the difference in the marriage laws. In the village I describe, as in many others, not a few live in concubinage, although their offspring are registered as legitimate. In the time of pea-picking and fruit and vegetable gathering, the sale of gin to the women is as great as beer to the men. The language in use by the old, the example set to the young by their own parents, need I describe it? Religion! Each contract of service lasts for the week, and terminates with Saturday night. The wages are in the labourer's pocket, and the tap is just over the way. Need I add the rest? The wives, the sons, the daughters each get their weekly dole of money for labour done, and make their own use of it. What do you think of the picture? Is it not the direct result of our social arrangements, and can we wonder that, no proper provision being made for a stated and settled country life—no permanent engagements, no settled local habitations, our peasantry should become nomadic, and their numbers should decrease? Let there be no mistake as to the cause. It is not for want of employment. The demand greatly exceeds the supply. The land is not half worked. But the social economy of the district is vicious, and fails to conduce to habits of contentment and the domestic instincts. There is no local attachment possible to a place in which one has no secure and established inhabitancy—where there is no relation betwixt a man's daily work and his home. The farmer who was asked how he kept his cattle from straying answered, "I tether them by their teeth." A constant shifting of employers, a precarious weekly tenure of one's house, what could come of that but the exodus which ought to trouble the mind's eye of every thoughtful statesman? The relation of master and man is incomplete where the farm the ploughman tills is separated from the home in which his family grows up, and a mere weekly engagement, in which the parties cry quits every Saturday night, what is there in that to attach either to the other, or

to impart to the peasant the settled security of a life-long habitation. To supply capitalists with labour, the device was adopted in parts of Australia and New Zealand of making the price of land too high for the purchase power of the poor; but the only result was to drive settlers from the district. In the United States the Government price is 4s. per acre. Every arrangement should be made to give to the working man a sense of permanency in his service and his home. In a sense quite other than sentimental,

### DEPRESSION IN AGRICULTURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—To proclaim the present prostrate state of British agriculture to the world may be considered by many as equivalent to showing your cards to an adversary, and an incentive to increased foreign rivalry. But how else are we to induce the remedies necessary to resuscitate this, our still greatest, national industry?

There is no data to justify a belief that the prevailing depression and its causes are merely temporary. Unfortunately, unlike the transition state of the agricultural interest immediately after the repeal of the Corn Laws when a third of the farming capital of the country was temporarily swept away, the depression is chronic and the causes are permanent.

Bad corn crops, like the last four, were unquestionably only temporary sources of loss to farmers, because good and bad years always go in longer or shorter cycles; but as these deficient crops brought no enhanced prices, which, on the contrary, sank a few months ago to nearly the lowest on record, namely to 38s 4l. a quarter, what prospect is there of more remunerative prices in more productive years?

The production of corn costs labour, and foreign growers may not like to continue to supply us at the present low rate of 5s. a bushel; but what else can they do with their surplus produce? Russia, France, Germany, and our colonies have diminished their supplies, but the United States have made good, and will continue to make good, the deficiency. Our agricultural science and capital may enable us to produce double their crops per acre, but even then we will have a hard battle to fight against their unlimited areas of virgin soil. The bounty of nature is against us. The following extract, however, from the *American Miller* gives our home cultivators some hope that wheat-growing in the States has reached a turning point:—“What need can we have of a crop of 425,000,000 bushels of wheat? Such enormous figures merely produce a cheapness in wheat and flour that is ruinous to farmers. Little comfort can be obtained from the reflection that the surplus of wheat and flour can be exported, for the prices which these commodities now command are anything but remunerative to farmers and millers. The export price of flour was lower in 1878 and 1879 than in any year since 1853; while the export price for wheat was lower than at any time since 1860, and lower than the average price for the last 58 years.”

Turning now to animal food, alive and dead, our newest and most staggering competitor, its increasing supply has been steady and is certain to go on, although checked at the present moment by our Orders in Council relative to infectious diseases. Its production on the boundless prairies of America costs literally nothing, the only question for its owner's consideration being the cost of land and sea transport, and these are being rapidly extended and improved. Bacon, cheese, butter, and other minor articles of agricultural produce are, at the same time, being improved and adapted to our taste by the aid of English skill and experience, and the supply is steadily on the increase. The belief, then, in the causes of the present

agricultural depression being merely temporary must be dismissed from our minds, and the real and permanent ones looked in the face and met. Increased production has long been recognised as the only means of meeting foreign competition. But how is this to be brought about? Only by the application of increased capital. And how is this to be induced to flow upon the land?

According to a recent statement of the Premier's it has taken quite the reverse turn, and he says the agricultural wealth of the country has decreased to the extent of £80,000,000 within the last few years. All practical means of experience and observation will bear out the assertion that within the same period the condition and cleanness of the land has deteriorated to an equal extent, and the diminution of the tenant's money capital and of the number and value of their live stock, are certainly not less. What, then, is it requisite to do to stop this recognised agricultural decadence? No one can suppose that even, the outside public can see without regret an industry, in which we still stand pre-eminent over all other countries in the world, go down; but it is for those more directly interested to find out and propound the necessary remedies.

The liberal abatements of rents which are being extensively made at the present time are, no doubt, highly acceptable; but they will not meet the case even if made permanent, the necessity for which is still as doubtful as the landlord's ability to make them. Besides, adequate rents are stimulants to exertion, and on high-farmed lands rent is comparatively a bagatelle to other items of expenditure. A residence of a good many years on large estates in England and Scotland, and an intimate acquaintance with the greater part of the sister island, enables me to suggest some of the drawbacks to the prosperity of our national agriculture.

If I place ground-game first on the list it is not because of its pecuniary importance, but because it estranges landlords and tenants in innumerable cases, and destroys the amenities of a country life. Compensation for damage to crops by ground-game is often agreed on, but seldom paid, and then only with a grudge. The stock of ground-game on a farm when hired may be taken into consideration as an element of calculation, but there is no law to prevent it being increased or doubled by the owner, his successor, or game lessee, and this is often done to the ruin of tenants. Litigation is not unfrequently resorted to, but seldom with a satisfactory result to tenants, as the quantity of game on a farm, like most articles dealt in by the Jews, can neither be tested by weight nor measure. Feathered game has the redeeming merit of destroying insects, but ground game has none. Let it, therefore, remain the tenant's property as it is by law in England, unless he chooses or is forced to contract himself out of it. This concession would cost landlords nothing. Others, such as improved labourers' cottages, covered homesteads, land drainage, &c., would; but the cost of these can be borrowed from Government and from public companies at rates which tenants under secure tenures would willingly pay. Improved cottages for labourers have become indispensably necessary, otherwise the labourers will continue to deteriorate and drift into towns as they are doing now, bad as trade is. There is no doubt a very general after regret amongst those who leave their country homes for town lives, but it suits them for a return to their old occupations, and every endeavour should, therefore, be made to retain them. Once they were the strongest spoke in the farmer's wheel, now they are the weakest. A hundred years ago they gave five days work for a bushel of wheat, now they give two, and that grudgingly.

We have endeavoured to supersede labour by laying down a million acres of arable land to grass within the

last ten years, in the produce of which we once thought we had a monopoly, but now we have to compete with a rapidly increasing foreign supply, which has greatly lessened the advantages we anticipated. Liberty of action in the production and sale of crops has been such a general cry and is such an evident necessity, that there is little need to enforce it by argument. Compensation for unexhausted condition in the soil at the termination of a tenancy—not for permanent improvements, which tenants have no right to make except under special agreements, or at their own risk—is another element of value to a tenant, and would keep the land in a maximum instead of reducing it to and leaving it, as is generally done, in a minimum state of fertility. Witness the universal action of tenants under Scotch leases, in which there are no such compensation clauses—uniform impoverishment, involving a successor in a seven years' expenditure of labour and capital to bring it back to a profitable state of productiveness. Fertility in the soil is our most permanent source of national wealth, and it is therefore every one's interest to increase and maintain it. To assimilate as near as may be the position of a tenant farmer to that of a landlord appears to me the only way to draw out latent energy and locked-up capital, and without the application of these we will never be able to hold our own against foreign competition. The idea that was broached last Tuesday night in the House of Lords of debarring the importation of foreign food by the re-imposition of import duties, is what the consumers in this country would never submit to, however beneficial it might be to home producers. Self reliance, then, and a new departure in agricultural relationship is our only hope, and landlords and the legislature should at once take the steps necessary to enable this to be realised, otherwise we will certainly recede, and that soon, from the place we now occupy as the first agricultural country in the world.

I am, Sir, &c.,

THOS. C. SCOTT.

7, Moorgate Street, E.C., May 3.

### THE RATCATCHER.

One of the most important functionaries of a country parish is the ratcatcher, or "vermin destroyer," as he sometimes prefers to be styled. A great many species of animals must be included in the term "vermin" if we accept this last-mentioned title as strictly definitive; for, as a matter of fact, the "vermin destroyer" is generally a killer of vermin and something more. Most farmers will agree in including rabbits with rats and mice under the designation of "vermin," but few would go to the extent of also including hares and partridges. Very often the ratcatcher takes out a game license, and, being a good shot, is employed by small landowners and farmers to shoot game for them when they require a supply for their own use or to send to friends. In any case he must take out a gun license, and this enables him to kill rabbits—a most useful and lucrative addition to his ratcatching duties.

The ratcatcher usually contracts with the farmers of his district to keep down the rats and mice on farms for a fixed sum, paid yearly. This he does by what is called "dressing" the corn stacks, that is, by placing liquid poison in broken bottles, pieces of crockery, or old sardine tins, inside the corn stacks, or in other places which rats and mice frequent. The deceitful nectar is imbibed by the thirsty vermin, which are thereby destroyed. Where buildings are infested with rats ferrets are brought to turn them out, when they are shot, or killed by men with sticks, or by dogs. The runs in stacks are also occasionally ferreted, the ratcatcher standing with his gun ready to shoot the rats as they rush out of their hiding places to avoid their terrible enemies. But this kind of rat-killing is usually resorted to when the vermin are not destroyed by

yearly contract, but by an much per head. The contract system is commonly preferred by farmers, because when rats are paid for at per head the ratcatcher takes good care not to kill them all, or nearly all, as he has a natural antipathy to killing the goose which lays for him the golden eggs. The objection to the contract system is that, as the ratcatcher is sure of his money, he sometimes neglects to "dress" the stacks as frequently as is necessary, and the rats and mice increase accordingly. Such neglect, however, does not pay, as the neglectful man is likely to be discarded for one more assiduous; so he usually does his best to give satisfaction by keeping the vermin down to a passable extent. Generally, too, he has a pride in his work, and likes to be considered the most clever vermin destroyer in his district. Very often a ratcatcher gets a fame for his especial skill, and is in requisition far and wide. Then the danger is that he will undertake to work for more employers than he can do justice to.

The ratcatcher who is a clever hand at ferreting rabbits is sure to have his time fully employed, and in order to obtain his services it is usually necessary to make an engagement with him several days, and sometimes a week or two, before hand. For this work he will let ratcatching go, as there is a sporting element in rabbiting which he appreciates, as well as better pay. As a rule, he brings ferrets, dogs, and nets, with a boy to assist him, receiving a fixed number of rabbits in payment for his services. Ferreting rabbits in the cold weather, during which such sport is pursued, is by no means all enjoyment, especially when the cunning little rodents insist on "laying up" instead of bolting, and have to be dug out of their burrows after being killed therein by the ferret. But the workman has at least warmer work than the sportsman for whose pleasure he is employed, and not a little of the interest of the sport consists in the clever management of the ferrets, and in the skill displayed in finding those "laid up" with the rabbits they have killed. There is a great difference in the way in which different men perform this last-mentioned duty. One will have the dead rabbit out while another is merely prospecting to see where he shall dig. A clever ferreter seems to the uninitiated to know by instinct where to "prick in" to find his quarry, but in reality it is simply good judgment, quickened by long practice, which he displays.

The ratcatcher is often a "character," and nearly always a great gossip. He mixes with all classes of men in the pursuit of his avocation, and thus gets hold of many amusing stories as well as the tattle of the district. Not unfrequently he is a chartered libertine, addressing the gentlemen who employ him, or come to shoot where he is employed, on terms of quasi-equality, and cracking jokes with them as if they were his boon companions—as, indeed they sometimes are, fast country gentlemen often making friends of men of this class, and even getting them to join in drinking-bouts, at which the ratcatcher is usually an adept.

The ratcatcher's dogs are quite an interesting study as their master is. He is not particular as to breed; utility, not ornament, being his desideratum. The sharp terrier, the keen-scented spaniel, the sagacious lurcher, or any clever mongrel suits him equally well if thoroughly up to the work. These animals, if employed often at rabbiting, get their hair worn close through frequent scrubbings by the bushes, and on that account they are not often much to look at, however well-bred they may be. But they are knowing animals, and to see them stand on the watch close to a hole or run, ready to dart at a rabbit if it comes out on the ditch side of the fence, where the dogs should always be kept, is as good as joining in the sport. No sportsman, however keen, enjoys a day's rabbiting half as much as these four-footed professionals. Tired, and full of thorns, as they must often get in rushing through thick and prickly fences, no day is too long for them.

The ratcatcher, if not a drinking man—and he usually gets treated enough to render much expenditure on his own account unnecessary—usually saves money, and sometimes is quite a man of property. In the summer, when his ordinary work is slack, he commonly fills up his time with thatching, or with some other skilled work, which ordinary farm-labourers cannot perform. On the whole, he is a very useful member of society, and if in some cases he is a great vagabond as well, he has the excuse of being subject to greater temptations than all to the lot of most of us.—*Mayfair.*

## THE BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND SHOW.

## MEETING AT EXETER.

Exeter came out gaily with flags after all, and even a few arches of evergreens sprang up like mushrooms on the Monday morning. The opening day was something awful. It had been raining heavily during the previous week, and the yard was much cut up by traffic. Then Sunday was a showery day, and although there was no rain on Monday till after ten o'clock, the ground was anything but pleasant to walk upon. But after ten rain fell almost without cessation for the whole of Monday, and the showyard was soon reduced to the condition of a bog. The depressing influence of such an opening was felt by everyone, and people with one consent began to say that the Society must lose heavily. But when Tuesday opened with bright sunshine and a fine, drying wind, hopes revived. Wednesday, again, was a glorious day, and the show was favoured for the rest of the week with fair weather. On Wednesday the attendance was very satisfactory, over nine thousand persons having entered the yard, while on Thursday, the first shilling day, over thirty-two thousand paid for admission. The following is a comparative return of the admissions of the first four days at the Hereford, Bath, Oxford, and Exeter Shows:—

	1876. Hereford.	1877. Bath.	1878. Oxford.	1879. Exeter.
Monday .....	1814	2357	3379	1864
Tuesday .....	3914	8266	2053	2965
Wednesday .....	10668	16756	6406	9533
Thursday.....	28481	34365	19146	32168

On the closing day 55,000 persons visited the show.

## THE HORSES.

The horse department was nicely arranged, the boxes good, and handy to a nice stand and a capital ring, with everything to make the gathering a pleasant one; but on the opening day pleasant it was not, as paddling about a foot deep in a kind of jam, currant or raspberry, by the look of it, continually getting more sloppy by a too liberal addition of water, made it miserable indeed for lookers on, judges, exhibitors, and the horses, while it reminded us of the drenching the Royalists got at Bury, and of traction engines, with all their horse-power, floundering about in the mud at Wolverhampton as helpless as drunken men, and caused us to long for some of the planks which were laid down in that Royal yard for the visitors to walk on. The show of horses is never very strong at the meeting of the "West," still some capital horses have made their first appearance in any ring in that of this Society, and afterwards carried everything before them throughout the country. As a rule, a big horse is not adapted for the up-and-down-hill work of the county of Devon, but a medium-sized one, for agriculture, the hunting field, and the road, the smaller horse, generally speaking, being more active and hardier than his big brother; while in Cornwall, a friend told us,

they use for agriculture a nag that they could put in a trap and rattle off to market with, as many a farmer does in Devonshire. There were a hundred and twenty-two horses entered, which made a fair show, and were, in fact, quite as many as there are at some shows where they swell the catalogue out to double or treble the number by entering the same animals in two or three classes. Absenteeism was not as rampant as at Oxford last year, there being only a dozen or thirteen boxes empty. The ten agricultural stallions foaled before 1877 made a good class, there being several nice, active, useful nags, and not like Sardanapalus of old and some prize horses, who seem to live but for eating and drinking, an occupation more becoming a brute than a king. But any one in an instant could see that Messrs. E. and A. Stanford's very handsome Clydesdale, Baronet, which with length, breadth, depth, and short limbs, full of muscle, without coarseness, would be king of the lot. His coat of the richest bay shone like satin, though the sun refused to shine, and his get up was perfect. When third at the Royal, Bristol, he spoke favourably of him, but now he is another horse, having improved wonderfully since then, when he was only three years old. He was third at Paris, and first at the Royal Counties of Hants and Berks. He is by Mr. Stanford's well known horse, The Duke, now the property of Mr. Rolls, the Hendre, Monmouth, and is out of Venture, by Sampson. Mr. Hibbard's The Sultan, a short, thick-set, good-looking five-year-old, was second; while Mr. Baker's England's Glory, seven years old, is compactly built but light below the knee, and came in for a high commendation, and the reserve number in case either of the winners should be disqualified. Mr. Powesland's roan, Model, eight years old, is very useful looking and active. Mr. Browse's Vulcan, a black four-year-old with a switch tail, is a light active cart horse that looked like bowling along with a cart if required, but wanted a little more muscle on the back. If we mistake not it was he that had a dispute with his leader, wishing to join the thoroughbred class, which he did, though not by discussing the question after the fashion of Thwackum and Square, but by rearing up on his hind legs and bringing one of his fore feet down with sledge hammer force on his opponent, which floored him. As the leader lay on the ground he reminded us of a gentleman who once said in a speech he might have an opponent but not an adversary. Mr. Baker's light bay, Champion, five years old, looked as if he had too much cider, for he had no middle. Then Mr. Elliott's Iron Duke, with form could step out, and is a very dark chesnut Suffolk, bred by Mr. Wolton, of Woodbridge, and the only one on the ground. When we saw him we could not help exclaiming with Barlow—

Dear hasty pudding! what unpromis'd joy  
Expands my heart, to meet thee in Savoy.

Mr. Carr's Tivertonian had bad forelegs. The seven two-year-old stallions made a good class, the winner being a nicely formed, powerful colt, though a little high on his rump at present, but very gaudy in colour, being a roan with four white legs above the knee and hock, and a bald face, and by name Strawberry Wonder; his sire England's Wonder, is by Young England's Glory by England's Glory; the second, Holdfast, by Jocks the Laird, out of Damsel by Clyde, is a deep ribbed, big boned colt, and

nically made. The reserve number was Mr. Cooke's Nobleman, another big limbed one of form. Then Messrs. Stanford's Hotspur by the Earl, by the Duke, out of Venture is a neatly made black colt, and of a nice size for the county, which came in for a commendation, with Mr. Jeffery's Charmer, a deep ribbed, brown colt of form, but rather slack in his back, with the addition of a great grass belly. Colonel Lloyd Lindsay's Netley is rather low in his forehead and light in his arms, and Mr. Norri's Beaconsfield, though light, looked like business. Mr. Speed's grey struck us as a trifle too long in the back—we like length but not long backs, which must mean weakness. Messrs. E. and A. Stanford's cheerful looking, compactly built, deep ribbed, broad chested, short legged mare, Poppet, and her foal won as easily in the brood mare and foal class as Baronet did in the aged stallions, beating a nice, active, roan mare of Mr. Cary's, and a very fair looking chesnut mare of Viscount Sidmouth's. A very good looking brown filly from the Eatons, Steyning, Banbury Lass was declared the best filly foaled in 1877 without opposition; and in a class of three fillies foaled in 1878 the Messrs. Stanford were first and second with two fillies of promise, a brown agricultural filly by Noble, out of Poppet, and a brown Clydesdale filly by the Emperor, by the Duke, out of Mrs. Brown, which brings us to the end of the agricultural classes; Messrs. Watts and Mayo giving up their half of the ring to Mr. Harvey Bayley and Mr. Charles Nainby, who were hard at work at the other end with the thoroughbred stallions, hunters, hacks, and ponies.

Considering our thoroughbred horses, like our countrymen, are in nearly all parts of the globe, we see no cause to be surprised when a horse is occasionally brought over from some other country able to beat some of our best, as they do not go in for early maturity and forcing young stock for two year old racing, which in the opinion of many disinterested men, besides being cruel, has been undermining the constitutions of the thoroughbred horse for years, and consequently injuring our bred of hunters and hacks. There were only five thoroughbred stallions entered, namely: Locksley by Toxophilite, out of Miss Sarah by Doa John, a nicely formed, gentlemanly looking horse, free from lumber, short from knee and hock to the ground, and a decent mover; Wallace by Atherstone, out of Metallique by Monarque, a horse of fair form, is short jointed, but light of bone; Hot Shot by Artillery, out of Pleasure by Hawkaway, an absentee; Skeffington by Teddington, out of Juanita Perez by Melbourne, an old friend and a varmint old horse of some form with good ends and limbs, though rather leggy, and a free stylish mover. He got first honours, though he looks as if he were on board wages, or out of crib, as he carries very little flesh. The other was Tassel by the Drake, out of Bclladrum by Chanticleer, a nice, deep, hunting topped horse, that did not move freely. As a class we thought it a very fair one, for we have seen many horses in the ring much worse, though we should have liked one or two of them all the better with a little more substance. In the hunting class, mares or geldings, foaled before 1875, out of an entry of fourteen there were three absent, two very bad ones, and one or two middling. The fight for first honours lay between those two old rivals, Messrs. Trist and Battams, as Captain Wright's Precocity, a big, straight crooped, coaching looking animal, a winner at Croydon and the Royal at Birmingham, took to kicking and grunting and consequently threw away any chance he may have had. Mr. Battam's Saladin, by Make Haste, is a nice, clean made, hunting topped horse that can make use of his limbs, and that struck us as a trifle light below the

knee; while Mr. Trist's Countess, by Safeguard, is also a very nice looking, compactly built mare, with capital action, but the blue ribbon was handed to Saladin. Captain D. B. Hodges's Lady Jane, with form, can go, but Lieut. Watson's Reindeer we thought a middling one, and that Mr. Trist's Exminster possessed nice form and action, while Mr. Battam's The Don was a chesnut of good shape, barring his shoulders. Palmerston and Tavistock, famous as weight-carrying hunters in the show rings all over the country, were bred in Devonshire, but they are exceptions, and as unlike the stamp of horse we are describing now as an Oxfordshire Down is to a Southdown, or as Nathaniel is to Daniel. There were five decent four-year-olds out of the nine entered, two being absent. Mr. Marriott should keep poor Stella at home, as she reminds us more of drying clothes than a show lady, and Mr. J. D. Bassett's Buttercup's shoulders of beef. Captain D. Burgho's The Tutor and Sandwell are two fair looking horses. Mr. Taylor's Tophorn, by Leybourne, out of Nellie by Verderer, bred in Nottinghamshire, has hunting form with bone and action, and was awarded first honours; and Nobleman, by Weather Star, could move very well; while another from the same stable was Selim, a very nice horse, free from lumber, and a capital goer. The best of the three three-year-old fillies or geldings was Father Thames, a big, upstanding, rather coarse roan gelding, by Rapid Rhone; the second being a short, light backed ribbed bay, by Umpire, both of which we have seen before either at Bristol or Oxford. The first and second in the two-year-old fillies, colts, and geldings, were Sydenham, a hunting-like youngster with bone and action, and Hazeldon, both from Kilworthy, and by Outfit; the reserve number being Orange Peel, by General Peel, whose shoulders we did not like. Mr. M'Gould's Lemon Peel, also by the General, has big limbs, and at present it is doubtful whether he will make a hunter or a machiner. Mr. Godfrey's Safeman, by Safeguard is small and neat, and moves nicely. A very gentlemanly, hunting-like chesnut colt and a nice mover, by Citadel out of Pet, with a beautiful forehead, capital deep middle, and nice wiry looking limbs, but a little wanting in the hocks we thought, was much admired, and is half brother to the famous light weight show hunter, Glengyle, which was shown at the Croydon meeting of this Society, and afterwards bought by Mr. Hutchinson when he won the cup as the best hunter in all the classes at Alexandra Park; the second to him here being a nice bloodlike colt with bone and action, by Nutmeg out of Sensation. There were three more in the class. Guinevere, a very taking mare, by Tremaire, out of Polly by Rembrandt, walked over as the best hunting brood mare and foal. Devonshire is famous for hacks. A s'out, deep, short necked cob took the first prize in the mares and geldings above fourteen hands calculated to carry not less than fourteen stone, and a useful bay gelding, Heathfield, the second. Mr. M'Canu's Irish gelding is a good looking harness horse, and was commended. Mr. Trist's Lastleigh in this class much pleased us, though perhaps not up to the weight; he is a very nice horse, with good manners, breed, and action, and a desideratum as a light weight hunter or hack. Lord Sidmouth's grey, Silvertail, looked like a maid of all work, and making herself generally useful—but, attempting the grand with high knee action reminded us of Marm Hogfeeder in high-heeled boots. Ladybird was a neat one. A good sized roadster, nice stepping, roan mare, with light back ribs, was placed first in the mare and geldings calculated to carry not less than twelve stone, and Bird on the Wing, by First Flight, a nice sized, very clever chesnut hack of quality, and full of hardy muscle, second. We hear that he is a good hunter, and has won several steeplechases; he looked like a stayer, and belongs to

Captain Williams, who we were told could show one the way over land and water. Mr. Trist's Brown Bess, Mr. Villar's Yorkshire Lass, Mr. Sanders' Ballet Girl, and Mr. Ferris's Hasteaway, were also clever nice looking hacks. To give Devon its due, most of the horses looked better when going; we wish we could say the same for some at other shows. There were several nice ponies, and Mr. R. Bouchier James's Topsy, a very neat, merry going, little black hack, in the first class, has met and beaten the first and second nags, though very nice ones. She was not shown to advantage, and the ground was a little too sticky for her. Aaron is an extraordinary deep shouldered pony, with some fashion and action, and Mr. Pople's Dandy was one of the best looking of the others.

### THE CATTLE.

Dreary as the day itself was the work of looking on whilst the judges awarded prizes in the Shorthorn Classes. There was something worth looking at in each of the rings, but the really good animals amongst the Shorthorns could be told on the fingers of one hand, and not one first-rate amongst them. Whether the rain—which descended the whole time in a deluge of almost Noachian persistency—had washed off the coating of "grandeur" with which every pure-bred Shorthorn, however ugly, is supposed to be invested, we do not pretend to say. But of one thing we are in no manner of doubt, namely, that the Shorthorn Classes at Exeter were a poorer lot by far than at Oxford last year, where they were—as a whole—considerably below par. It was a lucky thing for Shorthorn men that there were no Champion Sweepstakes Cups this year. Individual animals could have beaten them easily in the Devon and Hereford Classes, and for general excellence the Sussex division was considerably ahead of them. "Wait and see what we are going to do at the Royal" was a very general remark at Exeter; and as everybody is supposed to be preparing to do their best on that occasion we shall be likely to see what they can do for once. However, it is only fair to speak as we find, and we found a very mean show of Shorthorns at the Bath and West; and when the cattle were paraded in the ring before the Stand on the second day of the meeting, they not only failed to compare with other breeds in point of numbers, but they had a shabby, "poor relation" look about them, indicative of being in society to which they were not equal.

Of the old bulls, of which there were five, it is not necessary to speak, except to remark that the only good animal whose name appeared amongst the entries was not in his place. In the class under three years old there were only three, and the choice lay between Colonel Lloyd Lindsay's Churchill and Mr. J. S. Butts' Duke of Hazelcote 48th (39742), and the judges—Mr. Charles Howard and Mr. W. Ashburner—could not agree. An umpire being called in the award was given to Churchill, and no doubt that was right. This bull does not walk very well, and carries his head too close to the ground, but for all that he appeared to us to be a long way the best bull amongst the Shorthorns, and probably the best Shorthorn in the yard. Churchill has begun very well indeed: taking second prizes at Oxford and at Bristol last year, the Champion Plate at Woodstock, and the first prize in his class at Exeter this year. He will never be a bull of the very front rank, but with all his faults he is a very good Shorthorn. The yearlings and the calves were poor in number and poor in quality; two yearling Shorthorn bulls and three Shorthorn bull calves—all of them common-place—at the Bath and West of England and Southern Counties Association on the occasion of its one hundred and second meeting! The

six cows in their places were tolerably good for Short-horns, and Mr. J. S. Butts' white cow, Annette, won fairly enough. She is an animal of great width in her hips, good back and loin, and all over a very fair cow indeed. Messrs. Hoskins' Carnation 4th, three months older, a nice roan, is a massive but rather short animal, with good coat and a mellow hide, fairly earning her second place; indeed she is in many respects superior to Annette, but not equal to her in scale. She was third at the Royal last year. Mr. St. John Ackers' Lady Carew 2nd obtained a high commendation, but her rump is now very unsightly. The Marquis of Exeter's Telemacina was entered but not shown. In the heifers' class—in-milk or in-calf—Mr. Ackers' Lady Carew 3rd, in spite of her rump and other failings, won the laurels from Mr. Brassey's Jemina 4th (first in her class last year at Bristol and at Oxford), a heifer which has grown very plain on her rump, not in respect of a gob of fat, but in deficiency of flesh between the hip bone and the rump end. Lady Carew 3rd has also had a calf, which is alive and doing well, and this fact may have had weight with the judges, as Jemina 4th shows no more sign of being in calf than a well-fed bullock. The second prize was awarded fairly to Sylvia 4th, bred and exhibited by Messrs. Hoskin & Son, a nice quality heifer, with good coat and nice quality. There was nothing else amongst the Shorthorns calling for special attention.

The Herefords were a very pretty show, the quality, as usual, being excellent; but most of the animals are already well-known to frequenters of Show-yards. The seven old bulls were a credit to the breed, Mr. W. Taylor's Thoughtful being at the head of the list, as he was at the Royal last year, though at Oxford he was second to a bull which did not appear either at Bristol or at Exeter. He wears well and will take a lot of beating yet. Mr. J. E. Best's Bedford 2nd, a very fat animal hailing from Cornwall took second honours. Mr. T. Thomas's bull Horace 2nd, bred by Mr. John Price, which was second at the Royal last year, took a high commendation only, as he is growing uneven. Mr. Tutley's Cupid was also there. The bulls not exceeding three years old were only three in number, and Mr. T. Thomas's Goldfinder, which held the reserve at Oxford, was placed before Mr. Cardwardine's Anxiety, which was second at Oxford last year as a yearling. Both of these are good bulls, and we like Anxiety quite as well as his more fortunate competitor. The yearlings were only three in number. Mr. Hungerford Arkwright's Conjurer being first as he was last year as a calf, both at Oxford and at Bristol. This bull will probably often be seen again. There was only two bull calves. The cows and heifers in calf or in milk numbered but five, and amongst them was Mrs. Sarah Edward's Leonora, the winner of all the honours for which she contended last year including the Champion Plate at Oxford. This is probably the best cow, if not the best animal amongst the horned stock classes, which has appeared in any of our show-yards of late years. It is a great pity her herd companion, Beatrice, by the same sire, Winter de Cole (4253), has been obliged to be sent to the butcher; they were a first-rate pair. Amongst the yearling heifers Mr. Arkwright's Gaylass 4th, which was first at both great shows last year as a calf, took the first place, and will likely win many a show-yard prize in time to come. Another yearling, Abigail, from the same herd, was second, being third as a calf at Bristol last year. The five calves were all good ones, Mr. Arkwright obtaining the first and Mr. T. Thomas the second place. Thus it will be seen that there was nothing very new in the competition, and the classes were small; nevertheless, the quality was undeniable.

The Devons were, to our mind, the best of all the horned stock. The number of entries and the constantly

recurring names of the breeders—familiar as household words—show clearly enough how few are the breeders who make a practice of exhibiting their stock; and as the Show was this year in the very home of the breed we cannot regard these facts in any other light than as indicative of the breed being in very few hands. This does not necessarily follow, but it stands to reason that if the Devon men were in a position to make a large show, and were inclined to do so, they could not have a better opportunity than that afforded by the Exeter meeting. The entries were 38 only, as against 27 at Oxford and 43 at Bristol last year. It would not have been unreasonable to expect 70 or 80 entries at the Exeter meeting. However, the cattle there were good, there is no denying that. Lord Falmouth is to the front again this year with Sirloin in the aged class as he was last year at the Royal and recently at Devonport. This bull is well named for he has as good a back and loin as even a Devon could be expected to carry. He is particularly level and of excellent quality. The second prize animal Copplestone, exhibited by Mr. A. E. Gould, is a long way behind him though placed second, for although his scale is good he is not so level nor of such good character. Mr. Ham's Corrector which was highly commended, falls off behind, but has a good forehead. Mr. Walter Farthing's Lord Newsham, which was first at both the great shows last year as a yearling was placed first, and a very excellent bull he is; full of good flesh, very thick in front, good back, and correct underline. Lord Falmouth's bull which was second at the Royal to Lord Newsham in the yearling class, was second to him at Exeter, and we think this is right as he is a little defective in his rumps. The yearling bulls looked very promising as they appeared in the ring. In this case the decision of the judges was not well received by on-lookers. Mr. Farthing won with an animal that is pleasant to the hand and of nice quality, but he stands high on his legs, his barrel is small, and his back not all that it should be. On the other hand Lord Falmouth's bull is much thicker in flesh well laid on and has considerably more substance and better character. Amongst the cow and heifer classes there were some very good animals. Mr. Walter Farthing's Prettyface 2nd, and Mrs. Maria Langton's Temptress 10th, were first and second in their class, and next to the Hereford cow Leonora, Prettyface 2nd has probably more merit than any other animal amongst the horned stock shown at Exeter. The yearling heifers, too, were exceedingly pretty; Mr. Rolles Fryer's Azalea, and Mrs. Langton's Temptress 12th being full of promise and likely to be ornaments to many a future show-yard. Taking the Devons altogether, they possessed more quality, and uniformity than any of the other herds shown, not excepting the Herefords; but for all that the breed does not extend itself, and in point of all-round usefulness it has, like the Hereford, to give way to the Shorthorn which is inferior to them both in quality, uniformity, and the value per lb. of its carcase.

The Sussex cattle were a very creditable show, especially in the cow and heifer classes. The entries, too, were numerous compared with the Devons, especially as Exeter is so far from their home. The Sussex breeders certainly show an enterprising spirit which the Devon breeders are slow to follow. The Sussex breed, as we have often had occasion to remark, is a very useful one and it is fast growing into importance. The encouragement given it of late by show yard committees has had the effect of bringing it under the notice of farmers at such meetings, and the improvement in the breed which has been made during the past few years is very marked. The defects of these cattle appear to be a hard hide, plain bare shoulders and badly set-on tails, and general want of quality. In fact, there is an element of coarseness which has yet to be

eliminated, as no doubt it will be in time. This is particularly noticeable in the bulls; they do not possess the "grandeur" of a coarse, badly put together, uneven Shorthorn, neither do they possess the coarseness of bone, the weight of brisket fat, shins, legs, and "fourpenny" meat which characterises the aristocracy of the bovine races. We do not know how far the Sussex breed may be adaptable to hand rearing on arable farms, or how far it could compete with the Shorthorn as a combined milk-and-meat producing machine; but there can be little doubt that, weight for weight, it is of better consuming value than the Shorthorn, though inferior in that respect to the Hereford and Devon. Perhaps some of the Sussex breeders will favour us with an explanation of the conditions under which their cattle can be bred to the greatest advantage; it would be both interesting and useful information. As before mentioned, the cow and heifer classes were very good indeed, and they are very similar to the class of Devons called South Hams, which, from rank pasture and a mild climate, have increased in size and lost the type and character of the typical North Devon—a product of the hills. The yearling heifers and heifer calves were a very good, level lot, comparing very favourably with other breeds in the ring when on parade, and doing credit to their breeders. The principal prize takers were, as usual, the Messrs. Heasman, of Arundel, Mr. J. Braby, of Rodingwick, Mr. A. Agate, of Horsham, and the Messrs. Stanford, of Steyning—all in the county of Sussex.

Channel Islands cattle were a large and good show, the entries numbering 88 against 102 last year at Oxford. Mr. George Simpson, of Wray Park, Reigate, being as successful in a large and good competition as he is in a small and poor one; no one else appears to be able to wrest the laurels from him which he so fairly earns. The Guernsey cattle appear to carry rather more flesh than the Jerseys, and their general appearance is more after the character of some of the French breeds proper. With these cattle Mr. I. James, of Les Vauxclets, Guernsey, and Mr. Baker, of Heavitree, Exeter, were the chief winners. As the Channel Islands cattle are called "parsons' cows" we can quite believe that such of the clergy as may have been present in the showyard had a rare treat; and such as were not there should by all means go to Kilburn next month. They should be able to make purchases too, now that tithe rent-charges are above par.

#### THE SHEEP.

There was nothing very extraordinary amongst the sheep, but there were some good and creditable pens to be found in all the breeds; and this division of the show was a very useful one. The Southdown classes were very well filled, considering the locality of the show, 16 shearing rams being entered. Mr. Rigden was in luck this time, securing both first and second prizes with two very good sheep of the old sort. Both were good and firm handlers, and good backed sheep. The first prize sheep was good in his neck, had excellent wool, and looks likely to be seen again. The other was rather smaller and shorter, but very thick and useful. The Messrs. Heasman showed a good shearing on a larger scale, with excellent twist and plenty of length about him, but not so good in front as the one from Ashcroft which was placed second. However, the Messrs. Heasman fairly earned the high commendation they received for their sheep. Mr. Chapman got a commendation for one of the rams shown by him which was neat, but of no great substance. Sir W. Throckmorton's, Mr. Neville-Greenville's and other flocks were represented. With older sheep Mr. Chapman was first with the ram for which he obtained a high commendation at Bristol last year; a very smart sheep, good in front of his shoulders, good in his dock, and good clothes on him. Mr. H. Humphrey showed a very nice

ful sheep to which second prize was awarded, and the Messrs. Heasman took a high commendation for a ram which is wonderfully good through the heart. The pens of yearling ewes were a very creditable lot of six entries. Messrs. Heasman's pen was rightly put first, and very useful sheep they were, well matched, good firm handlers and good wool. Mr. Chapman was second with very neat and stylish ewes, some of them leggy, and they were not very well matched. Sir W. Throckmorton also showed a good pen which was highly commended, but they were weak and long in their necks. Altogether the South-downs were more useful than ornamental which is not by any means a fault.

Hampshire Downs were in very decent strength, and Mr. Alfred Morrison took both first and second honours with shearing rams. He is very hard to beat. For pens of ewes, Mr. Read, of Salisbury, and Mr. Parsons, of Micheldean, were the winners, and the ewes were excellent. Mr. Morrison did not show ewes. The Shropshires were a small but fairly good show, Mr. T. J. Mansell of Bridgenorth taking the honours in both classes of rams, and Lord Falmouth's Cornish flock supplied the successful ewes, and a very neat pen they were. The Oxfordshire Downs were few in number, Mr. John Treadwell, Mr. Brassey, Messrs. Howard, and Mr. G. Adams were the exhibitors and prize-takers. The Somerset and Dorset horned sheep were of capital quality having improved wonderfully from their old form. There were a few Leicesters, Kents, and Exmoor sheep, and a large show of Devon Long-wools, a coarse breed which appears to suit the district in which they are bred.

#### THE PIGS.

There was a large and good show of all the principal breeds of pigs, especially of Berkshires. Many of the exhibits were of great size, and it is a certainty that big pigs have had their day in this country. Whilst we are encouraging a class of pigs which grow too large and too fat for the requirements of the public, our quick witted American cousins are studying the wants and the tastes of the English people, and send us bacon and pork of a size which can be eaten and enjoyed—in fact, that will sell readily. Surely it is time our agricultural societies had an eye to what is really wanted, and arrange their prize lists accordingly. Some of the pigs shown at Exeter were useless for any purpose other than showing, and making lard afterwards. If pigs were bred which are of better consuming value we should require less "hog products" from the United States, which, in itself would be something worth striving for.

#### PRIZE LIST.

**JUDGES.**—**CATTLE**—Devons and Sussex: J. Tapp, Twicken, Southmolton; T. Pope, Hornisham, Warminster; and G. Napper, Wisborough Green, Horsham. **Shorthorns**: W. Ashburner, Ulverston, Lancaster; and C. Howard, Beadingham, Bedford. **Herefords**: J. Price, Pambridge, Hereford; and W. Yeoman, Stratton Court, Hereford. **Channel Islands**: H. Tait, Widdor; and J. Sampson, Minelhurst, Lyndhurst. **SHEEP**—Longwools, Leicesters, Cotswolds, Devons, and Kents: J. Painter, Buckingham Palace Road; and W. Garne, Cirencester. **Shortwools**, South Downs, and Hampshire Downs: J. Ford, Blandford; and T. C. Saunders, Dorchester. **Shropshire**, Oxford Downs, Somerset and Dorset Horns, and Exmoors: Keeling, Penkridge, Staffordshire; and C. Hobbs, Crickdale. **HOUSES**—Agricultural: V. B. Watts, Dorchester; and H. Mayo, Frome. **Hunters, Hacks, and Ponies**: T. H. Bayley, Newark; and C. M. Namby, Grimsby. **Pigs**—E. Little, Chippenham; and J. Cooté, Blandford.

#### CATTLE.

##### DEVONS.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £20, Viscount Falmouth, Probos; second, £10, A. E. Gould, Paltimore.

Bull, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £25, W. Farthing, Bridgewater; second, £10, Viscount Falmouth.

Bull, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £25, W. Farthing; second, £10, Viscount Falmouth.

Bull, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, W. R. Fryer, Poole; second, £5, W. Farthing.

Bull calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, W. R. Fryer; second, £5, W. Farthing.

Cow, above three years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £15, W. R. Fryer; second, £10, W. R. Fryer.

Heifer, in milk or in calf, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £15, W. Farthing; second, £10, Mrs. Langdon, Northmolton.

Heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £10, W. R. Fryer; second, £5, Mrs. Langdon.

Heifer calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10 and second, £5, W. R. Fryer.

#### SHORTHORNS.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £20, Lord Clinton, Beaford; second, £10, J. H. Dunning, Taunton.

Bull, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £25, Colonel R. Loyd-Lindsay, Wantage; second, £10, S. Bult, Taunton.

Bull, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £25, Colonel R. Loyd-Lindsay; second, £10, W. H. Hewitt, Taunton.

Bull calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, J. Stratton, Marlborough.

Cow, above three years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £15, J. S. Batt, Taunton; second, £5, W. Hosken and Son, Hayle.

Heifer, in milk or in calf, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £15, St. John Ackers, Painswick; second, £10, W. Hosken and Son.

Heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £10, W. Hosken and Son; second, £5, Lord Clinton.

Heifer calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, W. Hosken and Son; second, £5, Sir H. G. Smith, Bart.

#### HEREFORDS.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £20, W. Taylor, Ledbury; second, £10, J. E. Best, Fowey.

Bull, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £25, T. Thomas, Cowbridge; second, £10, T. J. Carwardine, Leominster.

Bull, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £25, J. H. Arkwright; second, £10, F. Platt, Upper Breinton.

Bull calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, Mrs. Edwards, Leominster; second, £5, T. J. Carwardine.

Cow, above three years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £15, Mrs. Edwards; second, £10, J. H. B. Lutley, Worcester.

Heifer, in milk or calf, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £15, W. Taylor; second, £10, Mrs. Edwards.

Heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize of £10 and second of £5, Mr. J. H. Arkwright.

Heifer calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, J. H. Arkwright; second, £10, T. Thomas, Cowbridge.

#### SUSSEX.

Bull, above three years old.—First prize, £20, J. Braby, Rudgewick; second, £10, E. and A. Stanford, Sussex.

Bull, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £25, I. Huth, Waldron; second, £10, J. and A. Heasman, Worthing.

Bull, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £25, J. S. Hodgson, Haslemere; second, £10, L. Huth.

Bull calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, J. Braby; second, £5, J. and A. Heasman.

Cow, above three years old, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £15, G. Taylor, Petworth; second, £10, E. and A. Stanford, Steyning.

Heifer, in milk or in calf, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £15, J. Braby; second, £10, J. and A. Heasman.

Heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £10, J. and A. Heasman; second, £5, E. and A. Stanford.

Heifer calf, above six and not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £10, B. Duke, Arundel; second, £5, J. and A. Heasman.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS.

## JERSEY.

Bull, above two and not exceeding four years.—First prize, £10, G. Simpson, Reigate; second, £5, H. A. Riggs, Walton-on-Thames.

Bull, not exceeding two years.—First prize, £15, G. Simpson; second, £7, Mrs. L. Malcolm, Lynchurst.

Cow, exceeding three years, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £15, E. A. Hambro and H. C. Smith, Roehampton; second, £7, G. Simpson.

Heifer, in milk or in calf, above two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, £15, G. Simpson; second, £7, G. Simpson.

Heifer, not exceeding two years.—First prize, £15, C. B. Dixon, Southmolton; second, £7, G. Simpson.

## GUERNSEY.

Bull, above two and not exceeding four years.—First prize £10, R. N. G. Baker, Heavitree; second, £5, J. R. Newberry, Hill Barton.

Bull, not exceeding two years.—First prize, £15, J. James, Les Vauxbelets, Guernsey; second, £7, J. de Garis Grais, St. Peter's.

Cow, exceeding three years, in milk or in calf.—First prize, £15, J. James, Les Vauxbelets; second, £7, R. N. G. Baker.

Heifer, in milk or in calf, above two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, £15, R. N. G. Baker; second, £7, W. H. Walroud, Newcourt.

Heifer, not exceeding two years.—First prize, £15, and second, £7, J. James, Les Vauxbelets.

## SHEEP.

## LEICESTER.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, G. Turner, jun., Thorpe-lands; second, £7, W. Tremaine, Gran pound.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £10, and second, £5, W. Tremaine.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, G. Turner, jun.; second, £5, W. Tremaine.

## COTSWOLD.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, T. and S. G. Gillett, Farlington; second, £7, J. Gillett, Charlbury.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £10, T. and S. G. Gillett; second, £5, R. Swanwick.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, T. and S. G. Gillett; second, £5, J. Gillett.

## DEVON LONGWOOL.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, and second, £7, Sir J. H. Heathcoat-Amory, Bart., Tiverton.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £10, and second, £5, W. Drake, Launceston.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, Sir J. H. Heathcoat-Amory; second, £5, - Norri, Exeter.

## ROMNEY MARSH OR KENT.

Yearling ram.—Prize, £15, W. de Chair Baker, Canterbry.

Ram of any other age.—Prize, £10, W. de Chair Baker.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—Prize, £10, W. de Chair Baker.

## SOUTHDOWN.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, and second, £7, W. Rigden, Shoreham.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £10, C. Chapman; second, £5, H. Humphrey, Fulborough.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, J. and A. Heasman, Worthing; second, £5, C. Chapman.

## HAMPSHIRE DOWNS.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, and second, £7, A. Morrison, Tisbury, Wilts.

Ram lamb.—First prize, £10, and second, £5, A. Morrison.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, J. Read, Salisbury; second, £5, W. Parsons, Micheldever.

## SHROPSHIRE.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, T. J. Mansell, Bridgenorth; second, £7, R. M. Knowles, Bingham.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £10, T. J. Mansell; second, £5, R. M. Knowles.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, Viscount Falmouth, Probus; second, £5, R. M. Knowles.

## OXFORDSHIRE DOWN.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, J. Treadwell, Aylesbury; second, £7, A. Brassey, Chipping Norton.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £10, J. Treadwell; second, £5, J. and F. Howard, Bedford.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, A. Brassey; second, £5, G. Adaras, Faringdon.

## SOMERSET AND DORSET HORN.

Yearling ram.—First prize, £15, and second, £7, H. Farthing, Bridgwater.

Ram of any other age.—First prize, £10, J. Culverwell, Bridgwater; second, £5, H. Farthing.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £10, F. G. Logg, Beamster; second, £5, J. Mayo, Dorchester.

## EXMOOR AND OTHER MOUNTAIN.

Ram of any age.—First prize, £10, Mrs. Langdon; second, £5, Lord Poltimore.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, £5, C. Williams, Barnstaple; second, £3, Earl Fortescue.

## HORSES.

## FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Stallion foaled before 1877.—First prize, £30, E. and A. Stanford, Steyning; second, £15, J. Hubbard, Chippenham.

Stallion foaled in 1877.—First prize, £25, Captain Betts, Diss; second, £10, J. S. Hodgson, Halesmere.

Mare and foal, or in foal.—First prize, £15, E. and A. Stanford; second, £5, E. Cary, Shepton Mallet.

Filly foaled in 1877.—Prize, £15, E. and A. Stanford.

Filly foaled in 1878.—First and second prizes, £10 and £5, E. and A. Stanford.

## HUNTERS.

Thoroughbred stallion for hunters.—First prize, £50, T. K. Bickell, Lamerton; second, £20, Mrs. M. Barrett, Totnes.

Mare or gelding, foaled before January, 1875.—First prize, £25, G. B. Battams, Tavistock; second, £10, W. Trist, Ugborough.

Mare or gelding, foaled in 1875.—First prize, £25, T. Taylor, Wilton; second, £10, G. B. Battams.

Filly or gelding, foaled in 1876.—First prize, £15, E. Billie, Chudleigh; second, £5, R. Swanwick, Cirencester.

Colt, filly, or gelding, foaled in 1877.—First and second prizes, £15 and £5, G. B. Battams.

Colt or filly foaled in 1878.—First prize, £10, R. Swanwick; second, £5, E. A. Sanders, Exeter.

Mare and foal, or in foal.—Prize, £20, S. W. W. Stephens, Wadebridge.

Mare or gelding above 14 hands, calculated to carry not less than 12 stone.—First prize, £15, G. B. Battams; second, £5, C. Williams, Barnstaple.

## PONIES.

Mare or gelding, not exceeding 14 hands.—First prize, £10, J. I. Scarbrough, Axminster; second, £5, E. I. Scarbrough, Axminster.

Mare or gelding, not exceeding 13 hands.—First prize, £10, T. Yelverton, Ottery St. Mary; second, £5, M. Farrant, Exeter.

## PIGS.

## LARGE BREED.

Boar, above one year and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £7, R. E. Duckering, Kirtou Lindsey; second, £3, J and F. Howard, Bedford.

Boar, not exceeding one year.—First prize, £7, R. E. Duckering; second, £3, S. Spencer, St. Ives.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £7, R. E. Duckering; second, £3, J. and F. Howard.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months.—First prize, £7, R. E. Duckering; second, £3, S. Spencer.

## SMALL BREED (DL CK).

Boar, above one year and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £7, J. W. Palmer, Taunton; second, £3, Rev. W. Hooper, Dorchester.

Boar, not exceeding one year.—First prize, £7, J. O. Saunders, Dorchester; second, £3, Earl of Portsmouth, Wimbworthy.

Breeding sow.—First and second prizes, £7 and £4, Earl of Portsmouth.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months.—First and second prizes, £7 and £3, Earl of Portsmouth.

## SMALL BREED (WHITE).

Boar, above one year and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £7, S. Spencer; second, £3, R. E. Duckering.

Boar, not exceeding one year.—First prize, £7, R. E. Duckering; second, £3, S. Spencer.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £7, S. Spencer; second, £3 Lord Moreton, Falmouth.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months.—First prize, £7, R. E. Duckering; second, Lord Moreton.

## BERKSHIRE.

Boar, above one year and not exceeding two years.—First prize, £7, Hewer Brothers, Highworth; second, £3, R. E. Duckering.

Boar, not exceeding one year.—First prize, £7, E. Tombs, Bampton; second, £3, R. Swanwick.

Breeding sow.—First prize, £7, R. E. Duckering, second, £3, A. Sewart, Gloucester.

Pen of two breeding sows, not exceeding nine months.—First prize, £7, E. Tombs; second, £3, Hewer Brothers.

## IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY.

We noticed at once that this department of the show was a small one, owing to diminution in the number of exhibits by the principal manufacturers, most of whom occupied much less space than usually at Bath and West Shows. Another marked feature of the show was the lack of novelties. We did not notice a single new machine or implement of any considerable importance. Some improvements on old things there were as a matter of course; but these were nearly all mere matters of detail. Any striking novelties and important improvements are reserved to make their first public appearance at the Royal Show: exhibitors being naturally anxious to make their mark at the great international exhibition now so near at hand.

Following the catalogue, which begins with the machinery in motion, the first stand was that of Messrs. Crossley Brothers, of Manchester. Their "Otto" silent gas engines, made from  $\frac{1}{2}$  horse-power upwards in size, are admirably compact and as nearly silent as engines can be. They may be used for any purpose for which a fixed engine is required, where gas is available, including chaff-cutting and root pulping. The next agricultural stand was that of Messrs. John Fowler & Co., of Leeds. Their 6 horse-power agricultural locomotive is fitted with new patent valves. They showed also a useful little 3-horse-power locomotive, adapted for haulage or for driving a small thrashing machine. This little engine we do not remember to have seen before. Messrs. R. Hornsby & Son, of Grantham, exhibited in this department a 5-horse-power and an 8-horse-power portable engine, and two thrashing machines with drum guards.

Messrs. Ransome, Sims & Head, of Ipswich, exhibited a 6-horse-power locomotive engine, constructed from new patterns, and embodying several improvements; also an 8-horse-power portable engine, specially adapted for agricultural purposes; and a thrashing machine with twisted beater drum, reciprocating shakers, expanding screen, and patent drum guard. A 5-horse-power portable engine, suitable for hilly districts and narrow roads, an 8-horse-power traction engine, two thrashing machines with their safety drum guard, and a combined stacking machine and straw elevator were shown by Messrs. Tacker & Co., of Andover. Messrs. Gibbons, of Wantage, also showed an engine and thrashing machine.

Messrs. Aveling & Porter, of Rochester, have improved their locomotive engines by placing the gear between the brackets, so that the fly-wheel is brought close to the engine and the width between the driving wheels is run over. These are decided advantages.

Messrs. Clayton & Shuttlesworth, of Lincoln, had a large show of engines, thrashing machines, &c. They have increased the size of the boilers in the engines so

as to get increased power per nominal horse-power. The cone and concave of the excellent grinding and kibbling mills made by Messrs. Nicholson & Son, of Newark, are now made of cold blast metal cast in chills, thus securing toughness as well as hardness. These mills do this work admirably. Messrs. Humphries, of Pershore, and Marshall, of Gainsborough, showed engines and thrashing machines.

Various improvements made in their leading articles by Messrs. Garrett & Sons, of Leiston, were described in our report of the Smithfield Club Show. Their engines are now fitted with corrugated fire-boxes, their thrashing machines with light wrought-iron fore-carriage and patent drum guard, and their drills with improved levers. Messrs. Robey & Co., of Lincoln, exhibited traction, vertical, and portable engines; also a 12 horse-power fixed engine and locomotive combined, a telescopic straw elevator, and a circular saw bench.

On Messrs. Wallis and Stevens' (Basingstoke) stand we noticed a new drum guard, which appears to us to be very simple, convenient, and effectual. The most prominent feature in the guard is in its having a sheet iron flap or valve as close to the drum as possible, which is hinged on the lower feed board, and held open by coming in contact with the underside of the upper feed board. This latter is also hinged in the middle, which on its top side being depressed lets the flap loose, which is immediately thrown over the opening of the drum by two flat steel springs working behind it. Behind the drum there is also a hood, the lower end of which is connected by a chain or otherwise to the upper feed board, so that any weight coming on this would have the same effect as above described of closing the opening to the drum. There is also an iron standard with a connection to the top of the hood placed on the opposite side to that from which the corn is being fed, if anything fall upon this, the hood becomes depressed and the valve immediately closes.

Messrs. Ruston and Proctor, of Lincoln, showed two portable engines, and the thrashing machines fitted with drum guard and self-feeder.

Messrs. McLaren and Co., of Leeds, have simplified and improved their well-known locomotive and traction engine. Mr. Hopkinson, of Retford, has improved his air distributing sisk reel by the introduction of beaters for distributing the middlings. His off separator and duster, with conical revolving cylinder, has also been altered for the better. Messrs. Tangye, of Birmingham, and Hindley, of Bourton, also exhibited in the machinery in-motion department.

For the several exhibits on stands not specially mentioned here we must refer readers to our list published last week.

Crossing over to the stationary exhibits, the first stand is that of Messrs. Hornsby and Sons, of Grantham. The modifications made in their excellent reapers and mowers were described in our report of the Smithfield Club show. These are comprised in their "Indispensable" self-rating reaper, with five controllable rakes; the "Matchless" self-raker, with 6 arms and interchangeable rake centres; a similar machine with 4 arms, and one-horse and two-horse back delivery reapers. Messrs. Hornsby also showed their hedge-cutting machines, mowers, ploughs, &c. Reapers were also exhibited by Mr. Bartlett, of Kirsh.

Messrs. Ransome, Sims, and Head, of Ipswich, occupied much less than their usual space at Bath and West shows. Besides their usual variety in ploughs, they showed two new Anglo-American horse rakes, combining lightness, strength, and cheapness, and intended to compete with the American rakes; also an 8ft. rake with 4ft. wheels, and a number of lawn mowers.

Mr. Walter A. Wood, of London, has made a few im-

improvements in his self-binding reaper. He has introduced a four-rake controllable self-delivery reaper, of which the rakes may be made to sweep the platform, or to act as dumpies, by the removal or insertion of pins, there being one for each rake arm. Mr. Wood also showed mowers. Besides their usual display of reapers, mowers, chaff-cutters, pulpers, horse rakes, &c., Messrs. Pickley and Sims, of Leigh, showed a new grinding mill with intermediate motion fixed to it. Their "Novelty" self-raking reaper has been improved since the Bristol show was held.

Messrs. Burgess and Key, of London, did not exhibit the self-binding attachment to a reaper of which we spoke so hopefully in our report of the Smithfield Club Show. We shall hope to see it at the Royal in a perfected condition. The reapers and mowers on the stand were the same as previously described.

Messrs. J. and F. Howard, of Bedford, had a large show of implements, but they did not occupy much, if any, more than half their usual space. The "Simplex" reaper is now made with six rakes, without the stitch action of the 4-rake machine. There was also the usual display of ploughs, harrows, horse-rakes, and mowers on the stand. Messrs. H. Beare and Son, of Newton Abbot, have improved their new haymaker by introducing two spindles, and making the rakes revolve inside the driving wheels. The Albion Iron Works Co., of Rugeley, showed chaff-cutters, grist, cake, and curd mills, horse-hoes, horse-rakes, &c. Messrs. Williams and Son have altered their arrangement for putting their reapers in and out of gear. They also now make their finger bars hollow in the middle. A new one-horse self-delivery reaper was on this stand. Mr. James Pugsley, of Ashburton, showed for the first time at an exhibition a very strong and simple roller drill, which he has made for some time for local sale.

Messrs. W. R. Dell and Son, of London, had a collection of French burr millstones, flour, smut, and wheat-cleaning machines, and various other millers' machines and requisites. Messrs. J. G. Rollins and Co., of London, had their usual attractive collection of American drills, rakes, lawn-mowers, forks, pumps, axes, vices, &c. They also showed the "Empire" fan-blowing American forge, which we believe is new.

Messrs. Waite, Burnell, Huggins, and Co., of London, exhibited a self-acting horse-rake and a number of the excellent "Excelsior" lawn mowers. They showed also McCormick's self-binding reaper, which has been improved in the following details:—The old "pay off" bar being done away with, and in its place an S shaped oscillating attachment provided. This has greatly simplified this important part of the machine. Then, again, there is an improved and extended "traversing motion," which extends the play from 11½ inches to 15½ inches, and this enables the sheaf to be bound when needed much nearer the head. The knife, too, is now in two shapes—bevelled and serrated to suit different crops. The shaft is enclosed in one solid box instead of two; the leverage is also improved, and altogether the machine, effective as it was useful, has made a very notable advance.

Mr. R. Boby, of Bury St. Edmunds, exhibited his well-known dressing machines, corn and malt screens, double-action hay-makers, horse rakes, and hand seed-drills. The Adriance Platt "Buckeye" mower, combined mower and reaper, and self-raking reaper were shown and used in the trial fields by Messrs. Keyworth and Co., of Liverpool, who also had some "Dominion" churus, a self-acting horse-rake, and a new mortising machine on their stand. Another "Buckeye" reaper, that of Aultman and Co., was exhibited by Messrs. Edmonstone and Co., of London, also a mower, a combined machine, a horse-rake, and a manure dropper, all "Buckeyes." The Johnstone Harvester Company showed their self-raking reaper with binder attachment,

which has on previous occasions been described in these columns. They had also a self-raking reaper and mower combined, and two light self-raking reapers called "Continental." A new one-horse side-delivery reaper, the "Derby," was shown by Messrs. Handyside and Co., who also exhibited Phillips's self-raking and back-delivery reapers, mowers, a new flexible chain harrow, and a new knife-grinder, a very handy little machine.

Messrs. Harrison, McGregor, and Co., of Leigh, had some of their successful mowers on their stand and in the fields. Their self-delivery reaper has been improved in detail since we first described it, as seen at Oxford last year. Messrs. Samuelson and Co., of Banbury, had their usual large selection of their famous reapers and mowers. These machines have in several respects been improved since last summer, as described in our report of the Smithfield Club Show, since which we understand there have been no alterations. They also showed turnip-cutters and lawn-mowers. Messrs. Corbett and Peele, of Srewsbury, exhibited their prize combination of winnowing, corn elevating, and weighing machine; also an improved dressing machine, the Paris prize cake breaker, some new zig-zag harrows, drills, horse-hoes, cheese presses, &c. The exhibitors not named in this report were all mentioned, with their principal exhibits, in the list given in our columns last week.

#### SEEDS, MANURES, &c.

We made a mistake in our preliminary report when we stated that the seed firms were represented by Messrs. Carter as well as by Messrs. Sutton and Son. In our visit of Saturday afternoon we saw that the seed stands were closed, and therefore did not go up to them, and the mistake arose through a reference to a list of advertisers in the catalogue instead of to that of the exhibitors. Messrs. Sutton, of Reading, were the only exhibitors of seeds, roots, grasses, &c. Their stand was, if possible, more tasteful than usual, and contained a splendid collection of mangels, swedes, models, and seeds; also 250 specimens of grasses grown by Messrs. Sutton, and 1,000 samples of vegetable, flower, farm, and grass seeds, labelled with their botanical and popular names. The roots were in a fine state of preservation, and a quantity of forage and other plants in growth added to the pleasant appearance of the stand.

Messrs. Jas. Gibbs and Co., of London, showed samples of their turnip, manzel, corn, potato, and grass manures and their feeding cake; Messrs. Day, Son, and Hewitt their well-known cattle medicines; Messrs. Ohlendorf and Co., of London, raw and dissolved Peruvian guano, guano superphosphate, dissolved bone-ash, and special mangel and potato manures; and Mr. Thorley his cattle food.

#### THE FIELD TRIALS.

The mowing machine trials on Monday, when we saw them, were carried on in the rain. The grass was very light, so that the trials were really of little use as a guide to intending purchasers. But as we have before remarked the mowers of different makers are nearly all effective machines, and the chief difference is in the draught, ease of working, and durability. All the machines on Monday did their work fairly well; but some made more noise—and this indicated more wear and tear—than others. The first plot was cut by Messrs. Howard's "Simplex" without a stoppage, the work being well done. This machine has been altered since we saw it last year by slightly elevating the back gearing, and by the introduction of a stop for preventing the knife from falling out when turned up for travelling. On No. 2 plot we saw no machine at work. Messrs. Samuelson's mower cut plot No. 3, and made good work, though there seemed to be some rattling, which the agent attributed to the lightness

of the crop. The fourth plot was cut by Messrs. Andyside and Co., with Phillips's mower, but we did not see their machine at work. Messrs. Picksley, Sims, and Co. made good work on the next plot with their mower. Their combined machine was also in the field. The sixth plot had no machine at work on it when we were present. Messrs. Burgess and Key's mower cut plot 7 well, and left a good track—a point of some importance though easy to attain. The Aultman and Co. "Buckeye" cut the next plot. It was exhibited by Messrs. Edmonstone and Co., and seems to be a very light machine. Messrs. Harrison, McGregor, and Co. made beautiful work with their very successful mower, which has won 101 first prizes, cups, and medals since 1873, including some won this season in France. Messrs. Hornsby's machine on the next plot cut well and left as wide a track as any in the field. The Adriance Platt "Buckeye," shown by Messrs. J. and H. Keyworth, of Liverpool, made clean work, and seemed to be a particularly light-running machine. On the 12th plot no machine was at work during our visit, but Messrs. Osborne and Co. were in the field after we left. Mr. W. A. Wood had a field to himself on Monday, but the work was done when we reached it.

It was too wet on Monday for the reapers to come out; but on Tuesday they were tried after a fashion in a light piece of rye. We do not regard reaper trials in green rye as of much importance. For self-binders especially the test is an unfair one, consequently we did not stop to see them late on Tuesday afternoon. The self-binders present were McCormick's, shown by Messrs. Waite, Burnell, Huggins, and Co., which is reported to have done its work well, as we have seen it done by this successful machine before; Mr. W. A. Wood's well-known machine; and the "Buckeye," shown by Messrs. Edmonstone. The self-delivery reapers were those of Messrs. Hornsby, Picksley and Sims, Osborne, Handyside, Harrison and McGregor, Howard, Samuelson, Burgess and Key, W. A. Wood, and Johnstone Harvester Co. Messrs. Brenton and Williams had their hand-delivery machine at work.

Messrs. Howard were at work with their double-furrow plough and haymaker; and the Koldmoos weed eradicator, and Pamphillon's dung-spreader were shown in action.

The following is a list of the Principal Exhibits on the Implement Stands:—

- Stand 1.—Crossley Brothers, Manchester, Gas engines.
- 2.—C. Hall, Bath, Cooking stoves.
- 3.—W. Olley and Co., High Street, Borough, Saw benches, morticing machines.
- 4, 5.—J. Fowler and Co., Leeds, Road locomotives, cultivating machinery.
- 6, 7.—R. Hornsby and Sons, Grantham, Portable steam engines, thrashing shaking and finishing dressing machines.
- 8.—Ransomes, Sims, and Head, Ipswich, Locomotive engines, thrashing machines.
- 9, 10, 11.—W. Tasker and Sons, Andover, Traction engines, stacking machines.
- 12.—P. and H. P. Gibbons, Wantage, Steam engines, thrashing machines.
- 13, 14.—Aveling and Porter, Rochester, Locomotive engines, 10-ton steam road rollers.
- 15, 16, 17, 18.—Clayton and Shuttleworth, Lincoln, Portable steam engines, traction engines, stacking elevators.
- 19.—W. N. Nicholson and Son, Newark, Grinding and kibbling mills, steam engines.
- 20.—R. and J. Reeves and Son, Westbury, Elevators, pony gears, brackets and pulleys.
- 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.—E. Humphries, Pershore, Steam engines, thrashing machines, cider mills.
- 26, 27, 28, 29.—Marshall, Sons, and Co., Gainsborough, Traction engines, thrashing machines, circular saw benches.

- 30, 31.—R. Garrett and Sons, Leiston, Portable steam engines, straw elevators and stackers, seed drills, manure distributors, dressing machines.
- 32, 33.—Robey and Co., Lincoln, Traction engines, thrashing and finishing machines, straw elevators, saw benches.
- 34, 35.—Wallis and Stevens, Basingstoke, Portable engines, locomotives.
- 36, 37.—Ruston, Proctor, and Co., Lincoln, Steam engines thrashing and finishing dressing machines.
- 38.—Brown and May, Devizes, Portable steam engines.
- 39.—Nalder and Nalder, Wantage, Finishing thrashing machines.
- 40.—Watson and Haiz, Andover, Combined stacking machines, straw elevators, horse gears, bone crushing mills.
- 41.—J. Pickering, Stockton-on-Tees, Pulley blocks, sack hoists.
- 42.—H. R. Marsden, Leeds, stone breakers.
- 42 A.—J. and H. McLaren, Leeds, Agricultural locomotives or traction engines.
- 43, 44, 45.—F. W. Reynolds and Co., London, Hand power and steam hand sawing machines, mortising machines.
- 46, 47.—C. Hopkinson, Retford, Middlings purifiers, portable mills.
- 48.—J. J. Bartlett, Wimborne, Stacking machines, drag harrows, whiplifts.
- 49.—Polyblank and Co., Newton Abbot, Sawing machines.
- 50, 51.—C. Powis and Co., Gracechurch Street, Vertical steam engines and boilers.
- 52.—H. Merrifield, Exeter, Engines, chopping machines.
- 53.—Tangye Bros., Birmingham, Engines and boilers, steam pumps and boilers.
- 54.—Newton, Chambers, and Co., Sheffield, Cooking ranges.
- 55, 56.—E. S. Hindley, Bourton, Engines and boilers, saw benches.
- 57.—T. J. Constantine, London, Cooking ranges.
- 58.—T. Bradford and Co., Manchester and London, Washing and wringing machines.
- 59.—R. Hornsby and Sons, Grantham, Self-raking reapers, manual controllable rakes, grass mowers, ploughs, turnip slicers, root pulpers.
- 60.—A. C. Bamlett, Thirsk, Mowing machines.
- 61.—Ransome, Sims and Head, Ipswich, Pony ploughs, hay-makers, horse rakes, lawn mowers.
- 62.—J. L. Tracy, Dorchester, Grinding mills.
- 63.—E. Bulled, Devon, Horse waggons.
- 64.—W. A. Wood, London, Reapers, self-binding harvester, mowers, grindstones.
- 65.—Picksley, Sims, and Co., Leigh, Chaff cutters, root pulpers, bruising and grinding mills, horse gears, mowers, reapers.
- 66.—Burgess and Key, London, Reaping machines, mowers and reapers.
- 67.—J. and F. Howard, Bedford, Ploughs, harrows, rakes, haymaking machines, mowers.
- 68.—H. Beare and Sons, Newton Abbot, Manure and seed drills.
- 69.—Albion Iron Works Co., Rugeley, Chaff cutters, cheese presses, horse hoes and rakes.
- 70.—J. Baker, Wisbeach, Corn dressing machines.
- 71.—Carson and Toone, Warrminster, Chaff machines, turnip and root cutters, cheese presses.
- 72.—J. L. Larkworthy and Co., Worcester, Harrows.
- 73.—The Reading Iron Works Co., Reading, Steam engines, rakes.
- 74.—G. Kearsley, Ripon, Mowers and reapers.
- 75.—W. Waide, Leeds, Barrel churus.
- 76.—Anderson, Abbot and Anderson, London, Driving bands.
- 77.—W. Whittaker, Bristol, Millstones.
- 78.—Everitt, Adams and Co., Ryburgh, Turnip thinners.
- 79.—W. Smith and Son, Kettering, Horse hoes, grindstones.
- 80.—J. Eld, Exeter, Ploughs, turnwrests.
- 81.—J. Williams and Son, Rhuddlan, Chaff-cutters, horse gears.
- 82.—J. Smith and Co., Chard, Mills and corn bruisers.
- 83.—J. Prout, Launceston, Broad-cast machines.
- 84.—G. Beavis, jun., Exmouth, Screwed drags.
- 85.—B. and J. Brown and Co., London, Lubricators.
- 86.—J. Piesley, Ashburton, Turnip and mangel drills.
- 87.—T. Briansmead, Devon, Thrashing and reed making machines.

- 88.—J. Bradford, Crediton, Waggon's.  
 89.—G. Hathaway, Chippenham, Barrel churns.  
 90.—A. S. Whiting, Liverpool, Hay and manure forks.  
 91.—Denning and Co., Chard, Chain drills and harrows.  
 92.—Davey, Sleep, and Co., St. German's, Turnwrest ploughs, cultivators, horse rakes.  
 93.—J. Marston and Co., Birmingham, Landaus, cabs, carts.  
 94.—Haynes, Jefferies, and Co., Coventry, Tricycles, bicycles.  
 95.—The Centaur Bicycle Co., Coventry, Tricycles.  
 96.—Whippell Brothers and Row, Exeter, Steam engines, grates.  
 97.—W. R. Dell and Son, London, Millstones, dressing machines, smut machines, separators.  
 98.—Standfield and Co, Exeter, Landaus, phaetons.  
 99.—Goold Bros., Windsor, Dog carts, waggonettes.  
 100.—F. Orme and Co., London, Bench drilling machines.  
 101.—Bradbury and Co., Bristol, Sewing machines.  
 102.—S. and A. Fuller, Bath, Phaetons.  
 103.—E. Parnell and Sons, Bristol and Exeter, Rick and horse cloths.  
 104.—C. Fuge, Taunton, Landaus, phaetons, carts.  
 105.—J. B. Pinnock, Bristol, Broughams, phaetons.  
 106.—J. Roberts and Sons, Bridgwater, Carriages.  
 107.—J. Sinclair, London, Fire engines, tubing, hose.  
 108.—Lawrence and Co., London, Refrigerators, washing machines.  
 109.—A. Lyon, London, Mincing and cutting machines.  
 110.—H. Phillips, Exeter, Dry earth cloths.  
 111.—Pigott Bros., London, Rick cloths, engine covers, seed and nose bags.  
 112.—J. Crowley and Co., Sheffield, Chaff cutters, mowers, rollers.  
 113.—J. M. Bell and Co., London, Washers, wringers and manglers.  
 114.—J. G. Rollins and Co., London, Grain drills, lawn mowers, manure pumps, churns, wringers.  
 115, 116.—J. Unite, London, Rick cloths, Sheep nettings.  
 117.—W. F. Johnson, Leicester, Garden seats, awnings.  
 118.—J. A. Stephenson, Frome, Weed eradicator, washing machines.  
 119.—J. H. Maggs, Exeter, Stamping machines.  
 120.—A. Lippit, Sheffield, Reaping machines.  
 121.—Davis's "Excelsior" Knife clearing machines.  
 121a.—J. Easton and Son, Exeter, Clod Crushers.  
 122.—Great Western Pottery Co., Newton Abbot, Paving bricks.  
 123.—H. N. Leduc, Exeter, Hand printing presses.  
 124.—J. Halliwell, Manchester, Combination garden tools.  
 125.—A. A. Davis, London, Domestic and other inventions.  
 126.—S. Griffin and T. A. Pearce, Bath, Domestic inventions.  
 127.—Moule's Patent Earth Closet Co.  
 128.—J. C. Stark and Co., Circular saw and band sawing machines.  
 129.—B. Edgington, London, Rick cloth, corn, seed and flour sacks, camp beds.  
 130.—A. Kenrick and Sons, West Bromwich, Coffee drug and spice mills.  
 131.—R. Craggs, London, Garden knives.  
 132.—J. White and Co., London, Oil feeders, lubricators.  
 133.—G. Davies, London, Cements.  
 134.—General Novelty Company, London.  
 135.—J. Wilding, Poulton-le-Fylde, Washers, wringers.  
 136.—J. Stiff and Sons, London, Sewer air traps.  
 137.—G. D. Thompson, London, Flower-pot covers, mincing machines.  
 138.—G. Hopewell and Co., Topham, Reversible fire bars.  
 139.—Maurice de Leon and Co., London, Domestic articles.  
 140.—A. Shirlaw and Co., Birmingham, Screw and die stocks, tube vices, tube cutters.  
 141.—Denton and Jutsum, London, Varnishes and paints.  
 142.—W. Harding, Exeter, Portable greenhouse, cucumber frames, heating apparatus.  
 143.—Cranston and Luck, Birmingham, Conservatories, sliding wall shields.  
 144.—W. Parham, Bath, Horticultural buildings, garden frames, strained wire fencing.  
 145.—Sutton and Sons, Reading, Berks, Collection of grasses in growth, mangrel roots, Champion swedes, home-grown farm, vegetable, and flower seeds, models of vegetables, potatoes, &c.  
 146.—W. and H. M. Goulding, Dublin and Cork, Bone and grass manures, superphosphate.  
 147.—Spratt's, Bernondaye, "Fibrine" dog cakes, game and poultry meal, kennel medicine chests.  
 148.—Day, Son, and Hewitt, London, Stockbreeders' medicine chests, red drench, black physic balls, red condition powders.  
 149.—J. Beach and Co., Dudley, Farinaceous food for cattle, sheep, pigs, &c., condiment for horses.  
 150.—J. Thorley, London, Food for cattle.  
 151.—P. W. Barr and Co., Liverpool, Poultry foods.  
 152.—Ayre, Chambers, and Ayre, Hull, Oilcakes.  
 153.—J. Gibbs and Co., London, Ammonia-fixed Peruvian guano, dissolved bones, manures, superphosphate of lime, feeding cakes.  
 154.—S. Pettifer, Cradwell, Tebury, Medicine chests, condition powders, sheep dipping composition.  
 155.—W. Baker and Sons, Bristol, Dog biscuits.  
 156.—Day and Sons, Crewe, Purified Driffield oils, horse powders, foot rot oils, medicine chests.  
 157.—Ohlendorff and Co., London, Peruvian government guano, guano superphosphate, dissolved bone ash, special manures.  
 158.—Stone and Son, Exeter, Sheep dipping powder, foot rot lotion, horse powders.  
 159.—Spencer and Sons, Gainsborough, Milk substitute for rearing calves, pigs, &c., condiment for cattle, sheep, &c.  
 160.—W. A. Hope and Sons, London, Cattle food, horse condiment, game and poultry spice.  
 161.—Devon and Somerset United Stores Co., Exeter, Blended teas, coffee pots and urns, perfumes, bags and leather goods.  
 161 A.—S. T. Clothier, Bridgwater, Moulded step, slabs of paving stone, pieces of kerbstone.  
 161 B.—J. Slade, Torquay, Devon Tor ranges, kitcheners, cooking stoves, warm air diffusing and ventilating grates.  
 161 C.—The Anglo-American Tin Stamping Co., Stourport, Tinned and enamelled ware.  
 162.—W. N. Nicholson and Son, Newark, Horseshoes, hay-makers, harrows, steam engines.  
 163.—G. Millford, Callompton, waggon's, farm carts.  
 164.—J. Luxton and Co., Hatherleigh, Turnip and mangel drills, haymaking machines, winnowing machines.  
 165.—Newall and Ogilvie, Bristol, Wheel rollers, harrows, scuffle drags, horse gears.  
 166.—Waite, Burnell, Huggins, and Co., London, Harvester and self-binder, horse rakes, lawn mowers.  
 167.—Kell, Meats, and Co., Gloucester and Ross, Corn and seed drills, manure distributors, winnowing machines.  
 168.—W. Brenton, St. Germans, Mowers, combined reapers and mowers, drills, grinding mills.  
 169.—R. and J. Reeves and Son, Westbury, Liquid manure and seed drills, water carts, pumps, ploughs, whippetrees.  
 170.—W. Chamberlain, Kingsbridge, Ploughs, horse hoes, cultivator or grubber, harrows.  
 171.—A. Lowcock, Sirewsbury, Grass mowers, combined mowers and reapers, chaffcutters, root pulpers.  
 172.—J. Huxtable, South Molton, Double furrow turn wrest ploughs, double furrow cut ploughs.  
 173.—J. Wright, Sandford, Waggon's, carts, reapers, harrows, horse rakes, garden seats.  
 174.—H. S. Crump, Gloucester, Sheep racks, sack trucks, cask stands, continuous fencing, cattle hurdles.  
 175.—S. Pearce, Exeter, Millstones, grist mills, weighing machines, hay forks, cooking apparatus, mowing machines.  
 176.—Hill and Smith, Brierly Hill, Continuous fences, iron hurdles, iron field gates, tree guards, game proof wire.  
 177.—R. Boby, Bury St. Edmunds, Haymakers, corn dressing machines, horse rakes, corn screens, hand seed drills.  
 178.—J. and H. Keyworth and Co., Liverpool, Mowers, combined mowers and reapers, churns, mortising machine.  
 179.—Edmondsons and Co, London, Harvester and binder, horse rakes, sickle grinders.  
 180.—Whalley, Smith and Paget, Keighley, Washing, wringing and mangling machines, chaff cutters.  
 181.—W. Huxtable, Ottery, Corn and seed drills, haymaking machines, horse rakes, cheese press.  
 182.—H. Norrington and Son, Exeter, Reapers, mowers, horse rakes, ploughs, turnip cutters, feeding troughs.  
 183.—Garter and King, Exeter, Cooking stoves, hot air stoves, boilers.  
 184.—The Johnston Harvester Co., London, Binder attachments, self-rake reaper and grass mowers.

- 185.—W. Hogg, Exeter, Reaping machines.  
 186.—G. Llewelin and Son, Haverford west, Barrel churns.  
 187.—A. Handyside and Co., Derby, Mowers, reapers, chain harrows, knife grinders.  
 188.—Corbett and Peele, Shrewsbury, Combined corn dressing and screening machines, chaff cutters, ploughs, whippletrees, horse hoes.  
 189.—T. Bradford and Co., Manchester and London, Washing wringing and mangling machines, churns, bone mills.  
 190.—Harrison, McGregor and Co., Lough, Chaff cutters, pulpers and slicers, mowers, reapers.  
 191.—C. L. Wray, Newbury, Flour dressing and middlings dusting machine.  
 192.—P. Whiteside and Co., Liverpool, Mowing and reaping machines, chain pumps, hay and manure forks.  
 193.—Samuelson and Co., Banbury, Reaping and mowing machines, turnip cutters, corn lifters.  
 194.—G. K. Sothern and Co., Bristol, Inspirators, moulded, wheels and other castings, low water alarms.  
 195.—Penny and Co., Lincoln, Corn screens, sack lifters harrows, luggage trucks, meat safes.  
 196.—Lloyd, Lawrence and Co., London, Mincing machines, pruning shears, lawn mowers, hay forks, churns and stands.  
 197.—J. Maunder, Ottery St. Mary, Mowing machines, horse rakes, Reed-making and thrashing machines.  
 198.—"The Farmer" newspaper.  
 199.—T. Baker, Newbury, Corn dressing machines, cultivator, water carts, cattle trough.  
 200.—The Bristol Wagon Works Co., Bristol, Carts, drays, wagons, manure and seed distributors, horse rakes.  
 201.—J. Matthews, Weston-super-Mare, Terra-cotta vases, pedestals, fountains, roofing tiles, drain pipes.  
 202.—N. Hunt, Clifton, lean-to greenhouse.

#### THE HORSE-SHOEING COMPETITION.

The number of entries for the horse-shoeing competition was unusually large.

Mr. Wm. Miles of Dix's Field, Exeter, has a theory as to the composition, or rather physiognomy of the horse's foot, which was once received and believed in by the majority of veterinary surgeons and farmers, viz., that the hoof, when coming into contact with the ground expands, and contracts when lifted. The Bath and West of England Society also encouraged the theory, and allowed Mr. Miles to offer prizes for horse-shoeing up to last year. Now, however, the theory has exploded, and is discarded by the Society. They felt too that they could not well discontinue this competition, which has become such a popular feature of the show; so this year they give the prizes, which are—1st, three guineas, 2nd, two guineas, and 3rd, one guinea.

The competition was watched throughout by a large number of persons, who seemed to take great interest in the proceedings. Each smith was provided with forge and anvil, and was allowed an assistant. Whatever polish he put on the shoe had to be done with the ordinary rasp.

The prize winners were:—1, Philip Rundle, Colebrook; 2, W. R. Ridgement, Enmore; 3, Henry Butcher, 43, Paris Street, Exeter. Highly commended, C. Dunford Glastonbury; commended, W. Gray, Shirehampton; commended, J. R. Baker, Kilmampton.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of members was held on June 2 in the Council tent, the President, Earl Morley, being in the chair. The report was read and received. It showed that the Society was in a prosperous condition. The Earl of Coventry was elected president for the ensuing year.

A STRONG SKULL.—Most people have heard of the nigger who, when a brick fell from a scaffold on his head and broke into pieces, looked up and exclaimed, "Tell you what it is; keep dem bricks off my head or dey'll be all smash, you see!" But this old joke pales in the presence of an anecdote from Bristol, which relates that on Saturday morning last a man named Richard Tomes, a widower (small wonder) attempted to commit suicide by discharging a revolver at his forehead, "but the skull resisted the bullet, which was extracted in a flattened condition." That man ought to marry again. He could endure it.—*Mayfair*.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL HALL HORSE SHOW.

The sixteenth annual horse show at Islington took place on May 31, the Company, as usual, opening on the Saturday before Whitsuntide, with an eye to the holidays and catching some of the fry that come from all parts of the globe and join in the carnival on Banstead Downs, to whose bead roll of fame have been added Sir Beys, winner of the 100th Derby, and Wheel of Fortune, of the 101st Oaks Stakes; but we hope no more ruined homes like Galloping Hall with its stables, coach-houses, and kennels, even to the lodges empty, "where silence reigns with lips of glue," together with cobwebs and mildew: in fact everything looking as if it were in Chancery, while many honest families have been turned adrift whose ancestors had worked on the estate forages by a screwdriver who is screwing in every direction to bring back the banished lord, an ambitious youth, who has brought all this chaos and exodus about in the vain hope not of improving the breed of horses, but that he "may govern gamblers, be a blackleg king; and shine the monarch of a betting ring" on which we turn our backs for the more peaceful circle in the Agricultural Hall. Around the ring, in a fair gathering considering the times, we spy several old stagers whose idea of Elysium is to be always with horses and hounds, and for ever hunting of talking about it, often running into their fox at the church door to find another directly the parson has left the wood. In fact, they are quite as great enthusiasts as some lovers of the bovine race whose imaginations appear to have become bossified, and to whom, as they go the round of the shows, "this rounded world with all its varieties is nothing but a round of beef." The Hall was very nicely got up for both man and horse, while the show as to entries and quality of the animals is about on a par with that of last year, or at any rate as good as one can expect in these times when nothing pays, not even breeding hunters to go with our eighty or ninety packs of foxhounds. Come, come, draw it mild—it must pay someone, and no other nation can touch us in this. A few minutes after ten, Lords Waterford, Macclesfield, and Coventry commenced business with the weight carrying hunters, which we must say were poor, numbering 26 to 30 last year. Hurricane is a hunting-like useful horse, and moved very well, though the second Major by Theobald we do not like, as he lacks quality and does not go strong and well with his hind legs; while the third horse, Gambler, is a strong and merry mover, of fair form, but rather short in the neck and vulgar in his forehead—he was first weight carrier at Manchester this year. Mr. Billington's Loyola, a winner of prizes at Birmingham and Alexandra Park, and a charger to look at, is a grand goer, but did not fare so well this year as last, when he got commended. Then Miss Ireland's Cashbox, well known with the Duke of Beaufort's hounds, looked like a Leicestershire hunter but may not be up to fifteen stone, still he was kept in the ring till the last, though not ridden; neither was Mr. Taylor's

Cartridge, a handsome, hunting like horse whose fore legs appeared to be a little too close together. Mr. Weston's Guardsman, a brown horse, rather straight in the croup and who went with his head up, has breed with power and we should think would leave either of the first three in the lurch with fifteen stone up across a stiff country. Perhaps as nice a horse as any in the Hall to look on was Mr. Leonard Noble's Salaret, with power, symmetry, good looks and breed and who improved in his going as he warmed. Mr. Nelson's The Primate, with four white legs, has power and form but is a poor mover; while Mr. Saberton's Jim Crow, with some character can go, and Taylor's Commander, by Laughing Stock, is short and powerful, with scarcely enough before the saddle and not grand in his movements. Mr. Sharp's Emperor, own brother to Columbine, is a nice compact horse but not up to 15 stone though he looks like crossing a country. The first horse Hurricane was number 26 in the catalogue the last in the class. Only fancy three racing men in the paddock at Epsom with this year's Derby lot paraded before them, and not knowing anything of their performances, trying to place the first, second and third, or three men of Diomed's year, when horses were put through such severe trials to test their speed and bottom, dropping in on us in our glass case and finding us giving prizes to horses for what they might do, would they be more surprised than we should in this age of wanders, if on our way home we saw the Nelson lions trot off for a drink at the fountains, or more likely, being London bred, for gin and water at Morley's? Verily we can only judge race-horses on the course, hunters with hounds, and entire horses by what their stock can do. But now a man strikes the gong—which reminds us of the Eastern Question and the modern antique—and in come the hunters, without condition as to weight—twenty-nine all told. The first on the list is Ivanhoe, a horse of a bad colour but nicely formed and a fair mover, which last year won six first and seven second prizes with four cups at various small gatherings, but here he has to play second to Cockney, by London, a compact well built five-year-old, full of muscle with out coarseness, and a good goer, in fact a very promising horse, and though only third at Manchester in the weight-carrying class, won by Gambler, from the same stable, he is here eventually awarded the cup as the best in all the hunting classes. His Majesty, a horse with not a hunting forehead, was third, while Mr. Ford's Sunbeam, by Knight of Khars or Brown Bread, is a very varmint, nice stamp of horse, with model hind leg action, but shows a little temper—which the best of us do at times—was only commended along with a middling one of Mr. Doubleday's, Cockrobin by name. The Hon. Henry Bourke's Seamew struck us as a very good-looking park hack, with breed and action, but too light in his loin and back ribs for hunting. With Mr. Toynbee's Patriot, Mr. Gale's Pride of the Dale, Messrs. Emery's Gamebird, and Mr. Dame's Queen Mab good looks did not go unnoticed. In a fair class of four-year-olds we preferred a stout, hardy, good-looking black horse of

hunting form and action of Mr. Nelson's, called Othello, to Mr. Newton's upstanding chesnut, Golden Plover, which does not lack form and action, but wants quality, and looks soft. Mr. Brown's Katerfelto, by Lucifer, beat Golden Plover at Manchester, but he did not move well enough here to attract the judges, Major Burlon's Shannon, a nice looking horse by Massanissa, did, and will be found with the commended, nevertheless he showed to anything but advantage, though his jockey had a pair of spurs that reminded us of cock-fighting. Mr. Cooper's Lord Boughton, by Lord Roland, wants time to furnish and brush up as he can go. Mr. Young's Baronet, Mr. Parker's North Lincoln, and Mr. Robinson's roadster hunter were worthy of notice. Lord Tredegar's Merry Step is a model of a light weight hunter, not exceeding 15 2 hands high, and we think with his beautiful action, ought to have had had first honours though Mr. Cooper's beautiful April Morn is of capital form and up to more weight. The judges hung over their decision for some time, "Ah!" exclaimed an impatient, dapper, little, Yorkshireman behind us, "They'll never hang themselves." Messrs. Allen and Haines, who are quite at home in scenes of the circle, have, in Hercules, a clever, old-fashioned weight carrier. Mr. Achurch's Leonard was commended, and could step, though leggy, as could Mr. Bayly's rough and ready looking Red Rover a very useful cob for the country. Then came the cup, with Hurricane, Cockney, Golden Plover, and April Morn, which we have said was given to Cockney.

Lords Aveland and Norreys, with the Hon. Mr. Villiers acting for Lord Algernon Lennox, now took in hand the riding horses of any height exceeding 15 2 hands high, and began picking out some of all sorts, some of the worst and some of the best, we thought, and placing them in a line where previous judges have generally put the pick, and it was laughable to see how anxious some of the old riders in the ring were to get in among the awkward squad, when in a moment their hopes were blasted, the gates were thrown open, and they were ordered out, looking as they went unutterable things. The four left in were Bolton, a winner of thirty-four prizes, first, second, and third, at local shows in the North; Prince Imperial and Coronet, two nice horses; but we were not in love with the winner, Kohinoor, and the class was but a middling one, though fine action and quality were essential. Fine action, high stepping, and fashionable action, mean about the same thing, and the freaks of fashion are often as ridiculous as the freaks of Nature, for at one time there were nearly as many horses without tails as there were men without heads, who believed by docking the poor brutes off close to their rumps they were strengthening their backs. Judging by appearances again! The weight-carrying cover hacks, as a class, were anything but grand, though there were eight or ten clever nags. Lady Watton, with Mr. Robinson, up from Hull, who knows how to make the most of a horse, quite delighted the lookers on with the Cerito-like step

n which her ladyship glided over the tan. The second, Brown Belle, is a rather heavy shouldered roadster of the Yorkshire stamp, with high and round action, and does not get over the ground with the fairy-like ease of Lady Watton; the third prize, Lincoln, a clever weight-carrier. The others we noticed were Mr. Frisby's Rattle, Mr. Robinson's King Charles 3rd, Mr. Rowell's Lady Mary, and Mr. Webb's Confidence, and some more, for which we have not space. There were a few nice park hacks and ladies horses, and more in the park cobs, high steppers, to whom the ring was anything but a novelty. 273, a piebald, was hoisted as winner of the third prize, but the colours were given to a chestnut, with an extra number not in the class. Then came some very clever ponies, in a class of thirty, over which the judges spent some time—in fact both sets took great pains—and then handed in their books, the day winding up with jumping, which much pleased the ladies.

The remainder of the classes, not judged on Saturday, were disposed of on the Monday. The scenes in the circle and "the great water jump," were as attractive as ever, which, with people "big with expectation" during the week that the Prince of Wales would be there, filled the Hall to overflowing with men, women, and children, and pale care with her wrinkles was banished by mirth and laughter with rosy cheeks. But those who join in horseplay are always liable to be hurt, and we are sorry to say there were two or three serious accidents which threw a cloud over the merriment for a time. A "daily" says that one of the horsewomen falling in the water jump, so scared the others that there was only one put in an appearance the next day, but courageous women are not so easily frightened. As usual there were several winners objected to for being over the height.

There was something wrong with the entry of Mr. Robinson's second prize, Queen of the May, in the park cobs, which let in Mr. B. Holt's Lady Golightly for second honours—that was not in the class—at least, in our catalogue, to which we alluded in our notice of the show on the opening day, and the reserve number of the commended, Matchless, for the third prize. Then Miss Sowerby's Crafty, was placed first in the single harness class, not exceeding fourteen three, but was over height, and consequently the reserve number of the highly commended, Rattle, came in for third honours, which will be seen in the Prize List.

#### PRIZE LIST.

Hunters, weight carriers.—First prize, £60, R. Phipps, Northampton (Hurricane); second, £30, J. C. Dawson, Nacton, Ipswich (Major); third, £20, A. J. Brown, North Elmshall Hall, Pontefract; Commended, L. Noble, Henley-on-Thames (Salaret).

Hunters, without condition as to weight.—First prize, £60, A. J. Brown (Cockney); second, £25, F. E. Thompson, Elm Tree House, Hull (Ivanhoe); third, £15, C. Rose, Malton, York (His Majesty); Commended, H. Ford, Leamington (Sunbeam), and G. Doubleday, South Warnborough, Odiham (Cockrobin).

Hunters, four years old.—First prize, £50, F. P. Newton, Malton, York (Golden Plover); second, £25, R. Nelson, Barton Hill House, York (Othello); Commended, F. Barlow, Husketon, Woodbridge (The Shannon).

Hunters, not exceeding, 15.2 hands high, and without condition as to weight.—First prize, £40, J. Cooper, East Haddon, Northampton (April Morn); second £20, Lord Tredegar, Newport, Mounmouth (Merry Step); Commended, A. Achurch, Great Strikely, Huntingdon (Leonora).

Cup for the best horse in any of the hunting classes.—A. J. Brown (Cockney).

Riding horses, of any height exceeding 15.2 hands high.—First prize, £20, A. F. Quentin, Woodleigh, Cheltenham (Kohinoor); second, £10, J. Crossley, Chomeley Park, Highgate (Bolton); third, £5, Allen and Haines, 70, Seymour Place, Bryanstone Square (Prince Imperial). Commended: R. H. Westmorland, Lincoln Lodge, Reigate (Coronet).

Cover hacks and roadsters, weight carriers, not exceeding 15.2 hands high.—First prize, £20, J. Robinson, Coltman Street, Hull (Lady Watton); second, £10, C. Rose (Brown Bell); third, £5, J. Ritchie, The Limes, Finchley (Lincoln).

Park hacks and ladies' horses, not exceeding 15.2 hands high.—First prize, £20, Miss Moffat, 1, Collingham Road, S.W. (Malabar); second, £10, G. Cox, Stamford Street, Blackfriars (Sunbeam); third, £5, C. B. Marley, St. Katherine's Lodge, Regent's Park (Tremaine). Commended: A. T. Hewitt, 38, Gloucester Place, Hyde Park Gardens (Zazel).

Park cobs (high steppers), not exceeding 14.3 hands high.—First prize, £20, W. H. Mawdsley, Sharples, Bolton-le-Moors (Queen of the Fairies); second, £10, B. Holt, Saville Row (Lady Golightly); third, £5, Lady Churchill's (Matchless). Commended: A. R. Adcock (Joco).

Ponies, not exceeding 13.3 hands high, in saddle.—First prize, £15, H. Frisby, James Street, Buckingham Gate (Queen Polo); second, £8, W. Foster, Pontefract (Novelty); third, £5, H. Frisby (Young Bosco).

Harness horses, not exceeding 15.2 hands high.—First prize, £20, Sir N. De Rothschild, Grosvenor Garden<sup>s</sup> (Dame Army); second, £10, J. Hadland, Norwood, Beverley (Something Slap); third, £5, R. Tompkins, Reading (Confidence). Highly commended: C. Rose, (Brown Belle). Commended: J. Rowell, Bury, Huntingdon (Lady Mary).

Harness horses, not exceeding 14.3 hands high, in single harness.—First prize, £20, J. Brown, Penrith (Lady Lonsdale); second, £10, F. Low, Norwich (Lady Sutton); third, £5, H. Frisby, Buckingham Gate, (Rattle). Highly commended: Lady Churchill (Matchless).

Roadster stallions, four years old and upwards.—First prize, £20, The Stand Stud Company, Whitefield<sup>t</sup> Manchester (Star of the East); second, £15, J. Grou<sup>t</sup>

Woodbridge, Suffolk (Delight). Highly commended: W. Flanders, Mildenhall, Suffolk (Reality and Confidence).

Pairs of Phaeton horses, not exceeding 15.2 hands high.—Prize, £25, F. T. Cooper, 131, Piccadilly (Daisy and Brown Bess). Highly commended: B. Holt (Patriarch and Peter), and G. H. Jones, Great Russell Street (Countess and Duchess).

Extra class, same conditions as above.—Prize, £25, H. Frisby's (Eclipse and Echo).

## Agricultural Societies.

### ROYAL OF ENGLAND.

Monthly Council, Wednesday, June 4th, 1879. Present: Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P., Trustee, in the chair; Earl Cathcart, the Earl of Powis, Sir A. K. Macdonald, Bart., Sir Braudreth Gibbs, Mr. Aveling, Mr. Aylmer, Mr. Bowly, Mr. Cantrell, Mr. Chandos-Pole-Gell, Mr. Davies, Mr. Dent, Mr. Druce, Mr. Foster, Mr. Frankish, Mr. Hemsley, Mr. Leeds, Mr. McIntosh, Mr. Martin, Mr. Odams, Mr. Pain, Mr. Randell, Mr. Rawlence, Mr. Russell, Mr. Sheraton, Mr. Shuttleworth, Mr. Stratton, Colonel Picton Turbervill, Mr. Wakefield, Mr. Wells, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wise, Dr. Voelcker, and Professor Simonds.

Mr. J. Lewis Fyche, of Thorpe Hall, Elkington, Louth, was elected a Governor of the Society, and the following new members were elected:—

Alington, Julius, of Little Barford, St. Neots.  
 Allen, William, of Worksp.  
 Arcundale, Frederick, of Bldock, Herts.  
 Arnott, William, jun., of Eynsham, Oxfordshire.  
 Austin, William, of The Tythe, Luton, Beds.  
 Aylmer, George W., of Fincham, Downham, Norfolk.  
 Aylmer, Robert, of Westacre, Swaffham.  
 Bagnall, Thos. jun., of Milton Ernest Hall, Bedford.  
 Baly, John, of Hardingham, Hingham, Norfolk.  
 Barclay, Fredk. John, of The Court, Abermule, Mont.  
 Barnes, Fredk. Dallas, of Harbledown Lodge, Canterbury.  
 Barnett, Charles George, of Kings Beech, Sunningdale, Berks.  
 Barrington, Percy, of Westbury Manor, Brackley, Bucks.  
 Bartrum, Rev. Edward, of King Edward 6th School, Berkhamstead.  
 Baxter, Henry Phelps, of Southall Green Farm, Southall, Middlesex.  
 Beall, John Charles, of Elettsoe Park, Bedford.  
 Bennett, George, of Buckingham.  
 Bennett, John, of Wanstraw, Frome, Somerset.  
 Berridge, Richard James, of Somerton, Deddington.  
 Blasland, Henry E. D., of Westwood Court, Preston, Faversham.  
 Bliss, Stephen Valentine, of Park Farm, Weston Underwood, Newport Pagnell.  
 Boggis, Ernest, of Wormingford, Colchester.  
 Boughton, John H., of Chenies, Rickmansworth.  
 Brooks, William, of Hamm Court, Weybridge Station.  
 Brown, James, of Needingworth, St. Ives, Hunts.  
 Brown, James Clifton, M.P., of Holmbush, Horsham.  
 Brown, William, of Raunds, Thrapston.  
 Browne, George Allenby, of Lungton, Wragby.  
 Buck, E., Commissioner of Agriculture and Trade, North-Western Provinces, Allahabad, India.  
 Burgis, Richard, of Docking, King's Lynn, Norfolk.  
 Barra, Robert, of Frogmore House, St. Alban's.  
 Caldecott, Edwin, jun., of Trueloves, Ingatestone.  
 Castle, Robert, of 18, Merton Street, Oxford.  
 Cathie, Edmund Wm., of Vallance House, Chadwell Heath, Essex.  
 Caton, Henry Cooper, of Clifton, Biggleswade.

Chancellor, Horatio, of Chessington Hall, Chessington, Kingston-on-Thames.  
 Chandler, Joseph, of Albery Farm, Merstham, Red Hill.  
 Charsley, Frederick, of The Lea, Iver, Bucks.  
 Chater, George, of Love Hill House, Langley, Bucks.  
 Chater, John W., of Chippingham Lodge, Slough.  
 Clarke, Thomas, of Ellesborough, Tring.  
 Clutton, Ralph W., of Dovers Lodge, Reigate.  
 Cobon, Charles, of Hockham, Thetford.  
 Cole, Samuel, of Helions, Bumpstead, Haveshill, Essex.  
 Conder, Frederick, of Biggleswade.  
 Cook, George, of Pitwick, Amphill.  
 Coope, Edward J., of Graecieu Manor, Coalville, Leicestershire.  
 Cooper, W. Cooper, of Toddington Manor, Dunstable, Beds.  
 Cope, Charles Henry, of Wigginton Lodge, Tamworth.  
 Crabb, William, of Border Counties Chemical Manure Works, Silloth.  
 Craunfield, George, of Southill, Biggleswade.  
 Cross, G. R., of Taplow, Maidenhead.  
 Crouch, Thomas, of Lidington, Amphill, Beds.  
 Crutchley, Percy Edward, of Sunninghill Park, Berks.  
 Cumberland, John, of Park Square, Luton.  
 Curl, Thomas, of Sedgford, Lynn, Norfolk.  
 Curling, F. W., of Ringshall Farm, Boistall, Rochester.  
 Dainty, Wm., of West Hay, Wansford, Northamptonshire.  
 Darlington, John, of New Buildings, Great Haywood, Staffs.  
 D'vy, Thomas, of Garboldisham, Thetford.  
 Day, Thomas, of Winttingham Hall, St. Neots.  
 Dobinson, Henry, of Stanwick, Carlisle.  
 Durrant, Edwin W., of Wimbotsham, Downham Market.  
 Egle, Francis, of Brightlingsea Hall, Colchester.  
 Earps, Joseph, of East Hall, Weonington, Romford.  
 Ezerton, Herbert, D., of Park Close, Bloxham, Banbury.  
 Errington, Robson, of Scotch Farm, Carlisle.  
 Everist, Richard, of Allhallows, Rochester.  
 Farrey, John, of Harrold Donger, Bedford.  
 Field, Francis Hayward, of 18, Merton Street, Oxford.  
 Fitz Gerald, Richard Purofoy, of North Hall, Preston Candover, Basingstoke.  
 Flaggate, Richard, of Addestone, Weybridge, Surrey.  
 Fiatt, Thomas, of Eastmoor, Stoke Ferry, Brandon.  
 Fiatt, Walter W., of Barton Bendish, Brandon.  
 Follett, Robert W. W., of Woodside, Old Windsor, Windsor.  
 Franklin, Charles, of Marston, Amphill, Beds.  
 Fremantle, Thomas Francis, M.P., of Swanbourne, Winslow, Bucks.  
 Fryer, Thomas, of Westacre, Swaffham.  
 Gardner, Ernest, of Spencers, Maidenhead.  
 Gerrard, John, of Romford.  
 Girling, Thomas, of Frostenden, Wangford, Suffolk.  
 Gladwin, Hamilton Fane, of 30, Walton Street, S.W.  
 Glyn, Richard G., of Leweston, Sherborne, Dorset.  
 Goodboe, W. H., of Doghurst, Harlington, Hounslow.  
 Goodden, John R. P., of Compton House, Sherborne, Dorset.  
 Goring, Charles H., of Shipdham, Thetford.  
 Gostling, Henry V., of Oakley, Bedford.  
 Gouldbourn, Edward, of Wilkesley, Whitechurch, Salop.  
 Gray, John, of Bilton House, Leasbury, Northid.  
 Greaves, R. P., of Grove Hill, Tingewick, Buckingham.  
 Green, Benjamin John, of Greenford, Southall, Middlesex.  
 Greenhouse, Howard, of Bishop's Castle, Salop.  
 Grove, Thomas B., of Watercroft, Penn, Bucks.  
 Gurney, William, of Chalfont St. Giles, Slough.  
 Haggard, Bazett M., of 2, Paper Buildings, Temple, E.C.  
 Hall, Henry Scott, of Dormington Court, Hereford.  
 Harris, William, of Willington, Bedford.  
 Hayward, Edward Walter, of Hardley Hall, Loddon, Norfolk.  
 Headington, Edward C., of Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks.  
 Hedger, Philip, of Southampton Dock, Southampton.  
 Hedges, Herbert, of Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.  
 Henman, Amos, of Elstow, Hardwick, Bedford.  
 Hensman, William, of Winweck, Rugby.  
 Hiatt, T. C., of Quinton House, Chipping Campden, Glos.  
 Hibbert, Leicester, of Chalfont Lodge, Slough.  
 Higgins, W. Francis, of Turvey House, Turvey, Bedford.  
 Hipwell, Wm., of Elmstone Lodge, Bedford.  
 Hill, Daniel, of Greenhill, Harrow.  
 Hill, John, of Felhampton Court, Church Stretton, Salop.  
 Holiushead, John Edward, of Thrales End, St. Albans.  
 Horn, George, of Kempston, Bedford.

- Horn, George, of Clophill, Amptill, Beds.  
 Hughes, John Martin, of Cheues, Rickmansworth.  
 Humphrey, Edward, of Heywood Farm, Maidenhead.  
 Humphreys, Thomas, of Middleton, O. westry  
 Hussey, George Henry, of Plomer Hill House, High Wycombe, Bucks.  
 Hutchings, Thomas of Bryn Enryn, Conway, Denbigh.  
 Ind, Edward Murray, of Great Warley, Brentwood.  
 Inskip, William, of Shefford Hardwicke, Biggleswade.  
 Ives, George, of Bradfield, North Walsham, Norfolk.  
 Jarvis, Sir Lewis W., of Middleton Towers, King's Lynn.  
 Jones, W. H. Quayle, of 12, King's Bench Walk, Temple, E. C.  
 Kinder, John, of Leagrave Hall, Luton, Beds.  
 King, Thomas, of Widmere, Marlow.  
 Kingsnorth, Thomas, of Perry Court, Eaversham.  
 Kirkpatrick, Wm. Henry, of Scalby Grange, Gilberdyke, Brough, Yorks.  
 Lawrence, Arthur, of Great Marlow.  
 Lee, George, of Hall Place Farm, Maidenhead.  
 Lee, Joseph, of Park Farm, Romford.  
 Le Gros, Gervoise, of Seafield, Milbrook, Jersey.  
 Leigh, Levi, of Nantwich.  
 Lester, Thomas Goodman, of Veruey Junction Farm, Winslow, Bucks.  
 Lindsell, Charles Samuel, of Holme, Biggleswade.  
 Lovell, John A. of Elmersham, Bedford.  
 Lovell, Wm., of The Priory Farm, Harrold, Bedford.  
 Lowndes, Wm., of The Bury, Chesham.  
 Madderson, Wm., of Fishburn Ferry Hill, Durham.  
 Major, Richard Hammond, of Langley, Slough.  
 Maldon, James, of Cardington, Bedford.  
 Maldon, John, of Biggleswade.  
 Mann, Robert Wilks, of Whitehall, Hayes, Middlesex.  
 Manning, John, of Tingrith, Woburn, Beds.  
 Marsh, John, of Riseley, Bedford.  
 Marshall, William, of Mere Brow Farm, Weaverham, Cheshire.  
 Marshall, George, of Great Haddam, Ware.  
 Martin, Joseph Critchley, of Narborough Hall, Narborough, Swaffham.  
 Mathew, William, of Knettishall, East Harling, Norfolk.  
 Mayd, William, of Wuthersfield, Newmarket, Suffolk.  
 Mead, William Wells, of Dunton, Winslow, Bucks.  
 Middleton, J. P., of 5, Hare Court, Temple, E.C.  
 Midgeley, Llewellyn, of Wroxton, Banbury.  
 Miles, Henry R., of Ham Green, Pill, Bristol.  
 Mills, John T., of Hyde Farm, Pukney's Green, Maidenhead.  
 Moore, Frank R., of Littlecot, Pewsey, Wilts.  
 Morton, John, of Fence Farm, Stow, Downham.  
 Morton, Joseph, of Stow Bardolph, Downham.  
 Murfet, Thomas W., of Wigganhall, St. Mary's, Lynn, Norfolk.  
 Nellist, Thomas, of Crundalls, Bewdley.  
 Newman, Robert, of Harlington, Hounslow, Middlesex.  
 Norton, Marcus, of Bishop's Castle, Salop.  
 Omond, T S., of St. John's College, Oxford.  
 Osborn, Sir George Robert, Bart., of Chicksand's Priory, Biggleswade.  
 Page, Samuel K., of Aylesbury, Bucks.  
 Palmer, Samuel, of Bruntsfield House, 60, Finchley Road, N.  
 Parsons, J. E., of Charwelton, Daventry.  
 Patisson, Jacob L., of Clandeboye, Co. Down, Ireland.  
 Paxton, Jonas, of Bicester, Oxfordshire.  
 Peel, Arthur Wellesley, of Sandy, Beds.  
 Perry, Wm., of Clement's Hall, Hawkwell, Rochford.  
 Peto, William, jun., of Cannon Court, Maidenhead.  
 Pick, William John, of Bedford.  
 Pigott, Paynton, of Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich.  
 Plozman, Thomas F., of 65, Corn Market Street, Oxford.  
 Porter, Thomas Stewart, of Clogher Park, Clogher, Co. Tyrone.  
 Powers, E. F., of St. Andrew's, Biggleswade.  
 Powers, Hugh Edward, of Riverford, Biggleswade.  
 Pritchard, John, of Llandaff, Cardiff.  
 Proctor, James, Ivinghoe, Aston, Trin.  
 Quint, Samuel, 65, Commercial Road, Mile End, Old Town, E.  
 Ramgill, Samuel S., of Ringway, Altringham.  
 Randall, Thomas Gurney, of England Lane, Belsize Road, Hampstead, N.W.  
 Rathdonnell, Lord, of Lisnavagh, Tullow, Carlow, Ireland.  
 Reed, Thomas C., of Manor House, Newington, Sittingbourne.  
 Reid, Thomas, of Clifton Reynes, Olney, Bucks.  
 Reynold, John, of 121, Kennington Road, S.E.  
 Richmond, W. C., of Tabley Estate Office, Knutsford.  
 Ridgway, Thomas, of Bourton Grounds, Bockingham.  
 Rimell, Wm., of Court House, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.  
 Ripley, Henry W., of Acacia, Apperley, Leeds.  
 Robertson, G. C., of Widmerpool Hall, Nottingham.  
 Rose, Wm. M., of Woolston Heath, Rugby.  
 Round, George C., of Little Bealings, Woodbridge.  
 Round, James, of Birch, Colchester.  
 Rundle, Edward, of Deer Park Lodge, Tavistock.  
 Russell, George P., of Manor House, Plumstead, Kent.  
 Ryde, Charles Bertram, of Poundfield House, Woking, Surrey.  
 Sanctuary, Ven. Archdeacon, of Powerstock, Bridport, Dorset.  
 Sanders, Edward, of Woburn, Beds.  
 Sanders, George Walker, of H. ynes, Bedford.  
 Saul, Joseph, of The Farns, Abbey Town, Cumberland.  
 Saunders, J. H., of The Shrubbery, Uxbridge, Middlesex.  
 Scroggs Wm., of Kidlington, Oxford.  
 Sewell, Wm., of North Pickenham, Swaffham.  
 Seymour, Richard, jun., of Langley Broom, Slough.  
 Shuckel, Robert F., of West Hyde Lodge, Rickmansworth.  
 Sharp, Henry, of Frogg Mill Farm, Hurley, Marlow.  
 Simpson, William Thomas, of Old Buckingham, Attleborough.  
 Sladen, P. F., of Hartsbourne Manor, Watford.  
 Smith, David Thomas, of Woolton Court, Littlebourne, Wingham.  
 Smith, Henry, of Great Bardfield, Braintree, Essex.  
 Smith, Jonathan, of Sipson, Slough.  
 Smith, Stephen, of Hambleton, Henley on-Thames.  
 Smith, Thomas H., of Iver, Uxbridge, Middlesex.  
 Solomon, Joseph, of Ifield, Gravesend.  
 Sorby, Richard, of Narford, Swaffham.  
 Spalton, Francis Pearson, of Upper Haugh, Rotherham.  
 Spalton, Arthur Wm., of Upper Haugh, Rotherham.  
 Spelman, J. Jarvis, of Tivet's Hall, St. Margaret's, Soole.  
 Stanley, Wm. Arthur, of East Farleigh, Maidstone.  
 Stileman-Gibbard, L. G., of Sharnbrook, Bedford.  
 Stocks, Michael, of Woodhall, Hilgay, Norfolk.  
 Stride, Charles, jun., of West Lavant Farm, Chichester.  
 Street, Thomas, of Cople, Bedford.  
 Stuckley, Sir George, Bart., of Moreton, Bideford.  
 Sauderland, Major Thomas Joseph, of Ravensden Grange, Bedford.  
 Swaffield, Henry Richard J., of Park Farm, Amptill, Beds.  
 Swincoerton, Joseph, of Cauldwell, Burton-on-Trent.  
 Tacchi, J., of Beckerings Park, Woburn, Beds.  
 Talbot, Alfred, of Ditton Farm, Windsor.  
 Tavistock, Marquis of, of Woburn Abbey, Beds.  
 Taylor, Edward Sidney, of Epperstone, Nottingham.  
 Taylor, John, of Old Rowney, Shefford, Beds.  
 Thwaites, Arthur, of 1, Lawrence Lane, Cheapside, E.C.  
 Tinniswood, Robert, of Rose Bank, Dalston, Cumberland.  
 Tippler, William, of Dukes Roxwell, Chelmsford.  
 Torr, Edward R. V., of Westleigh House, Bideford, Devon.  
 Trow, William, of Ismere House, Kilderminster.  
 Trueit, Henry P., of Clonmannon, Ashford, Co. Wicklow.  
 Turner, Charles, of Royal Nurseries, Slough.  
 Ververs, John Edwards, of Varkhill Court, Hereford.  
 Wade, Samuel, of Utinton Hall, Tarpotrey, Cheshire.  
 Walcott, Lyons R. S., of Garvey Lodge, Maidenhead.  
 Walker, D., of Panxworth, Norwich.  
 Ward, Henry C., of Stanwell, Staines.  
 Walter, John, M.P., of Bearwood, Wokingham.  
 Watney, James, jun., of Thorney House, Palace Gate, Kennington, S.W.  
 Webster, Richard, of Shottesbrook, Maidenhead.  
 Wells, George Samuel, of Abb Kettleby, Melton Mowbray.  
 Whitbread, Samuel, of 10, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.  
 Whitworth, Spedding, of Wath-upon-Dearne, Rotherham.  
 Williams, Theodore E., of Salterley Grange, Cheltenham.  
 Willis, Thomas Price, of The Elms, Winslow, Bucks.  
 Wigg, Wright H., of East Dereham, Norfolk.

Wilkin, Jason, of Hayes, Uxbridge.  
Wood, William G., of Morston, East Dereham.  
Worley, John, of Brize Norton (Oxon), Faringdon, Berks.  
Wroughton, Philip, of Woolley Park, Wantage.  
York, Thomas, of Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell.

The names of candidates for membership having been read, it was moved by Mr. CANTRELL, seconded by Mr. WAKEFIELD, and carried unanimously.—

That the candidates for election as members of the Society, whose names have just been read, shall be entitled to the privilege of membership at the London Exhibition, on paying their subscriptions for 1879, and signing the usual conditions.

## FINANCE.

Mr. RANDELL presented the Report, from which it appeared that the Secretary's receipts during the past month had been duly examined by the Committee, and by Messrs. Quilter, Ball & Co., the Society's accountants, and found correct. The balance at the Banker's on May 31 was £5,258 17s. 10d. This report was adopted.

## JOURNAL.

Mr. DENT (chairman) reported that Mr. Clare Sewell Read, M.P., having written to the Secretary that in consequence of the lateness of the season it will be impossible for the Judges to make a satisfactory report on the Sewage Farms as early as July, the Committee recommended that the Judges should exercise their own discretion as to the time of making their report, as it is most desirable that the inspection should be thorough, but at the same time they would be glad to see the report, if possible, at or before the Council meeting on the 5th of August. The Committee had postponed the consideration of the question of reports on the Australian and American cattle-producing districts.

In presenting this report, Mr. DENT said that the Council had by no means neglected questions connected with food supply from America. In the volume of the *Journal* for 1877 there appeared reports on the "American and Canadian Meat Trade," by Mr. Sheldon, on the "American Cattle Trade," by Professor Alvord, and on "The Philadelphia Exhibition," by Mr. Coleman; while in 1871 the *Journal* contained a paper by Mr. Willard on "American Butter Factories," and another the following year on "Milk Condensing and Dairying," by the same gentleman. At the same time, the Committee would be very glad, if they had money at their disposal, to send qualified commissioners both to America and Australia; indeed, they had received an offer from a gentleman to visit the latter country, but at the present time the Committee could not recommend the Council to vote the necessary funds. The Committee, therefore, very reluctantly postponed the consideration of the subject.

Colonel KINGSCOTE said he was glad to hear the statement which had been made by Mr. Dent, because it so happened that several gentlemen had recently come to him, urging him to bring the matter before the *Journal* Committee; but he had replied that such an exhaustive inquiry could not at present be undertaken.

The report of the Committee was adopted, after Mr. Dent, as Chairman of the Committee, had obtained authority to print 500 copies of the last number of the *Journal* in addition to the 8,000 which had been previously ordered, in consequence of the large accessions to the list of members.

## CHEMICAL.

Mr. WELLS (chairman) reported that Dr. Voelcker had presented his quarterly report, and that the Committee had ordered five cases to be printed for further consideration. The Woburn sub-committee had received Mr. Paine's valuation and inventory of the live and dead farming stock and acts of cultivation at Crawley Mill Farm and the Experimental field, near Woburn, accompanied by the following letter:—

GENTLEMEN,—On looking over the farm I find it very much improved—so much so that I was quite astonished, considering the difficult season we have had, the land all clean and the crops looking well, the experimental field much cleaner than last year.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant, JABEZ PAINE.

This report was adopted; and on the motion of Mr. WELLS, Mr. Davies was added to the Committee.

## LONDON EXHIBITION.

Lieut.-Col. TURBENVILL reported the recommendations of the Committee with reference to agencies for the sale of season and other tickets of admission to the Exhibition, and with regard to the appointment of a purveyor of corn and meal. The Committee recommended that the English Cart-horse Society be allowed to hold their annual meeting in the showyard, provided that the necessary arrangements can be made to avoid clashing with other meetings. The Committee further recommended that an application be made to the Lord Mayor for a further sum of £2,000 from the Mansion House Committee Fund, towards defraying the expenses already incurred on the Exhibition. The sum of £26 17s. 6d. had been received from Mr. Holmes-Pegler, being the amount of subscriptions collected by him towards the goat prizes, after payment of the necessary expenses.

This report was adopted.

## VETERINARY.

Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B., M.P., reported that there were no reports on cases investigated during the last month from the Royal Veterinary College. A letter had been received from Dr. Burdon Sanderson, informing the Committee that owing to Dr. Greenfield not having been able to obtain material for prosecuting experiments on anthrax, nothing has been carried out in this direction. The Committee recommended that the Metropolitan Board of Works be communicated with in reference to obtaining information relative to outbreaks of disease of animals in the metropolis; and that a copy of the rules and regulations guiding the examinations for prizes and medals for proficiency in cattle pathology be forwarded to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland and the Secretary of the Highland Society, together with an explanatory letter suggesting that the prizes should be open to students from all parts of the United Kingdom, and inviting their co-operation to carry this into effect. Professor Simonds had reported that experiments were being carried on at the Royal Veterinary College with respect to the disease which is known by the name of Trichinosis.

This report was adopted.

## SHOWYARD CONTRACTS.

Mr. JACOB WILSON (Chairman) reported that the showyard works were well forward, notwithstanding the weather, and that the work of covering in the sheds has commenced; and he also presented the recommendations of the Committee in reference to various matters of detail.

Mr. WILSON added that, so far as the erection of the shedding and other buildings is concerned, the work is about completed, and although the showyard was exceptionally large, the arrangements had never before been so nearly completed at the corresponding date.

This report was adopted.

## SEEDS AND PLANT DISEASES.

Lieut.-Col. TURBENVILL reported that some letters from the Foreign Office, relative to destructive insects found in a portion of the Island of Cyprus, and reports thereon from Mr. Carruthers, which had been already forwarded to the Government, had been laid before the Committee. The Consulting Botanist reported that he had placed the original drawings of the growth of wheat and of its diseases, made by Mr. Bauer, in one of the exhibition rooms of the Botanical Department of the British

Museum, believing that it will there be of especial interest to many agriculturists who will visit London at the time of the International Exhibition.

This report was adopted.

With reference to the suggestion made by Mr. W. Yates Freebody at the General Meeting of Members on May 22nd, "That the Council instruct qualified Commissioners to obtain, and then to publish, separate reliable reports as to the corn-growing and meat-raising capabilities of America, Canada, Russia, India, Australia, and New Zealand, in regard to the probable supply of food intended for the English market."

The Earl of Powis said that Mr. Dent had already stated that at the present moment it would not be convenient for the Society to undertake any great expense upon such an investigation; and he reminded the Council that the annual reports sent from each of our colonies to the Colonial Secretary, and which are printed as Parliamentary Blue-books, give considerable information as to their progress in both corn-growing and meat-producing. It could scarcely be expected that the Council should send a commissioner every year to look round those different countries and colonies, to see the special prospects of the harvests in the same manner that a great brewer sends his agent round to Suffolk and Norfolk, to see how the barley is looking. He thought the American newspapers generally tell us a good deal of the state of the crops in the United States; but perhaps some member of the House of Commons might speak on the subject to the Secretary for the Colonies, and ask if any statistics could be got for the present year as to corn and cattle.

Mr. DENT said that something more than mere statistics was required. What was really desired was an account of the state of the corn and cattle-producing districts, dealing with their capabilities, the question of freights, and in fact an exhaustive inquiry into the whole matter. From this point of view the subject had been under the consideration of the *Journal* Committee for a considerable time, as he had previously stated. However, the home Government was in the habit of receiving reports on the state of each colony, and there might be information with respect to the American corn trade in those reports, with which neither the public nor the Society were acquainted.

Earl CATHCART agreed with the remarks of Lord Powis, and felt so strongly on this subject that he would like every half-yearly *Journal* to contain some reference to the information contained in these Blue-books.

After a further conversation, in which Col. Kingscote, Mr. Randell, the Earl of Powis, and Mr. Dent took part, it was unanimously resolved, "That Mr. Freebody's suggestion be referred to the *Journal* Committee."

In reference to Mr. Mechi's suggestion, "That the Council send lecturers into country districts to teach the Principles of Agriculture," it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Dent, seconded by Mr. Hemsley, "That under present circumstances the Council do not think it desirable to carry out Mr. Mechi's suggestion."

The Council then adjourned till 2.30 on Wednesday, July 2nd, in the showyard at Kilburn, it being arranged that special meetings of the Council should also be held at 3 p.m. on each day during the Exhibition.

#### BRITISH DAIRY FARMERS'

The Monthly Council was held at the Offices, 446, Strand, on Tuesday, the 3rd ult.—Present: Mr. E. C. Tisdall (in the chair), Messrs. T. Nuttall, Garrett Taylor, John Treadwell, A. Tisdall, J. Hoddinott, J. Welford, Gilbert Murray, W. Freeman, W. Everard, H. Simmons, R. Dale, Professor J. W. Axe, and H. S. Holmes Pegler (Hon. Sec.).

#### NEW MEMBERS.

The following were elected members of the Association:—

Corbett, James Richard, More Place, Betchworth, Surrey.  
 Greatorex, Joseph, Stretton, near Burton-on-Trent.  
 Lofft, Robert Emlyn, Troston Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.  
 Tilleard, Fredk. D., Grange Club, Guernsey.

Mr. Alfred Gilbey was elected a life member.

#### DAIRY SHOW.

It was proposed to fix the date for holding the fourth annual Dairy Show at the Agricultural Hall for October 13th and four subsequent days, the entries to close September 13th. It was decided to receive post entries on payment of an additional fee for one week later, but on no account whatever to accept any entry after the 20th.

The Report of the Prize List Committee was read and discussed at length, and after various modifications unanimously adopted.

A letter was read from Mr. M. Walker, of Chaddesden, Derby, recommending the introduction of classes for pigs. After due discussion it was considered impossible to carry this out for want of sufficient accommodation, the Council being desirous of extending the operations of cheese and butter making at the show by offering greater advantages and facilities to exhibitors. The suggestion was, therefore, rejected.

A proposition to reduce the entry fees of stock and dairy produce by 25 per cent. to members of the Association was unanimously adopted.

The arrangements for a poultry show were left to be decided by the Prize List Committee at a future meeting.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A DAIRY SCHOOL.

Mr. Gilbert Murray's motion for the establishment of a dairy school was, in consequence of the lateness of the hour, adjourned to the next meeting, as was also Professor Axe's motion for the appointment of a scientific committee.

The meeting adjourned at eight o'clock.

#### HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL.

The monthly meeting of the directors of this Society was held on Tuesday, June 3, in their Chambers, No. 3, George IV. Bridge. Present:—The Hon. George Waldegrave Leslie, Sir George Douglas Clerk of Penicuik, Bart.; Sir John Majoribanks of Lees, Bart.; Sir James R. Gibson-Maitland of Cliftonhall, Bart.; Mr. Graham Binny, W.S.; Mr. Diekson, of Corstorphine; Mr. Dingwall, Ramornie; Mr. Ferguson, Kinlochery; Mr. Gillon of Wallhouse, Mr. Hendrie of Larbert, Mr. Hope, Duddingston; Mr. Irvine of Drum, Mr. Kirkwood, Killermont; Mr. Maekenzie of Portmore, Mr. Milne, Niddrie Mains; Mr. Plummer of Sunderland Hall, Mr. Ritchie of Middleton, Mr. Ross, Bachilton; Mr. Smith, Stevenson Mains; Mr. Smith, Whittinghame; Mr. Walker of Bowland, C.B.; Professor Wilson, and Dr. Aitken. Mr. F. N. Menzies reported apologies for the absence of the Earl of Strathmore, Lord Polwarth, Sir Robert Menzies of Menzies, Bart.; Mr. Copland, Milton of Ardlethen; Mr. Kennedy (of Sundaywell), Brandleys; Mr. Murray of Dolerie, Mr. Oswald of Dunnikeir, and Mr. Young of Cleish.

Before proceeding with the business on the programme, the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—

#### THE LATE MR. SETON WIGHTMAN OF COURANCE.

"That the directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland desire to express their deep and sincere regret at the loss which the society has sustained by the death of Mr. James Seton Wightman of Courance, cou-

vener of the county of Dumfries, one of their number, and their sense of the cordial assistance rendered by him as a director of the society."

#### THE LATE CAPTAIN TOD OF HOWDEN.

A letter was read from Mr. William Tod of Heathery Haugh, returning his sincere thanks to the directors for the expression of their sense of the services rendered to the society by the late Captain Tod.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

The list of candidates for election at the general meeting on the 18th current was submitted, and the secretary intimated that additional names could be received up till the morning of the meeting.

#### GENERAL MEETING.

The programme of business to be brought before the half-yearly general meeting of the society on the 18th was arranged as follows:—Election of members; arrangements for the general shows at Perth 1879, and Kelso 1880; motion by the Hon. George Waldegrave Leslie in regard to the society's hall and chambers; reports by convener and Dr. Aitken on the chemical department; report of examinations for agricultural certificates and diploma; report of examinations for veterinary certificates; transactions for 1879.

#### PERTH SHOW.

The SECRETARY stated that all entries of implements must be made on or before the 6th current, and that as Friday, the 13th current was the last day for lodging certificates of stock, he would attend at the Royal George Hotel, Perth, on that day to receive entries, and to close the list.

#### DEPUTATION TO EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

The Secretary (Mr. Menzies) was instructed to inform the secretary (Mr. Jenkins) of the Royal Agricultural Society of England that the directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland purpose sending a small deputation to London to visit specially the great agricultural exhibition at London at the end of this month.

#### NEW ZEALAND STUD-BOOK, ETC.

A letter was submitted from Mr. Robert Wilkin, 4, Langlands Place, Dumfries, sending, at the request of the president of the Agricultural and Pastoral Association of Canterbury, a copy of the first volume of the New Zealand Draught Horse Stud-Book, being the first draught horse stud-book published in the colony.

A letter was also reported from Professor Lorimer, sending copies of his pamphlet on the Fixity of Tenure.

The SECRETARY stated that he had already, in name of the directors, thanked Mr. Wilkin and Professor Lorimer.

#### SHORTHORN.

A meeting of the Council of this Society was held at the Society's Rooms, 12, Hanover Square, W., on Tuesday, the 3rd ult. Present: Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P. (vice-president), in the chair, the Earl of Bective, M.P., Colonel Gunter, Mr. Hugh Aylmer, Mr. H. W. Beauford, Mr. Edward Bowly, Mr. H. Chandos-Pole-Gell, Mr. W. Talbot Crosbie, Mr. J. W. Crnickshank, Mr. S. P. Foster, Mr. D. McLutosh, Rev. T. Staunforth, and Mr. Jacob Wilson.

The following new members were elected:—Darling, John, Beau Desert, Rugeley, Staffs. Graves, Septimus Perry, Sontham, Warwickshire. Seoby, George, Beadlam Grange, Nawton, York. Walker, William Thomlinson, Clifton Grove, York. Wright, William, Wollston, Nottingham.

#### EDITING COMMITTEE.

Colonel KINGSCOTE reported that the Committee had very carefully considered the resolution passed by the

Council in May last to insert foreign pedigrees in an appendix in the Herd Book, and were of opinion that it would work disadvantageously. The Committee therefore recommended that they be entered in the ordinary course in the Herd Book, but with a distinguishing mark attached to such pedigrees, and that a note signifying this be placed at the commencement of the list of Bulls and Cows in each volume. That in accordance with the directions of the Committee at the last meeting, the Secretary had sent out the new forms of certificate—as to dates of birth of dams, &c.—to those breeders and owners entering animals whose pedigrees have never before been recorded in the Herd Book, and these forms had been returned. The Committee having considered several pedigrees of this nature, had given some latitude in those cases where the breeder was unable to furnish all the particulars asked for, but who had given satisfactory proof of the authenticity of the pedigrees of the animals proposed to be entered. That the Committee recommended that several books of reference be purchased for the use of the Society at a cost not exceeding £5.

This report was adopted.

Mr. H. CHANDOS-POLE-GELL announced that with reference to the purchase of several works of reference, he should be very pleased to present the Society with a copy of the late Rev. John Storer's work on the "Wild White Cattle of Great Britain."

#### GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Mr. JACOB WILSON reported that the accounts for the month of May had been examined by Messrs. Quilter, Ball & Co., and the Committee, and were found to be correct; that the Secretary's petty cash account had been examined and passed, and showed an expenditure of £11 6s. 9d. during the past month. That the receipts for the same period had been £95 1s.; the balance of the Society's current account at the bankers' being £702 12s. 2d. That the annual audit of the Society's accounts to 31st December, 1878, was held on the 27th ultimo, and that an abstract of the cash account and a copy of the balance-sheet were now laid on the table. That the Committee recommended that £300 be placed on deposit; also that a plate, a sketch of which was submitted by the Secretary, for a new cheque book, be supplied, and that cheques be drawn for various accounts and salaries amounting to £275. That they had had before them the final revise of the proposed alterations in the Articles of Association, which they had approved of. That the Committee further recommended, that Bye-law No. 7 be amended, so that for the future it should stipulate that the Volumes of the Herd Book purchased by Members shall be for their own use or private purposes, and not for sale.

This report was adopted.

The following report was presented by the Vice-President:—

#### EXCESSIVE CHARGES FOR CONVEYANCE OF STOCK BY RAILWAY COMPANIES.

I beg to report to the Council that in compliance with the expression of their wishes at the meeting held on the 6th of May last, I have, both personally and in conjunction with Mr. Harward, brought this subject under the notice of the various railway companies.

Immediately after the Council meeting, Mr. Harward and myself had a long interview with Mr. Grierson, the General Manager of the Great Western Railway, putting before him the fact that the present high rate of charges for conveyance of cattle in horse-boxes was exercising a prohibitory effect upon the sales of pure-bred animals throughout the kingdom, and greatly retarding the development of the traffic in all superior classes of stock, both as to purchasing at sales and privately, and also in sending cows for service to distant bulls, thus injuring both the railway companies and the agricultural interest. To meet this difficulty I suggested to Mr. Grierson the desirability of special cattle boxes, which

should not be padded, being constructed for this class of traffic. He remarked that it was a current opinion amongst railway companies that the traffic was not sufficient to justify a special provision for it. I thereupon pointed out to him that this class of traffic was not only now very considerably increased, but was daily increasing, and was also greatly augmented by the large number of agricultural shows held throughout the kingdom, valuable animals being sent to them from every quarter. Mr. Grierson kindly promised to bring the subject prominently before his Directors, and represent to them fully the statements I had made on behalf of the Society.

For the satisfaction of the Council I may state that I have also had both interviews and communications with Mr. Allport, General Manager of the Midland Railway; Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., Chairman of the Great Western Railway; Lord Richard Grosvenor, M.P., a Director of the London and North Western Railway; the Great Northern Railway, through Lord Colville, Deputy Chairman; Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., Chairman of the South Eastern Railway; Mr. J. P. Knight, Manager, London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway; Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., Vice Chairman Great Eastern Railway.

Mr. Hine has also forwarded to all the principal Railway Companies a letter and a copy of the minute passed at the last Council Meeting upon this matter.

Numerous letters have been received by myself, Mr. Harward, and the Secretary, and a precis of the correspondence is annexed to this report.

I would strongly urge the Council to bring the matter before the next general meeting of the Society, and at that meeting to pass a resolution recommending the railway companies—

1. To provide special cattle-boxes for this class of traffic, the internal fittings of which should permit of the cleansing, &c., required by the Privy Council to be easily carried out, provision being made in such boxes for the accommodation of the servant who has charge of the cattle.

2. That the existing privilege of horse-boxes travelling with passenger trains should be extended to this new class of cattle-boxes.

3. That a more equitable and uniform scale of charges should be adopted jointly by the various railway companies (and instructions thereon given to their agents at every station).

This uniform scale of charges to be in force whether the animal is conveyed over the lines of one or more railway companies.

(Signed) NIGEL KINGSCOTE.

On the motion of Mr. H. CHANDOS-POLE-GELL, seconded by Mr. E. Bowly, it was resolved unanimously—

That the foregoing report be received and adopted, and that the subject be brought before the next general meeting of members.

On the motion of the Earl of BECTIVE, M.P., seconded by Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B., M.P., it was resolved—

That the Council of the Shorthorn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, having reason to fear that attempts are likely to be made to introduce Shorthorns with fabricated pedigrees into Belgium, we think it desirable to draw the attention of the authorities of Belgium to their suspicions, with the view of protecting buyers, and prosecuting the authors of such frauds. They send out this notice, and hereby invite all persons to assist them in their efforts, and to send to the Council at once any information which can be obtained as to any such fraud, and the names of any persons aiding and abetting therein.

At the request of the Council, the Vice-President agreed to forward a letter to the British Minister at Brussels, enclosing him a copy of the foregoing resolution, and asking him to bring it before the proper authorities.

On the motion of the Rev. T. STANFORTH, it was resolved that the following addition should be made to the Bye laws.

That the wives and husbands of deceased members, upon being themselves elected members, shall be exempted from the payment of the entrance fee of one guinea.

It being necessary, under the Companies' Acts, 1862-7, that a *second* general meeting of members should be held at an interval of not less than fourteen days, nor more than one month, from the date of the first meeting, for the purpose of confirming the resolutions of the *first* meeting as to alterations of articles, the Council resolved that the Second General Meeting should be held at the Society's rooms, 12, Hanover Square, Middlesex, on Wednesday, the 23d of July, at 12.45 p.m.

On the motion of Mr. JACOB WILSON, seconded by the Rev. T. STANFORTH, it was unanimously resolved—

That Mr. E. W. Meade-Waldo of Stonewall Park, Ederbridge, Kent (a life member of the Society), be selected to be the 33rd member of the Council, under the proposed alteration of the Articles of Association, increasing the number of the Council from 32 to 33.

The draft of the Report of the Council to the Annual General Meeting of Members was read and adopted.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Wednesday, the 23rd of July, at 12 noon.

### ENGLISH CART-HORSE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Council of this Society was held on Tuesday, June 3rd, at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn. Present—Earl Spencer (vice-president) in the chair; the Hon. E. Coke, Sir W. B. Ffolkes, Bart., Major Dashwood, Mr. Walter Gilbey, Mr. F. Street, Mr. G. Street, Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Garrett Taylor, and Mr. G. M. Sexton, Secretary.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society:—

Mr. Christopher Parson, Horseheath, Cambs.  
Messrs. J. and W. Birch, Sefton, Liverpool.  
Mr. John Hollingworth, Weston-on-Trent, Derby.

After the minutes of last Council had been read and confirmed,

The SECRETARY presented a requisition from Mr. Thomas A. Spencer, of Clavering Hall, Essex, with signatures of 112 members, requesting the Council to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members, for the object of considering the expediency of altering the name of the Society.

The subject was discussed, and it was thought the Wednesday of the Royal Show week would be the most suitable time, and the secretary was requested to communicate with the secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society with a view to obtain a room to hold a meeting on the Royal Show ground. The Secretary read several letters upon the subject *pro* and *con*, and also inquiring if proxies would be allowed to vote.

Rule 33 of the Articles of Association provides that all questions and matters of this kind shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members "actually present."

Mr. F. STREET called attention to the fact that the Royal Society and other Societies in England offered distinct prizes for Clydesdale horses, but that the Highland Society of Scotland did not allow English horses to compete for their prizes, nor offer any special prizes for them. As no formal notice of the question had been given, it was left open for further consideration, the general opinion being that at some future time the attention of the Highland Society should be drawn to the matter.

The Hon. E. COKE, chairman of the Editing Committee, stated that the pedigrees of upwards of 2,000 stallions had been through the printer's hands, and that about 500 more had been received since notice had been given

by advertisement that entries for the first volume of the Stud-book closed April 30th. Therefore, a great deal of the time of the committee would now be occupied in revising the work ready for publication.

At the same time the Council thought that perhaps many persons who were not members of the Society had not noticed the advertisement, and having valuable stallions would probably become members at once and enter their horses, and by signifying the same to the secretary their entries could be received if sent at once. Forms for the purpose and all particulars on application to the secretary, Mr. G. M. Sexton, Wherstead Hall, Ipswich.

## ROYAL CORNWALL.

### MEETING AT FALMOUTH.

This show was opened on June 11th, and there was a good attendance. The *West Briton* says:—The show of cattle, in some respects, was not nearly equal to that of last year, but in others it was very superior indeed. In Devon bulls Viscount Falmouth had it all his own way. His four-year-old bull "Sirloin," which obtained the prize at Exmouth, and many other prizes elsewhere, was the only entry in his class, and in the second class, three-year-olds he was again the only competitor. Both were awarded first prizes. In class 3, for bulls not exceeding two years old, his lordship was also first. He had two bulls entered for this class, but sent one only, and Mr. W. Perry, of Alder, Lew Down, who had entered his "Druid," did not put in an appearance. The second prize went to Mr. R. Julian, of Grampond, but curious enough this same bull, "Master Stowey" by name, beat Lord Falmouth's at Exeter, which shows the difference of opinion amongst judges. In the yearlings Lord Falmouth had two entries out of the three; but Mr. Julian here beat him, and carried off the premier honours. Mr. Julian was without a competitor in Devon cows exceeding three years old, Mr. Perry's cow not being sent in. In Devon heifers not exceeding two years old Mr. John Tremayne, M.P., beat Mr. Julian, but there was no other competitor. In yearling heifers Mr. Tremayne was the only exhibitor. The shorthorns were much better represented, especially the younger classes. In old bulls, of which there were three entered, Mr. T. Blancy, Veyan, beat Mr. Whitford, of St. Erme, and Mr. W. Chapman, Gerrans, with his "Master Frederick," was first in two-year-old bulls, Mr. Tyacke, of Merthen, coming second. Mr. Trethewey, of Tre-goose, Probus, had the premier honour in bulls not exceeding two years old on 1st June; Messrs. Hoskens "Lord Oxford" not having been sent. There was a capital class of yearling bulls, there being nine entries. The heifers not exceeding one year old formed about the finest class we have seen for a very long time. There were twelve altogether, and they were so even a lot that it required a very minute examination to decide upon the prize animals, but, after a long scrutiny, the judges decided on giving the prize to Messrs. Hoskens's "Rose of Oxford" 4th, aged ten months. One of the special features in the cattle show was the large entry of Herefords. It is but a few years ago that the association agreed to award prizes to this class of animals, so few were there of them in the county. They have grown very rapidly into favour in the county, and they form almost the best class in the show. The Guernseys and the Jerseys were never so strongly represented in Cornwall as on this occasion.

There was a very good show of sheep, especially of South Downs. In the yearling Leicester rams the competition lay between Mr. J. Rosewarne, Nanspaker,

Mr. P. Thomson, Cuby, and Mr. W. Tremaine, Polsue. There were eleven entries, and although the competition was strong the whole three prizes was awarded to Mr. Tremaine, who is successfully keeping up the stock left by his late father, who was so well known as a most successful breeder of Leicesters. For Leicester rams of any other age he obtained first and second prize, and obtained the special prize, and for yearling ewes he had similar honours, but in this class there was no competition. There were no less than fifteen entries of South Down yearling rams, and the competition was very close. Mr. J. N. Davies, of Mawgan, Helston, had three fine rams, but he failed to get a prize, Mr. R. B. Trant, Tregill House, Menheuiot, getting 1st and 2nd. There were three entries of rams of any other age, and here Mr. Henry Williams, Lanreath, took the first place. Sir J. H. Amory, Bart., M.P., Tiverton, obtained the chief honour in the long wool yearling rams, but Mr. W. Drakes, Warbstow, beat him in rams of any other age, taking 1st and 2nd. In yearling ewes, however, the baronet again stood at the top of the list. In Shropshire Downs Viscout Falmouth carried off all the prizes in yearling rams and ewes, but he was the only competitor, and Mr. J. T. Hearle, St. Anthony, was the only competitor in the class rams of any other age.

The show of horses was pronounced to be the best ever seen at any county show in Cornwall, and one of the judges remarked that he had not seen such a show out of Lincolnshire or Yorkshire. For agricultural mares and foals there were six entries, and Mr. S. T. Tregaskis took the first place. There were seven entries of agricultural geldings or fillies foaled in 1876, and the first prize was awarded to Mr. T. Ruddle, St. Columb Minor. Mr. J. K. Martyn, St. Enoder, carried off the premier honour for agricultural geldings or fillies foaled in 1877 against five other competitors. There were nine entries of hacks and hunters, a very good class, and Mr. Wesley Stephens' mare was decided to be the best of the lot. There were six mares or geldings foaled in 1873, and Mr. T. O. Bice, St. Columb, got the first prize, and Mr. Grigg, of Creed, had a like honour in the class mares or geldings foaled in 1876, calculated for hacks, and he held the same position in the next class, mares or geldings foaled in 1877 calculated for hunters, in which there were eleven competitors. Mr. N. J. West, Hayle, took the place of honour in the class of mares and geldings foaled in 1877, calculated for hacks. Mr. E. Symons, of Minver, was first for colts, geldings, or fillies foaled in 1878. Mr. R. F. Stephens, St. Austell, had the best five-year-old hunter in the field up to 1½ stone, and the best up to 12 stone, and in the latter class there were thirteen entries. Mr. Richard Quick, Pendeen, had the best five-year-old hack up to 13 stone, there were eight entries here.

There was a very fair show of pigs, but there was nothing very remarkable about them except that they seemed, as usual, to be very fat and lazy. Lord Moreton, Gloucester, was the largest exhibitor, and he was first in large breed boars and in pens of two breeding sows of the same litter. In small breeds he was not so successful, Mr. T. Salmon, St. Columb, carrying off the chief honours.

### THE PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES.—CATTLE.—John Nicholls, Altarnun; J. Mappowder, Blandford; W. Faulkner, Rothersthorpe, Northampton; W. T. Gibbs, Manor House, Cothelstone, Taunton; J. R. Newberry, Mill Barton, Heavitree, Exeter. SHEEP AND PIGS.—R. Corner, Torweston, Williton, Taunton; T. Potter, Yellowford, Collumpton. HORSES.—Whitford, Trehane, St. Erme; W. Riddall, Lunceston; Col. H. A. F. Luttrell, Badgworth Court, Axbridge, Somerset; E. Aldridge, Chippenham Court, Slough, Berks. IMPLEMENTS.—Mr. Short, Fowey.

CATTLE.  
DEVONS.

Bulls, exceeding three years old.—First prize, £10, Viscount Falmouth, Tregothnan.

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years.—Prize, £10, Viscount Falmouth.

Bulls not exceeding two years.—First prize, £8, Viscount Falmouth; second, £5, R. Julian, Gargass, Gramppound.

Bulls not exceeding twelve months.—First prize, £6, R. Julian; second £4, Viscount Falmouth; third, £2, Viscount Falmouth.

Cows exceeding three years, in calf, or, if in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First prize, £8, R. Julian.

Heifers not exceeding two years.—First prize, £4, J. Tremayne, M.P., Sydenham; second, £3, R. Julian.

Heifers not exceeding twelve months.—First prize, £4, J. Tremayne.

## SHORTHORNS.

Bulls exceeding three years old.—First prize, £10, T. Blamey, Tretrethel, Verman; second, £5, — Whitford, Tretrethel, St. Erme.

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, £10, W. Chapman, Gerrans (Master Frederic); second, £5 — Tyacke, Merthen; third, £3, H. Benny, Ledock.

Shorthorn bulls not exceeding two years.—First prize, £8, — Tretrethel, Tregoose, Probus; second, £5, — Tyacke; third, Hosken and Son, Hayle.

Bulls not exceeding twelve months.—First prize, £6, W. Tremaine, Philleigh; second, G. Williams, Ruanlanthorne; third, £2, — Tretrethel.

Cows exceeding three years, in calf, or, if in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First prize, £8, Hosken and Son (Carnation 4th); second, £5, — Tyacke; third, £2, — Tretrethel.

Heifers in calf or in milk, not exceeding three years.—First prize, £6, Hosken and Son; second, £4, Hosken and Son; third, £2, — Tyacke.

Heifers not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £6, Hosken and Son (Rose of Oxford 4th); second, £4, Hosken and Son; third, £2, — Tyacke.

Heifers not exceeding one year.—First prize, £4, Hosken and Son; second, £3, W. Tremaine.

## HEREFORDS.

Bulls exceeding three years.—Second prize, £5, J. E. Best, Tremere, Lanteglos.

Bulls above two and not exceeding three years.—First prize, £10, Major Carlyon, Tregrehan, St. Austell; second, £6 R. Nicholls, Trenaun, Powey; third, £2, — Lutley, Brockhampton, Worcester.

Bulls not exceeding two years.—First prize, £8, C. J. Searle, St. Ewe; second, £5, — Lutley; third, £3, — Olver, Trescove.

Bulls not exceeding one year.—First prize, £6, Major Carlyon; second and third, £4 and £2, — Tucker, Prideaux, Par.

Cows exceeding three years, in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First prize, £8, W. R. Grose, Wadebridge; second, £5, — Lutley; third, £3, W. R. Grose.

Heifers in calf or in milk, not exceeding three years.—First and second prizes, £6 and £4, C. Searle; third, £2, Major Carlyon.

## GUERNSEYS.

Bulls.—First and second prizes, T. D. Eva (1, Duke of Cornwall, 2, Duke of Cornwall 2nd), Troon, Camborne.

Cows exceeding three years, in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First prize, T. D. Eva (Lady); second, R. Trevithick, Hayle; third, T. D. Eva (Rose).

Heifers under three years.—First prize, T. D. Eva (Moss; Rose).

## JERSEYS.

Bulls.—First prize, R. Hockin (Sir Charles 2nd), Gwithian second, R. Nicholls, jun. (Young Duke).

Jersey cows over three years, in calf, or if in milk, having had a calf within six months.—First, second, and third, — Tremayne, (1, Bluebell, 2, Noisette, 3, Countess).

Heifers under three years.—First and second prizes, J. Tremayne (1, Daffodil, 2, Anemone); third, J. Tippet, St. Day (Visky).

## SHEEP.

Leicester yearling rams.—First, second, and third prizes, W. Tremaine.

Rams of any other age.—First and second prize, W. Tremaine; third, J. Rosewarne, Nanspuser, Hayle.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First and second prizes, W. Tremaine.

South Ham yearling rams.—First and second prizes, R. B. Trant, Menheniot; third, J. Stooke, Plympton.

Rams of any other age.—First prize, H. Williams, Trefrawl, Lanreth; second, J. Stooke; third, R. B. Traut.

Pen of five yearling ewes.—First prize, J. N. Davies, Mawgan, Helston.

Long-wool yearling rams.—First prize, Sir J. H. Amory, Bart., Knights Hayes Court, Tiverton; second and third, W. Drakes, Warbstow.

Long-wool rams of any other age.—First and second prizes, W. Drakes; third, Sir J. H. Amory, Bart.

Pen of five long-wool yearling ewes.—First prize, Sir J. Amory, Bart.; second, C. Norris, Morion, Exeter.

Shropshire Downs yearling rams.—First and second prizes, Viscount Falmouth.

Rams of any other age.—J. T. Hearle, St. Anthony.

Yearling ewes.—First prize, Viscount Falmouth; second, J. T. Hearle.

## HORSES.

Stallions for agricultural purposes.—First prize, £12, H. Laity, Praze, Crowan; second, £8, — Hawkey, St. Wenn; third, £5, H. Laity.

Agricultural mares and foals, or mares in foal.—First prize, £10, S. T. Eregaskia, St. Issey; second, £6, W. Hendy, Rosewastis, St. Columb; third, £4, W. L. Hearle, Feock.

Agricultural geldings or fillies foaled in 1876.—First prize, T. Rundle, Kestle, St. Columb Minor; second, Hosken and Son, Hayle; third, W. Richards, Gwealavellan, Camborne.

Agricultural geldings or fillies foaled in 1877.—First prize, J. K. Martin, Retyn, St. Enocher; second, — Retallick, Calestock, Perranzabuloe; third, W. H. Tremaine, Trelice, Newlyn.

Agricultural colts, geldings, or fillies foaled in 1878.—First, W. L. Hearle, Feock.

Hacks or hunters, mares and foals, or in foal.—First prize, W. Stephens, Hendra, Wadebridge; second, W. Penrose, Helston; third, — Tyacke, Merthen.

Mares or geldings foaled in 1876, calculated for hunters.—First prize, T. O. Bice, St. Columb; second, R. H. Hocking, Nansloe, Helston; third, H. Huttonano, Gwincar.

Mares or geldings foaled in 1876, calculated for hacks.—First prize, — Grigg, Creed; second, S. Hicks, Bodmin; third, T. J. Hairy, Nansloe, Helston.

Mares or geldings foaled in 1877, calculated for hunters.—First prize, Mr. Grigg, Creed; second, E. Davy, Penzance; third, F. Stocker, St. Ewe.

Mares or geldings foaled in 1877, calculated for hacks.—First prize, N. J. West, Hayle; second, F. Stocker, St. Ewe; third, C. D. Gilbert, Trehissick.

Colts, geldings, or fillies foaled in 1879.—First prize, E. Symons, St. Minver; second, R. Cardell, Trebelzue, St. Columb Minor; third, T. Retallick, Lanivet.

Hunters (mares or geldings) not exceeding 5 years old on the 1st January, 1879, up to 14 stone.—First prize, £10, R. F. Stephens, St. Austell; second, £5, R. Cardell, Trebelzue, St. Columb.

Hunters (mares or geldings) not exceeding 5 years old on the 1st January, 1879, up to 12 stone.—First prize, £10, — Stephens, St. Austell; second, £5, W. and T. Yeo, Bodmin.

Hacks (mares or geldings) not exceeding 5 years old on the 1st January, 1879, up to 13 stone.—First prize, £10, R. Quic, Trewelland, Pendeeu; second, £5, Harvey and Co., Hayle.

A special prize of £10 for the best hunter (mare or gelding) to be tested over hurdles in the showyard, and not to carry less than 12 stone; second, prize, £5.—First prize, Mr. Grigg, Creed; second, — Tyacke, Merthen.

Cobs (mares or geldings), not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches.—First prize, £6, Vyvyan Williams, Truro; second, J. Tremayne, Constantine.

Ponies (mares or geldings), not exceeding 13½ hands.—First prize, J. Cardell, St. Columb; second, W. H. and T. Yeo, Bodmin.

Single harness horses (mares or geldings), not exceeding 6 years old on the 1st January, 1879, and not under 14 hands 3 inches, to be driven and tested on the showground.—First

prize, C. Norrington, Abbotfield, Plympton; second, T. Oliver, Truro; third, R. Cardell, Trebelzue, St. Columb Minor.

The prizes offered by the Local Committee for horses not under 15 hands, to be tested over hurdles and at the water jump, were awarded to.—First prize, C. Ellis, Madron, Lucy; second, J. W. Grigg's Lassie; third, O. Drew, Falmouth, Huntress, Lady Conner.

## PIGS.

Large breed.—Boars.—First prize, Lord Moreton, Tortworth Court, Gloucester; second, L. H. Keily, Place House, Grampond.

Breeding sows in farrows, or that have farrowed within 6 months.—First prize, R. and T. Russel, Sitlney; second, Lord Moreton.

Pens of 2 breeding sows (of the same litter) not exceeding 12 months.—Prize, Lord Moreton.

Small breed.—Boars exceeding 12 months.—First prize, T. Salmon, St. Columb; second and third, Lord Moreton.

Boars not exceeding 12 months.—First prize, T. Salmon; second, R. and T. Russell; third, T. Salmon.

Sows in farrow, or that have farrowed within 6 months.—First prize, T. Salmon; second, Lord Moreton; third, T. Salmon; commended, Lord Moreton.

Pens of 2 breeding sows (of the same litter) not exceeding 12 months.—First prize, R. and T. Russel; second and third, Lord Moreton.

## SPECIAL PRIZES.

Special and champion prizes given by Lord Falmouth. Silver cups, value £5 each:—

Best bull in the yard.—Lord Falmouth, Devon, 2 years old; reserve, Mr. Lutley, Hereford.

Best cow or heifer in the yard.—Messrs. Hosken's "Carnation 4th," Shorthorn.

Best ram in the yard.—Mr. W. Tremaine, Polsue, Leicester.

Best pen of ewes in the yard.—Sir J. H. Amory, M.P., Devon long wools.

Best pea of pigs in the yard.—Mr. Salmon, St. Columb.

## NORFOLK.

## MEETING AT DEREHAM.

An original report of this show, for which we had arranged, not having arrived in time, we quote the following abridged report from the *Norwich Mercury*:—

"The annual meeting of the Norfolk Agricultural Association opened on Wednesday, June 11, under the most favourable auspices. The Society now holding a spring show of horses this description of stock takes the premier place in the catalogue. The first class to come into the ring was that of agricultural stallions under three years old. The standard of merit of this two-year-old lot was high—higher than has been attained at some previous shows, though there was too general a preponderance of evident preparation for show such as makes well nigh useless very many entire cart horses. Several of the exhibits were unadulterated Shire-bred horses; there was also one which might claim to be a Clydesdale, if Mr. Laurence Drew's contention be the true one, that the Clydesdale and the English horse are very near akin. First honours went to Captain Bett's handsome roan Strawberry Wonder, massive, full of hair, and with good bone, but too much fat. His sire was Charley Master's England's Wonder, the strawberry roan, now so well known by his own appearance in the show yard, and by the excellent stock he has got. This young horse of Captain Bett's was first at Peterborough, first last week at the Bath and West of England, where he was greatly admired, and now first in his own county. Mr. F. Street's Somersham Samson, and son of Lord Ellesmere's Young Samson was a bigger horse, but not so perfect in form. Neither of these horses was shown in the yearling class last year; and Mr. Rowell's Le Bon 2nd, which was then first, has, we believe, not yet been exhibited this season. The

second, a fine yearling of 1878—Mr. J. B. Ellis's Tom's Glory—a capital youngster, was now commended, as was also H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' Duke of Cornwall, which has much improved since he was shown as a yearling at North Walsham. Mr. C. Griffin's Pride of Birmingham, a bay, which won last year at the Staffordshire show, in competition with all colts under three years old, was highly commended. The yearlings were far less numerous than last year, there being only five entries as compared with fifteen. First prize went to Mr. C. Bearts' King of the Forest, the chestnut colt which won third at North Walsham, but first at other shows of last season. He is likely to become a frequent prize taker if his owner determines to sacrifice him to show-yard glories. Second prize went to Mr. C. Marsters' Wonder of the East, a son of his Strawberry roan, imported into this district from Welshpool—a niceish looking horse, and likely to grow into a useful animal. The reserve, with a commendation, went to Mr. Griffin for a bay son of Leviathan, with a commendation to a bay out of a Norfolk Hero mare. Leaving the Suffolks for after mention, the next class of agricultural horse stock was that of brood mares with foals at foot. Beart's Lioness being kept over for the Royal, Mr. Garrett Taylor had a comparatively easy victory with his bay seven-year-old mare by Welcher's Honest Tom. The class, however, was a strong one, and second came Bonny, a five-year-old, of Mr. D. Green's (Donyland) well-known at shows, by a Suffolk sire, Cant's Captain, out of a Shire-bred mare. Being of the right colour, the mare would not offend the taste of a Suffolk man, though the characteristics of the Shire-bred might be detected. Her foal—a chestnut filly—by a brown horse, was third in the class, Mr. Walter Wilson's foal by Mr. A. Hamond's Lion coming second, though the dam (11 years old) was third. First for foals went to Mr. G. Jones's foal by Leviathan, out of a fourteen-year-old mare, which was noticed in her class. The reserve mare was Mr. G. J. Smith's five-year-old, a daughter of England's Glory, and bred by Mr. Winearls, when he owned that noted sire. A roan foal of Mr. A. Hamond's, a promising colt, by Masters' England's Wonder, out of a Norfolk mare, was highly commended, and a chestnut filly of Mr. D. Green's, by Cant's Captain, out of the noted Suffolk mare Suart, was commended. Of younger mares, there were only two, both good, Captain Bett's Mrs. Jones, and Mr. Welcher's Smart. Three geldings made up a small, but good class—first, Mr. H. M. Upcher's bay; second, Mr. W. R. Welcher's. The three-year-old fillies were of excellent quality—first, a Shire-bred of Mr. R. Hopper's, second, a Suffolk of Mr. W. Byford's, and highly commended, Mr. C. Beart's Duchess. The prize-winners occupied the same relative positions at North Walsham. In the good two-year-old filly class, the Sandringham black, Lady Godiva, first last year as a yearling, was now superseded by Mr. W. Welcher's Honest Lady, a capital bred one on the sire's side. Mr. C. Marster's yellow bay, daughter of his old horse, was highly commended, and a commendation went to another Shire-bred from Chatteris. The yearling filly class included nothing very remarkable. The pairs of cart horses, however, though not so noteworthy an exhibit as in the Lynn year, were decidedly a superior display. Captain Bett's pair, a bay and a brown, were splendidly shown—the brown, a three-year-old mare, we remember to have seen and admired at the Downham Horse show last August; she will, doubtless, make no infrequent appearance in the show-yard, and will be hard to beat. The second prize pair, Mr. Lowell's, were capital active horses; Mr. Garrett Taylor's highly commended good movers and suited to a Norfolk farm. A commendation went to each pair of Mr.

Welcher's—the whole class being thus honoured. In the Suffolk classes, Mr. D. Green's Smart, whose foal, as we have already mentioned, was commended, added yet another to her list of winnings at Essex and Suffolk Shows. The reserve and highly commended went to His Grace the Duke of Hamilton for Bright Diamond, which formerly was in Mr. C. Frost's stud. Of Suffolk cart mares, the Easton Park Belle of the Ball was placed first—a decision which was questioned by some good Suffolk breeders at first, but afterwards admitted to be right, when the defeated but highly commended mare, Mr. R. Capon's Matchett 2nd—winner in 1877 at Sudbury and the Royal, and last year at North Walsham, Ipswich, and Paris—came to be more closely examined. The Easton Park Farm also carried off the prize for a Suffolk filly under four years old, with Yellow Diamond, bred by his Grace. There were five other competitors, making for a Norfolk Show a very strong class.

The show of riding horses was, as a whole, good.

The hunter which won the President's cup, as the best bred in the county, was Mr. P. Hudson's four-year-old, clever bay gelding, bred by Mr. H. Parker, North Creake, and second in its class (weight-carriers); first going to a six-year-old Yorkshire gelding; and third to Mr. W. Harvey's bay, bred in Surrey, which was second last year at North Walsham, and first in the previous year at Diss; while Mr. T. Everitt's brown gelding got a commendation. In the competition of hunters not up to fourteen stone, Mr. J. T. Mill's Harebell—first, if we mistake not, last year at North Walsham, and winner of the President's cups—was third to a couple of Yorkshire horses; other Norfolk horses being only commended. In the younger class, however, county exhibits held their own, first going to Mr. W. Wright, for a gelding out of an Irish mare; second, to Mr. T. Rose, for one bred in Yorkshire. The class of best brood mares for breeding hunters included a winner from Langley Park Stud.

Shorthorns were a very good entry, as large as at any previous show. On this occasion, however, the old bulls were excluded from the competition for the Prince of Wales's Cup, and thus gave the youngsters a chance. Sir Arthur Ingram and Telemachus 6th put in an appearance, as usual, and, after a sharp fight, the Burghley Park bull took first place. The two-year old class was a very long time under consideration, in consequence of the entry of a bull over-age. The Prince of Wales's Baron Ryedale first as a yearling at North Walsham, however, secured the first place, second going to the reserve bull of last year, Mr. Gunnell's Hon. Neville. In the yearling class there could be no dispute about the first place, that going to Mr. W. Linton's Arthur Benedict, a grandson of Sir Arthur Ingram, and good enough to add yet another cup to the Sheriff Hutton collection of the coveted "Prince of Wales" trophies which distinguish Norfolk shows. Second prize was awarded to the Marquis of Exeter's Telemachus 7th, a son of the 6th of that name, but by no means equal to him in merit, and by many deemed much inferior to Mr. John Morton's Hesperus, one of the West Dereham stock—as was also the reserved bull Admiral, which was one of the Sandringham exhibits in the class. The first prize-winning bull calf, which also came from Burghley Park, was the only exhibit in the class from beyond the county, second honours going to Mr. John Gamble, and the reserve to Mr. John Morton's. Telemacina was again in the first place among the cows, from which she was removed for a brief period by Julia 11th. Mr. Griffin's Blush and Network won first honours in the next two classes, and second in the yearling heifer class went to a neat, well-modelled, well-covered roan of the Baydestone stock, and bred by Mr. H. C. B. Gilbert. The first prize calf came from

Burghley Park, but the second, from Mr. T. Rose's, being one of his Brights—the noted family which has produced so many superior Booth shorthorns.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Red Polled were more numerous than at any previous show—the entries numbering in all 64, and there being very few vacant places. Mr. Palmer's bull, Davyson 3rd—shown by the executors—won first honours again in the old class. In the two-year-old class, again Mr. A. Taylor's son of Davyson 3rd was once more first, and another, Davyson 6th, yet owned by Mr. John Hammond, and a very handsome young fellow, second, the reserve and a commended going to Mr. Colman's Osman. A useful bull of Mr. Gooderham's was also in the class. The yearling bulls were eight in number, and the competition was so close that the award was not given until immediately before the judging of the collection. In the end Mr. Palmer's Othello, a capital handler, with plenty of substance, and as active as a pony, was, as last year, put first, and Mr. Loft's Stout—a bigger bull, and of capital build, but of harsher touch, was placed second, as last year, commendations going to Mr. A. Taylor's John Gilpin 2nd, Mr. Colman's Skobeleff, and Mr. Loft's Slasher. The bull calves were very good.

## PRIZE LIST.

### HORSES.

#### AGRICULTURAL STALLIONS.

Agricultural stallion, four years old and upwards.—First prize, £20, with £60 added, the Stand Stud Company, Whitefield, Manchester (Young Champion); second, £10, T. D. Taylor, Bungay (Young Marksmen); third, £5, W. H. Betts, Diss, Norfolk (Sir John Falstaff).

Agricultural stallion, three years old.—First prize, £12, with £40 added, G. Taylor, Norwich (Wonder); second, £8, G. Body, Haverland, Norwich (Hercules).

#### THOROUGH-BRED STALLIONS.

Thorough-bred stallion, calculated to get hunters.—First prize, £25, with £25 added, Sir R. Beauchamp, Bart. (Zanzibar).

#### HACKNEY AND RIDING STALLION.

Best stallion, not under four years old, suitable for getting hackneys for saddle or harness.—First prize, £15, with £37 10s. added, J. P. Coker, East Dereham (Highflyer); second, £10, J. Youngman, Wicklewood, Wymondham; third, £5, J. Griggs, South Creake, Norfolk (Model the Second).

Stallion, under four years old.—First prize, £12, with £18 added, J. W. Hunn, Hunstanton, Lynn (National Guard); second, £8, G. Jones, Stowbridge, Downham (Lord Beaconsfield).

#### AGRICULTURAL STALLIONS.

Agricultural stallion, under three years old.—First prize, £12, W. H. Betts, Diss (Wonder); second, £8, F. Street, Hunts (Samson).

Agricultural stallion one year old.—First prize, £12, C. Beart, Stow, Downham Market (King of the Forest); second, £8, C. Marsters, Saddlebow, King's Lynn (Wonder of the East).

Agricultural stallion (Suffolk) under three years old.—Prize £10, W. Wilson, Ipswich, (Star).

#### RIDING STALLIONS.

Stallion, suitable for getting high-stepping cobs.—P. Mackenzie's prize of £5, J. P. Coker, Beetley (Beaconsfield).

#### BROOD MARES AND FOALS.

Agricultural brood mare with foal at foot.—First prize, £15, G. Taylor, Whittingham; second, £10, D. A. Green (Bonny); third, £5, G. J. Smith, Ketteringham (Smart).

Agricultural foal.—First prize, £12, G. Jones, Stow, Downham Market; second, £8, W. Wilson, Scarning; third, £4, D. A. Green.

Agricultural brood mare and foal (Suffolk).—Prize, £10, D. A. Green.

Brood mare, adapted for breeding hunters, to be certified to have produced a living foal subsequent to the 1st of January, 1879.—First prize, £10, S. Bately, Great Yarmouth; second, £5, Sir R. P. Beauchamp, Bart., Langley Park.

Hackney brood mare, to be certified to have produced a

living foal subsequent to the 1st of January, 1879.—First prize, £10, W. Hamond, Pensthorpe, Fakenham (Beauty); second, £5, J. Youngman, Wymondham (Kitty).

## AGRICULTURAL.

Mare not exceeding six years old.—Prize, £10, W. H. Betts, Diss.

Gelding, not exceeding six years old.—Prize, £10, H. M. Upeher, Feltwell.

Filly three years old.—First prize, £12, R. Hopper, Whittlesey; second, £8, W. Byford, Glens'ord.

Filly two years old.—First prize, £12, W. Welcher, Griston Hall; second, £8, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Filly one year old.—First prize, £12, C. Griffin, Feltwell; second, £8, J. Nicholson, Gressenhall.

Mare (Suffolk) not under four years old.—Prize, £10, Duke of Hamilton and Brandon.

Filly (Suffolk) under four years old.—Prize, £10, Duke of Hamilton and Brandon.

## PAIRS OF CART HORSES.

Pair of cart horses, whether mare or gelding, without restriction as to colour, best suited for agricultural purposes, and which have been the property of the exhibitor at least three months next before the exhibition.—First prize, £12, W. H. Betts (Lady Derwent and Miss Sampson); second, £8, J. Lewell, North Tuddenham (Nelson and Briton).

## HUNTERS.

Mare or gelding, under seven years, adapted for hunting, equal to carry not less than fourteen stones.—First prize, £15, A. J. Brown, Pontefract (Gambler); second, £10, P. Hudson, Wighton; third, £5, W. Harvey, Timworth, Bury St. Edmund's (Warrior).

Mare or gelding, under seven years old, adapted for hunting, not equal to carry fourteen stones.—First prize, £10, A. J. Brown (Cockney); second, £4, F. E. Thompson, Hull (Ivanhoe); third, £4, J. T. Mills, Clermont, Watton (Harebells).

Cow or filly under five years old, adapted for hunting.—First prize, £10, W. J. Wright, Fring; second, £7, T. Rose, Melton Magna; third, £4, R. Leamon, Haresfield, Stonehouse.

## SPECIAL PRIZE FOR HUNTERS.

The President's prize of £10 10s. for the best hunter exhibited in classes 23, 24, and 25, and bred in the county of Norfolk.—P. Hudson, Wighton.

## HACKNEY MARES AND GELDINGS.

Riding mare or gelding, above 15 hands and not exceeding 15 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, £10, J. Sudbury, Cantley (Tamworth); second, £7, R. Allen, St. Germain, Lynn (Princess); third, £4, T. G. Nelson, Norwich (Gentle Annie).

Hackney mare or gelding, above fourteen hands and not exceeding 15 hands high.—First prize, £10, H. Wayman, Downham Market (Maritima); second, £7, S. Leeds, Whitwell, Reepham (Empress); third, £4, F. E. Thompson, Hull (Crafty).

## COBS AND PONIES.

Cob, not less than 13 hands 3 inches nor more than 14 hands 3 inches high, carrying (whilst being judged) at least fifteen stones, saddle and bridle included.—First prize, £10, T. Betts, Winfarthing; second, £7, H. Bullard, Hellesdon House (Cuckoo).

Cob not less than 13 hands 3 inches nor more than 14 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, £8, R. Leamon, Haresfield, Stonehouse (Make Haste); second, £5, C. Gates, Hecworth, Scole.

Pony, not under 13 nor above 13 hands 3 inches high.—First prize, £8, W. Foster, Pontefract; second, £5, F. Gricks, Mittishall.

Pony, not above 13 hands high.—First prize, £5, R. Grittus, New Buckenham (Coomassie); second, £3, E. P. Middleton, Hindringham.

Mare or gelding above 13 hands 3 inches high.—Prize, £10, R. Allen, St. Germain's, Lynn (Princess).

Cob or pony not exceeding 13 hands 3 inches high, shown in harness.—Prize, £5, F. Gricks, Mittishall (Goldfinder).

## CATTLE.

## SHORTHORNS.

Bull above three years old.—First prize, £15, Marquis of Exeter, Stamford (Telemachus 6th), roan; second, £10, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York (Sir Arthur Ingram).

Bull above two and not exceeding three years old.—First

prize, £15, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (Baron Ryedale); second, £10, T. Gunnell, Milton, Cambs (Hon. Nevil c).

Bull above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £12, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York (Arthur Benedict); second, £8, Marquis of Exeter (Telemachus 7th).

Bull calf not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £7, Marquis of Exeter, Burghley Park (Great Northern Diver); second, £4, J. Gamble, Shouldham Thorpe.

A special prize, by the Patron, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., of £10 10s., for Shorthorn bull, was awarded to W. Linton's Arthur Benedict.

Cow above three years old, in calf or in milk.—First prize, £12, Marquis of Exeter (Telemachus); second, £8, W. C. Griffin, Werrington, Peterborough (Lady Blanche).

Heifer above two and not exceeding three years old, in calf or in milk.—Prize, £12, C. W. Griffin, Werrington, Peterborough (Blush 8th).

Heifer above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £10, C. W. Griffin (Network); second, £5, H. C. B. Gilbert, Blofield (Lady Gooch).

Heifer calf not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £7, Marquis of Exeter (Wild Rose of Geneva); second, £4, T. Rose, Wymondham (Bright Musidora).

## NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK RED POLLED CATTLE.

Bull above three years old.—First prize, £15, Executors of J. F. Palmer, Wilby, Attleborough (Davyson 3rd); second, £10, J. J. Colman, Norwich (Rufus).

Bull above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, £15, A. Taylor, Starston (King Charles); second, £10, J. Hammond, Bale (Davyson 6th).

Bull above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £12, Executors of J. F. Palmer (Otheilo); second, £8, R. E. Loft, Stout.

Bull calf not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £7, J. J. Colman (Rufus 2nd); second, £4, T. Brown, Marham, (Lord George).

Cow above three years old in calf or in milk.—First prize, £12, J. Hammond, Bale (Davy 18th); second, £8, Lord Hastings, Melton Constable (Davy 12th).

Heifer above two and not exceeding three years old in calf or in milk.—First prize, £12, A. Taylor, Starston (Flirt); second, £8, H. Birbeck, Stoke Holy Cross (Popsey).

Heifer above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £10, J. J. Colman, Norwich (Silence); second, £5, G. Gooderham, Monewden (Cherry 2nd).

Heifer calf not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, £7, Executors of J. F. Palmer (Buxom); second, £4, A. Taylor (Needle).

## SPECIAL PRIZE FOR RED POLLED CATTLE.

For the best collection of Norfolk and Suffolk red polled animals, to include all exhibited in Classes 40 to 47 inclusive; the points to be especially considered in the various classes being the breeding qualifications of the animals. The Breeders' Silver Cup or Plate, value £10 10s.—Prize, J. J. Colman.

## COWS AND HEIFERS.

(Of any breed, not being Alderney, Shorthorn, or Norfolk and Suffolk red polled, and not eligible for any Herd Book.)

Cow above three years in calf or in milk.—First prize, £10, J. Sharman, Scarning, Dereham (Full Pail); second, £2, J. Howell, Little Walsingham (Daisy).

Heifer above two and not exceeding three years old, in calf or in milk.—First prize, £10, not awarded; second, £7, J. L. Sharman.

Heifer above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, £8, W. How, Thetford; second, R. Horsely, Ashill.

## CHANNEL ISLAND CATTLE.

Bull of any age.—First prize, £12, E. H. Wortley, Frettenham (Napoleon); second, £5, J. C. Girling, Great Hantbois Rectory (Wallace).

Cow or heifer of any age, in calf or in milk.—First prize, £13, J. B. Ellis, jun., West Barsham (Walsingham); second, £8, J. E. Groom, King's Lynn (Blue Ruin).

## FAT STEERS, COWS, AND HEIFERS.

Steer of any breed, not above four years old.—First prize, £12, J. Wortley Skyeon; second, £6, J. J. Colman.

Steer of any breed, not above three years old.—First prize, £12, R. Wortley, Sulfield; second, £5, J. J. Colman.

Cow or heifer of any age.—First prize, £12, J. Mayhew, Carlton Colville; second, £6, J. J. Colman.

## SPECIAL PRIZE FOR FAT CATTLE.

Mr. James Bacon's prize of £10 10s. for the best fat animal in the yard.—Prize, J. Mayhew, Carleton Colville.

## SHEEP.

## SOUTH-DOWNS.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10, J. J. Colman; second, £5, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

Ram of any age.—Prize, £10, T. Fulcher, Elmham.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—First prize, Sir J. Buxton's prize of £10, G. Jonas, Ickleton.

Pen of five ewe lambs.—Prize, Wyrley Birch's prize of £5, G. Jones.

Pen of five wether lambs, bred by the exhibitor from a flock of not less than five score ewes, size and quality to be taken into consideration.—Prize, Lord Walsingham's prize of £5, J. J. Colman.

## LONG-WOOLLED.

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10, H. Smith, Bingham, Notts; second, £5, H. Smith.

Ram of any age.—Prize, £10, H. Smith.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—First prize, £10, R. C. Catling; second, £5, P. J. Sharman, Scarning.

Pen of five ewe lambs.—Prize, £5, R. C. Catling.

## SHORT-WOOLLED.

(Of any breed not being Southdowns.)

Shearling ram.—First prize, £10, G. Cooke, Linton; second, £5, F. Street, Somersham-park.

Ram of any age.—Prize, £10, T. Fulcher, Elmham.

Best five shearling ewes.—First prize, £10, F. Street, Somersham-park; second, £5, H. Lambert, Great Abington, Cambs.

Five ewe lambs.—Prize, £5, A. M. Robinson, Milton.

## ANY BREED.

Two ram lambs.—First prize, £10, H. Lambert, Great Abington, Cambs.; second, £5, R. C. Catling.

Five cross-bred ewe or wether lambs.—First prize, £12, J. B. Ellis, jun., West Barsham; second, £8, J. B. Ellis, jun.; third, £4, A. W. Sewell, Wood Norton.

Pen of three shearing wethers of any breed.—First prize, £7, J. W. Sharman, Illepton Abbey; second, £4, J. W. Sharman.

Pen of five long-woolled ewes of any age from a flock of not less than five score, having brought up a lamb or lambs.—Prize, £10, R. C. Catling, Wisbech.

Pen of five short-woolled ewes of any age, having brought up a lamb or lambs.—Prize, £10, H. Lambert.

Five black-faced Suffolk shearing ewes.—Prize, £10, R. Woodgate, Great Waldingfield.

Five yearling ewes and five ewe lambs, the property of and bred by a tenant farmer, the owner of a flock of not less than 100 breeding ewes.—First prize, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, K. G.; prize of £10, C. Sell, Bassingbourne.

## PIGS.

## LARGE BREED.

Boar under two years old.—Prize, £5, R. Duckering, Kirtou Lindsey.

Breeding sow, in pig.—Prize, £5, R. E. Duckering.

Three breeding sows not above eight months old.—Prize, £5, S. Spencer, St. Ives, Hunts.

## BERKSHIRE BREED.

Boar under two years old.—Prize, C. E. Duckering, Kirtou Lindsey.

Breeding sow, in pig.—Prize, £5, C. E. Duckering.

Three breeding sows not above eight months old.—No prize awarded.

## SMALL BREED (BLACK).

Boar under two years old.—Prize, £5, C. E. Duckering.

Breeding sow, in pig.—Prize, £5, C. E. Duckering.

Three breeding sows not above eight months old.—Prize, £5, C. E. Duckering.

## SMALL BREED (WHITE).

Boar under two years old.—First prize, £5, S. Spencer, Holywell; second, £3, S. Spencer.

Breeding sow, in pig.—First prize, S. Spencer, second, £3, Rev. T. L. Fellowes, Iloningham.

Three breeding sows not above eight months old.—Prize, £5, S. Spencer.

## IMPLEMENTS.

## SILVER MEDALS.

F. Savage, of Lynn, for mole or draining plough.  
Eycritt, Adams, and Co., Ryburgh, for "The Simplex" patent turnip thinner.

Holmes and Sons, Norwich, one for improved centrifugal pump for drainage purposes, a second for new drum guard and protector; and a third for a patent turnip thinner with improved gearing.

## NORTH-EAST OF IRELAND.

A meeting of the show committee, at which the president of the Association, General Viscount Templeton, K.C.B., was present, was held at the office of the Association, the Ulster Buildings, Belfast, on June 6.

The SECRETARY reported that the arrangements for the show, which will be held on the 19th and 20th inst., were nearly complete. He reported that the following railway and ship arrangements had been concluded, viz., the Great Northern (Northern Division), the Belfast and Northern Counties, and the Belfast and County Down Railway Companies had agreed to convey live stock and implements to Belfast, and all returning therefrom unsold, free of charge. The Great Southern and Western, Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford, Waterford and Limerick, Midland, Great Western, Great Northern, and Newry and Armagh Railway Companies will carry back, free of charge, all returning from the show unsold. The steam packet companies have agreed to convey live stock, machinery, &c., returning unsold, from Belfast to Greenock, Glasgow, Paisley, Ardrossan, Stranraer (via Larne), Barrow, Bristol, Swansea, Cardiff, Whitehaven, Liverpool, Plymouth, Cork, and Waterford, free of charge. He also stated that he had perfected a contract for the supply of straw, and had obtained permission for the band of the Royal Artillery to attend the show. He further stated that Mr. Kerr, who had the contract for fitting up the show premises, had his work in a forward and satisfactory state, and that the Temperance League had appointed a sub-committee to take charge of the filling of a coffee stand; also, that the entries were larger than they have been in any year since 1865, and that the show of horses would be the largest ever held in Ulster. He also reported that through the instrumentality of Mr. Anketill, who was then in London, he had secured samples of Friesland, Danish, Swedish, Normandy, and Dorset butter, for exhibition. In answer to a question he said that the members need not fear that their "ladies" tickets would be overlooked. They were being prepared and would be issued in a few days. He further said that it had been decided to admit the public to the show on the first morning at nine o'clock, instead of at ten, as formerly, in order that they might be present when the judges would be making their awards. The secretary also informed the meeting that there would be a greater number of Scotch and English exhibitors of live stock, as well as machinery, than had ever been present at any of the shows of the Association.

## RIPON AND CLARO.

The annual show, under the auspices of the Ripon Harrogate, and Claro Agricultural Society, was held June 11th, at Ripon. This is the second show which has been held since amalgamation of the Ripon and Harrogate Agricultural Societies, and thus far the results of the union have been eminently satisfactory. The weather yesterday was subject for general congratulation. It was a genuine summer's day—a sort of day which everybody has been longing for much of late. The farmers from all the country round journeyed to the show ground, with the comforting reflection doubtless that whilst they were indulging in a holiday their crops were having a splendid opportunity for making up lost time. The Council of the society had more than one reason for satisfaction. They had brought together a show of stock which was even better than that of last year at Harrogate, and the fine weather brought an unusually large number of people to see it. It was estimated that about 2,000 people were admitted to the show ground, a number considerably larger than was present on the first day of last year's show, and 1,000 more than the usual attendance when the Ripon show was under the auspices of the local society only. The entries of stock were about

sixty in advance of the number entered last year, as will be seen from the following comparative statement:—

	1878.	1879.
Cattle .....	41	45
Sheep .....	11	8
Pigs .....	19	2
Horses .....	152	170
Dogs .....	143	171
Poultry .....	93	157
Pigeons .....	120	81
Butter and Eggs ..	10	11
Total .....	592	667

The turn out of cattle was more select than numerous, for if we accept a few entries in the cow classes there was some excellent Shorthorn stock shown. The Branhope cattle, as at all the local shows, stand prominent in the prize list, and Mr. Fawcett obtained two special prizes, each of the value of £5, given by the Mayor and Corporation of Ripon, for the best bull and the best cow or heifer in the yard. The bull, Peter the Great, which carried off the first prize in his class as well as the special prize, has not been shown before this year; but at the outset he has beaten Count Towneley, shown by Mr. John Rowley, of Pontefract, which was second to the famous Sir Arthur Ingram at the Otley show recently. In the class for year-old bulls, Mr. Rowley was awarded the first prize for Lord Arthur, a most promising animal, who has made rapid strides since he was exhibited at Otley. This is amply testified by his victory yesterday, for the year-old bulls were the best class in the show-ground. In the class for cows or heifers over three years, as well as in that for heifers above two years, all the entries presented a very unfavourable contrast when compared with the first prize winners, namely, Mr. Fawcett's Branhope Darling, and Bramhope Darling 2nd. In the class for one-year-old heifers Mr. Fawcett was beaten by a neighbouring breeder, Mr. Michael Lamb, who got the first prize with Duchess of Cambridge. The other classes for cattle were somewhat poorly filled. The horses were the feature of the show; and here it should be stated that, by the excellent arrangement of the show ground, those who wished to see a particular horse could find it in the proper stall. In most local shows, owing to the latitude allowed to exhibitors of horses, one is in constant risk of being run down by the very horse perhaps for which one is searching. Here there was a special promenade ring provided for saddle horses. Taking the classes in the order of the catalogue, a number of most promising young animals were shown, both amongst the three-year-old and the two-year-old geldings. Amongst the three-year-olds, Maid of the Mill, a chestnut belonging to Mr. Robt. W. Severs, of Bedale, which was first at the Yorkshire Show at Northallerton, and first as a two-year-old at the Ripon Show, did not get a place. The first prize was awarded to a bay belonging to Mr. J. T. Robinson, of Aseuby, which was second in its class at the Otley Show this year. There was a numerous turn-out of two-year-old geldings, including, as has been stated, some good stock. The first prize winner, Sportsman, belonging to Mr. T. H. Foden, of Givendale Grange, has not been shown previously this year, but was the reserve number in his class at the Yorkshire Show last year. The second prize winner, a chestnut of fine colour and good style, belonging to Mr. Wm. Scott, of Broughbridge, has not been shown before either; but it ran its successful rival a close race for the first place, and will no doubt be heard of again. These new comers have beaten Mr. J. E. Clarke's Barney, which was first at this show last year, and was shown with success at a number of local shows. There was an excellent lot of roadsters.

more than usually equal in me it. In the class of brood mares with foal at foot, the judges yesterday upheld the decision of those at Otley in giving the first place to "Lady Mary," the property of Mr. Robert Martin, of Scoreby; and the first place to a two-year-old gelding belonging to the same exhibitor. In the class for three-year-olds, however, the horse which was put first at Otley was awarded only a second place; whilst Mr. Wm. Bowman's "Charley," which was third in the same class at Otley, carried off the first prize. It is well known, however, that judges whether in the ring or on the bench like doctors, often differ. This variableness has its advantages, for the unsuccessful competitor at Ripon yesterday may possess his soul in patience, and in the not uncertain hope that he may look into his neighbour's stall with a smile of forgiveness at Thirsk on Friday. The hunters, two classes of them, were a grand lot, every one of them capable of covering a long stretch of country after the hounds. They were shown in the ring at a magnificent pace—a pace in fact before which a fox would not have had the shadow of a chance. When at their best in this mad race it was evident that a fine bay belonging to Mr. Charles Rose, of Malton, must come out the winner in the class for hunters five and not exceeding seven years old; and so the judges decided. The second prize winner, "Scotsman," belonging to Mr. J. Akenhead, of Gate Helmsley, is a chestnut of great size and strength, capable of carrying weight over country at a rattling pace. The four-year-old hunters were a numerous class, and scarcely inferior to the older horses. There was a numerous turn-out also in the class for roadster geldings or mares, and they gave the judges a good deal of trouble. Some of them were rather low in condition, but they were a finely matched lot on the whole. A chestnut mare belonging to Mr. W. F. Stubbs, of York, got the first prize. The judges of horses, on the whole, had a difficult and delicate task to perform, and it was late in the evening before the leaping competition, the closing event of the day was reached. The show of sheep and pigs was small. A better show of sheep might have been expected. In the dog show the entries were very numerous. A special prize of £5, for the best dog or bitch exhibited, was awarded to a pointer belonging to Mr. J. L. Frice, who had brought it all the way from North Wales.

The judges were for cattle, sheep, and pigs, Mr. John Outhwaite, Baines, Caterick; and Mr. G. H. Sanday, Wensley House, Bedale. Horses, Mr. John Hett, Gainford House, Gainford; Mr. P. L. Skipworth, Brigg; and Mr. J. S. Stowell, Faverdale, Darlington. Dogs, Mr. T. Kirby, Manningham, Bradford. Poultry and pigeons, Mr. James Dixon, Clayton, Bradford. Their awards were as follows:—

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS.

Bull, two years old and upwards.—First prize, H. Fawcett, Old Branhope; second, M. Lamb, Otley.

Bull, above one and under two years old.—First prize, J. Rowley, Pontefract; second, Rev. S. H. Powell, Sharow Lodge.

Bull calf under twelve months old.—First prize, H. Fawcett; second, P. Strickland, Thirsk.

A special prize of £5, given by the Mayor and Corporation of Ripon for the best animal exhibited in the above classes.—Prize, H. Fawcett.

Cow or heifer, in calf or milk, three years old and upwards.—First prize, H. Fawcett; second, R. Walmesley, Bampton.

Heifer, in calf or milk, above two and not exceeding three years old.—First prize, H. Fawcett; second, the Right Hon. Lady Mary Vyner, Newby Hall.

Heifer, above one and not exceeding two years old.—First prize, M. Lamb; second, the Rev. T. Sheepshanks, Arthington.

Heifer calf, not exceeding twelve months old.—First prize, C. Mason, Dishforth; second, G. Yates, Studley Roger.

A special prize of £5, given by the Mayor and Corporation of Ripon for the best animal exhibited in these four classes.—Prize, H. Fawcett,

Cattle of any breed or a cross.—Cow for dairy purposes.—First prize, N. P. Snowden, Hutton Moor; second, G. Yates.

## SHEEP.

## LEICESTERS OR LONG-WOOLS.

Ram of any age, bred and reared within a radius of eleven miles of Ripon or Harrogate.—First prize, W. B. Pearson, Marton-le-Moor; second, H. S. Bennett, Boroughbridge.

Pen of three shearing wethers of any breed or a cross.—First and second prizes, W. B. Pearson.

## PIGS.

Boar of any age, large breed.—First prize, D. M. Alexander, Harrogate; second, T. Hannam, Leeds.

Sow of any age, large breed.—First prize, T. Nicholson, York; second, T. Strickland, Thirsk.

Boar of any age, small breed.—First prize, T. Strickland; second, T. Nicholson.

Sow of any age, small breed.—First prize, T. Hannam second, G. Mangies, Great Givendale.

Cottager's pig.—First prize, W. Boddy, Sinderby; second, C. Thirkell, Marton-le-Moor.

## HORSES.

## FOR THE FIELD.

Brood mare with foal at foot, or stinted.—First prize, J. T. Robinson, Asenby; second, M. Wilkinson, Thirsk.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, J. T. Robinson; second, P. Stevenson, Rainton.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, T. H. Foden, Givendale Grange; second, W. Scott, Boroughbridge.

Yearling colt or filly.—First prize, R. Wells, Baldersby; second, A. Dennison, Eburton Leonard.

Yearling colt or filly by "Duc de Beauford."—First prize, J. Dalton, Sleningford; second, P. Stevenson.

## FOR THE ROAD.

Brood mare with foal at foot, or stinted.—First prize, R. Martin, Scoreby; second, G. Thompson, Hutton's Ambo.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Bowman, York; second, R. Farnhill, Batley.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, R. Martin; second, G. Thompson.

Yearling colt or filly.—First prize, J. Swires, Pately Bridge; second, R. Farnhill.

## FOR THE FARM.

Brood mare with foal at foot, or stinted.—First prize, B. Bolland, Dudley Hill; second, T. W. Waterhouse, Apperley Bridge.

Three-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, W. Farrar, Easingwold; second, Rev. S. H. Powell, Sharow Lodge.

Two-year-old gelding or filly.—First prize, T. Thwaites, Harrogate; second, A. Wilson, Malton.

Yearling colt or filly.—First prize, T. Chapman, Ouseburn; second, H. S. Bennett, Boroughbridge.

Hunting gelding or mare, five and not exceeding seven years old.—First prize, C. Rose, Malton; second, J. Akenhead, Great Helmsley.

Hunting gelding or mare, four years old.—First prize, F. P. Newton, Malton; second, T. Cattle, Slingsby.

## ROADSTERS.

Roadster gelding or mare.—First prize, W. F. Stubbs, York; second, H. Clay, Northallerton.

## PONIES.

Pony not exceeding 14 hands high.—First prize, F. Holesworth, Market Weighton; second, W. Foster, Pontefract.

Pony not exceeding 13 hands high.—First prize, W. Foster; second, W. Gregory, Bishop Auckland.

## LEAPERS.

Gelding or mare of any age or height, B. Crossley, Adwalton; second, H. Braud, Myton; third, P. Jowett, Hipperholme.

Gelding or mare of any age, not to exceed 14½ hands high.—First prize, Messrs. Bolt and Brooke, Halifax; second, A. Slater, Tingley.—*Leeds Mercury*.

## ROYAL DUBLIN.

A general meeting of the members of this society was

held at Dublin on June 11, the Duke of Leinster in the chair.

Dr. George Johnstone Stoney, one of the honorary secretaries read the report from the council, of which the following is a portion:—

It will be within the recollection of the society that the council reported at a stated meeting last November that the government had proposed to pay £25,000 in discharge of clause 9 and 10 of the original agreement, which relate to the removal of the agricultural shows from Kildare-street, but that they had required that the society should also surrender the accommodation secured to it within Leinster House for its agricultural functions under clause 1. The council expressed their readiness on behalf of the society to negotiate for the surrender of clauses 9 and 10, which the government by the terms of the agreement was entitled to discharge by payments; but they stated to the government their great reluctance to propose to the society the surrender of any of its rights under clause 1. The government refused to negotiate on this basis, and the council were compelled to propose to the society the resolution passed on the 30th of January last. Through the kind intervention of Sir Arthur Guinness, to whom the council feel that the society is under a deep obligation, an interview was brought about between the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education and a deputation from the council of this society, at which Sir Michael Hicks Beach and Mr. Smith, two of the members of the government who had contracted the original agreement, were fortunately present. At this interview the deputation were able to satisfy the government that the statement of the original agreement made by the delegates in their report to the council of the 15th May, 1879, was correct, and that the society had throughout only sought a fulfilment of the agreement entered into in 1877. This resulted in the government consenting to limit their offer of £25,000 to clauses 9 and 10, with such an explanation of clause 1 as removed a difficulty felt by the government, without in effect limiting the rights of the society under that clause. This is the basis of negotiations originally asked for by the council, and the council has thus been able at once to conclude the following terms of agreement, which are now submitted for confirmation by the society:—

1. In consideration of the payment of £25,000, the government to be discharged from all claims under clauses 9 and 10 of the agreement of 5th March, 1877.

2. The Royal Dublin Society to retain the right to office accommodation for its functions in agriculture reserved to it by section 1 of the agreement of the 5th March, provided that such office accommodation be same with, and no greater than, such as would be necessary for the society's functions in science; and provided that, if hereafter any amalgamation takes place between any section of the Royal Dublin Society and another society, such amalgamation shall not entitle the other society to any rights of occupation of Leinster House, unless a special sanction be obtained from the government.

3. The Royal Dublin Society to have the rooms in Leinster House indicated by a cross on the subjoined plans—viz., four rooms on the ground floor (A, B, C, and E), one room on the first floor (b), and suitable accommodation in the basement for a servant and stores. The trustee of the library and visitors to the museum to have the right to hold their meetings in one of the rooms on the ground floor, either B or C.

4. The Royal Dublin Society to have the use, but not the exclusive use, of the entrance hall and passages to these rooms, not only for the purpose of access to their rooms, but to place the statuary and other works of art reserved to the society by section 2 of the agreement of 5th March. Accommodation to be provided for hats and coats in the hall: subject to these requirements of the society, the space to be available to the Science and Art Museum. When the library is removed, apartments to be allocated to a resident officer of the Royal Dublin Society. In the meantime provision to be made by the Science and Art Department for the ordinary cleaning of the society's rooms in Leinster House.

5. The appropriation of rooms to be liable to revision by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, when the new Science and Art Museum is built, provided that the Royal Dublin Society does not receive less accommodation by such new arrangement. Nothing of this agreement shall affect the operation of clause 1 of the agreement of 5th of March, 1877, except so far as it applies to agriculture.

6. The agricultural shows to be removed from Kildare-street within a year from the payment of the first instalment

of £10,000; it being understood that the offer of temporary office accommodation made by letter dated 26th November, 1878, to the Irish Government for the Agricultural Section in Kildare-street, is not renewed.

7. The Treasury to withdraw the present limit of £300 per annum on the printing of the scientific proceedings and transactions of the society; that is to say, that all strictly scientific proceedings and transactions of the society, received within the period mentioned in the agreement, will be printed in as good a manner as those of the Royal Society, and 1,000 copies furnished to the society free of expense. But the society to be at liberty to get further copies struck off at its own expense.

8. The payment of £25,000 to be in three instalments:—£10,000 this year, £10,000 in 1880, and £5,000 in 1881.

GEORGE HAMILTON,

Vice-President of the Committee of Council upon Education.

May 27th, 1878.

G. JOHNSTONE STONEY,

Hon. Secretary of the Royal Dublin Society.

May 29th, 1879.

## Chambers of Agriculture.

### CENTRAL.

A Council Meeting of the members of this Chamber was held on June 10 at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, the President, the Marquis of Huntley, occupying the chair.

At the commencement of the proceedings several names were struck off the list of members, in consequence of arrears of subscriptions for six years.

The CHAIRMAN, after reminding the meeting that a joint Committee of that Chamber and the Farmers' Club had been appointed to consider the expediency of holding a meeting in London during the International Exhibition, said the Committee met the previous day at the Inns of Court Hotel. Previous to that, he went on to say he and Mr. Phipps, acting on behalf of the joint Committee, made an application to the Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, Colonel Kingscote, for the permission from the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society to hold the proposed meeting in the large tent of the Society in the Show yard, and he had received from Colonel Kingscote an official reply, stating that the Council, after fully considering the matter, much regretted that they could not comply with the request, as it would be contrary to the Charter to allow anything touching on politics to be discussed under the auspices of the Society.

His lordship went on to say that, after a great deal of discussion, it had been decided by the joint Committee, that a meeting should be held on Wednesday, the 2nd of July, in that hall, and that it would be called "a meeting of the owners and occupiers of land, held under the auspices of the Central Chamber of Agriculture in conjunction with the Farmers' Club." His lordship added that the Farmers' Club were going to have a dinner in the evening of the same day, and that the Council of the Chamber were invited to attend it.

On the motion of the noble MARQUIS, seconded by Mr. DUBLIN, the payment of the expenses of holding the meeting on the 2nd of July was sanctioned.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to consider the expediency of supporting the following resolution, to be moved by Mr. Chaplin, M.P., viz:—"That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the depressed condition of the agricultural interest, and the causes to which it is owing, whether those causes are of a temporary or of a permanent character, and how far they have been created or can be remedied by legislation." He had moved for a similar Commission in the House of Lords, and he had become more and more convinced of the necessity of such an inquiry, because everybody had a different remedy and a panacea for the distress, and everybody had a reason for the causes of it. The Prime Minister had informed him that

there were three causes for the present depression—first, bad seasons; secondly, general depression in trade and agriculture throughout the world; and thirdly, the falling off in the prolixity of the gold mines in Australia. Other persons asserted that the cause was that tenant farmers had not sufficient security (cheers), while some contended that taxation was pressing too heavily on the land (Hear, hear). Some persons advocated a return to protection as the only means of getting tenant farmers out of their difficulty (Hear, hear). He would move, "That in view of the severe and protracted depression of agriculture, this Council is of opinion that a hearty support should be accorded to the motion for a Royal Commission of Inquiry, and that a copy of the above resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to Mr. Chaplin, M.P."

Mr. CALDECOTT said he should be very happy to second that resolution especially after reading what he had done that day in a leading article in the *Daily News*. That article contained an allusion to some returns which had been ordered by the House of Commons on the motion of Mr. Foljambe, and concluded with these words:—"A review of the whole of these valuable tables suggests that the farmers are suffering from bad seasons rather than from low prices; since there is scarcely one of their products, except wheat and wool, which is not now considerably higher in price than it was in days when the prosperity of the agricultural interest under Free Trade was as much a subject of national congratulation as its depression is of commiseration at the present moment." When that was the view of one of the most important daily Liberal papers, Mr. Caldecott went on to say, it was evidently quite necessary that there should be some investigation, in order that they might know what were the real causes of the prevailing depression.

Mr. D. LONG said he had intended to propose that a deputation should be appointed to wait upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he now felt that the best course was to endeavour to strengthen the hands of Mr. Chaplin when he asked for an enquiry (Hear, hear).

Mr. E. HENEAGE said he thought that one of the strongest arguments in favour of Mr. Chaplin's motion was that the legislation of the last 90 years had done a vast deal of harm to agriculture, hardly a single Act, affecting it badly, been passed which had not increased its burdens.

Mr. D. LONG hoped that Mr. Chaplin would make a strong point of the pressure of local taxation.

Mr. HERMAN BIDDELL thought they would be better able to judge as to what Mr. Chaplin was going to do when they had heard his explanation (Hear, hear).

Mr. CHAPLIN, M.P., said he felt it impossible to resist the appeal thus made to him (cheers), though he must reserve any general discussion of the question until the time arrived for him to bring his motion before the House of Commons. He should not have taken it on himself to raise such a serious question unless he had been deeply impressed with the serious condition of agriculture in the United Kingdom; and, although he thought that, generally speaking, they knew what the immediate causes of that depression were, they could not say positively whether they were temporary or permanent. It had been pretty well agreed that the two reasons which had caused tenant farmers and landlords to suffer loss were undoubtedly a succession of bad seasons, resulting in a diminished yield of the produce, both in quantity and quality, and secondly, that they had to contend with the bad prices received for the produce. It was not quite clear to what those bad prices were owing, and whether they were temporary or permanent. Must he ascribe them to the general depression of trade throughout the world? were they due to the inferior quality of the produce, owing to the bad season? or must they be traced to the increased and increasing foreign competition with which they had to contend? Those seemed to him to be points on which they required, and on which they must have, as accurate information as they could obtain (Hear, hear). If they were owing to the first two of those causes, then he thought they might hope that with a revival of trade their present difficulties would pass away, but if, on the other hand, it was shown that they were owing to the foreign competition, then it appeared to him that the crisis was likely to be of a permanent character, and it was difficult for him to arrive at any other conclusion than that the days of cultivating arable land must be nearly over. He would not say that such a state of affairs had happened, or was likely to happen, but he considered the condition of agriculture at the

present moment to be sufficiently critical and the outlook sufficiently gloomy to warrant his asking for such an inquiry as was suggested in the motion he had placed on the paper. He was of opinion that all restrictions on the production of food should be withdrawn (Hear, hear), and he considered that the time had come when they ought to have a real, permanent, and substantial relief of local taxation. The other day he received a circular headed "The Farmer's Alliance" in which four or five things were mentioned as having something to do with the causing of the great depression of agriculture, and in which certain remedies were suggested. If any of these should be discussed at that meeting he would be quite prepared, with the permission of the Council, to express his own views; but they seemed to him to be somewhat vague in character, and he thought the Council would act wisely if it refrained from discussing the subject at present (Hear, hear). He had observed that evening an amendment to his motion on the notice paper of the House of Commons to the effect that no taxation whatever should be imposed on the food of the people. He might remark that considerable taxation had already been imposed on the food of the people. Agriculture was taxed in a very unfair proportion, and he did not know that could be the case without the food of the people being taxed. As regarded foreign importations no man could desire less than he did that the price of the food of the people should be increased by taxation; but there was one thing which it seemed to him would be a still greater misfortune to the people than the imposition of taxes upon food coming from abroad, and that was owing to foreign competition or any other cause becoming so cheap that it would no longer pay to produce it in this country (Hear, hear). That appeared the greatest misfortune which could happen to the nation. The welfare of trade, and the welfare of every person in the community was bound up with that of agriculture. These things were inseparably linked together, and if ever it became a question whether taxes should be imposed on foreign food, or the land of this country should go out of cultivation he should prefer the former to the latter (cheers). He had not the slightest thought of proposing any taxation on the importation of foreign food; and he earnestly hoped that such an enquiry as he should ask for would elicit information which would tend to show that the causes of the present distress were of a temporary, and not a permanent character, and that they would be enabled to look forward to a more prosperous condition of agriculture than had been seen for some years' past (cheers).

Mr. JAMES STRATTEN thought that a readjustment of local taxation afforded almost the only hope of relief from the great depression.

Mr. H. BIDDELL (West Suffolk) trusted that the agricultural community would not take the initiative in any movement opposed to free trade.

Mr. G. L. FYCHTE maintained that the Council ought to give a hearty support to the motion of Mr. Chaplin.

Mr. GURDON (Norfolk) concurred in this view.

Mr. VERE WRIGHT remarked that the reciprocity would take money out of the pockets of foreigners instead of its being taken out of their own.

Mr. WALTER DUDDING said that when the Act of Elizabeth was passed, it was contemplated that all property would contribute to the poor rate and other local taxation, whereas in fact only 20 per cent. contributed at present.

Mr. JASPER MORE said he should like to know why the collective wisdom of the House of Commons could not decide the question at issue without the help of a Royal Commission, there having been particular inquiries already on the matters included in Mr. Chaplin's motion. As regarded prices, he might remark that the price of wheat was higher at present than it was in 1876 or in 1875. The truth was the prices of agricultural produce varied in different parts of the country, and it was a great mistake to deal with agriculture in the general manner in which it often was dealt with. He happened to live in a part of the country where they had the good fortune to be ignorant of the existence of agricultural depression (Laughter, and a voice "Where is that?"). It was on the Welsh border of Shropshire. Having a farm to let recently, within two days he had ten applications for it.

Mr. ST. JOHN ACKERS believed that the agriculturists of the West of England, from where he came, were entirely in favour of Mr. Chaplin's motion.

Mr. Jabez TURNER remarked that in that discussion they seemed to be forestalling the one about to take place at the

meeting in July, adding that he was surprised to learn just before of a Utopia where all the landlords appeared to be liberal and all the farmers contented (Laughter).

Baron DIMSDALE said he could see no advantage in discussing the question that day, and expressed a hope that the Council would disclaim wishing under any circumstances or on any consideration for a return of protection to native industries (Murmurs). In his opinion a revision of the system of local taxation was the only practicable remedy for the present depression.

Mr. CALDECOTT having seconded the motion,

Mr. CHAPLIN, M.P., said he was glad to find that his motion met with general approval. As regarded the opinion that had been expressed that the House of Commons was perfectly competent to decide the question, he would remark that he did not think they were at present in possession of the necessary information, but he had not the least doubt that when they were they would be found perfectly prepared to act. There could be no doubt that a very great amount of depression existed in the agricultural interest at that moment. The question was how long could that interest continue under such circumstances as the present? Could it stand two years? (No). Could it stand one year? (N.). The answers to these questions must be given by themselves, and with such questions before them they might all judge of the importance of the inquiry which he intended to propose.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Marquis of Huntly then retired from the chair in consequence of another engagement, and was succeeded by Colonel Brise, M.P.

Mr. PELL, M.P., read the report of the Local Taxation Committee.

Mr. PELL, in moving the reception of the Report, said he wished to call the special attention of members of the Council representing flooded districts to the Rivers Conservancy Bill, then before the House of Commons. He did not think the provisions of that Bill had hitherto been at all adequately discussed either in Parliament or out of it, and unless they watched its progress carefully owners and occupiers of land in the vicinity of such districts might have inflicted upon them a serious addition to local taxation for what they would derive no benefit from whatever.

Mr. D. LONG thought the Local Taxation Committee had not gone straight to the point.

Mr. H. BIDDELL pointed out that a new local charge had lately been composed for the Government audit of local expenditure.

Mr. PELL, M.P., said that matter had not escaped the attention of the Committee, who had done their best by means of interviews and in other ways to prevent that new imposition.

Mr. H. BIDDELL said the local bodies had not paid anything hitherto, and would now have to pay two or three pounds a year for every audit.

The SECRETARY observed that the matter was brought before the Council by the Local Taxation Committee last February.

The motion having been agreed to,

Mr. C. S. READ, M.P., moved, "That this Council is unable to accept the alterations made in the Rivers Conservancy Bill as removing the objections expressed to some portions of the measure, and is of opinion that further amendments ought to be secured in respect of the lands to be made liable, the persons to be charged, and the levying of the conservancy rate on the basis of the poor rate." The hon. gentleman observed that two points of objection to the Bill had been partly dealt with by the House of Lords, the minimum rating of the uplands having been reduced from one-fourth to one-sixth of the value, and a larger representation of occupiers of land having been provided for. The grand vicious principle of the Bill was that which pervaded nearly all modern legislation—someone else being made to pay for benefits which people conferred on themselves (Hear, hear). Owners and occupiers of land were to pay for the removal of impediments which they had not created.

Mr. LIPSCOMBE, in seconding the resolution, alluding to the contention that recent drainage works had added to floods, remarked that it had also taken something from them (Hear, hear).

In reply to a question from Mr. Lipscombe,

Mr. PELL said there was nothing in the Bill to prevent

municipal authorities from applying for provisional orders. Any sanitary authority might make such an application, and they all knew with what concentrated energy the representatives of towns acted in reference to such matters.

Mr. JABEZ TURNER said in his opinion the resolution did not go far enough. He objected to any increase of local taxation under the present system. Having lived for some years in a district which was subject to floods, he thought that all general outfalls should be made at the national expense. If persons living below the uplands objected to water being sent down to them, the remedy was in their own hands—they had only to send it back again (laughter).

Mr. LITTLE (Isle of Ely) remarked that the Bill would not only increase the local rates, but would make owners and occupiers contribute towards purposes in which they were not at all interested.

Mr. W. DUDDING doubted whether drainage had generally increased the flow from uplands. The question of taxation was at all events one for landlords rather than tenants, and it would be unjust to rate the latter.

Mr. D. LONG complained that the resolution was not definite enough, and moved as an amendment "That the Council objects to the raising of an impost to be levied under the Rivers Conservancy Bill by the rating of occupiers, and is of opinion that the owners of property benefited should be exclusively rated in proportion to the benefit derived."

Mr. DUCHAM having seconded this amendment,

Mr. RODWELL, Q.C., M.P., deprecated a full discussion of the question on that occasion. He would be exceedingly sorry if the Bill were rejected, knowing as he did towns and localities which suffered very much for want of some general Act, and feeling that they ought not to confine themselves to the purely agricultural view; but he thought there had not been sufficient investigation with regard to the interests concerned in the uplands, the intermediate lands, and the flooded lands, and in his opinion the best course would be to try and induce the Government to consent to the Bill being referred to a select committee, where all the interests might be heard (Hear, hear). Such a great national object deserved more consideration than it had yet received.

Mr. W. DUDDING also hoped that the Bill would not be rejected.

The CHAIRMAN (Col. Brise) thought they had all arrived at the conclusion that some Rivers Conservancy Bill was absolutely necessary, and also that the Bill before Parliament was not satisfactory (Hear, hear). He agreed with Mr. Rodwell that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. D. Long then postponed his amendment until the resolution had been disposed of.

The resolution having then been carried unanimously, Mr. Long's proposition was afterwards agreed to.

Mr. ST. JOHN ACKERS moved "That a further inquiry before a Select Committee of the House of Commons should be made before the Rivers Conservancy Bill is passed."

The motion having been seconded by Mr. W. DUDDING was adopted.

The next business on the agenda being to "consider the amendments to the Valuation Bill,"

The CHAIRMAN explained that though the Government had consented that the basis of valuation should be rent, it was to be rent on annual tenancies, and leases were not to be included.

Mr. W. BIDDLE thought that the rent to be taken as the basis of rating should be the aggregate rent of unions, and not the rent paid by individual occupiers.

The SECRETARY reminded the Council that the following resolution was passed at the meeting in February by 19 votes against 15. "That this Council does not approve of the definition of gross value, and is of opinion that rent paid should be substituted instead thereof, as is the case now in Scotland." He added that among fifty Chambers in England, only two had now forwarded resolutions on the subject.

Mr. BIDDLE then moved "That this Chamber is of opinion that rent should be the aggregate or main basis in rateable value, but not be applied in individual cases; in other words, it ought to be the basis of valuation for the whole union and not for single farms."

Mr. MARKE (Bedale, Yorkshire) having seconded this proposal,

Mr. D. LONG moved, and Mr. LAWRENCE seconded the

following amendment: "That this Chamber approves of the amendment in the valuation Bill as regards the basis of rating."

After some discussion, both the original resolution and the amendment were negatived in favour of a resolution submitted by Mr. St. John Ackers, "re-affirming the opinion of the Council that rent should be the basis of valuation," this proposal being carried by a majority of only two.

A paper was afterwards read by Mr. Manfield (West Suffolk) on bankruptcy law with regard to agricultural bankrupts.

## BEDALE.

A special meeting of this Chamber was held on June 3rd at Bedale, Mr. C. Clarke, the Hermitage, near Bedale, presiding.

The President said the corn averages seriously affected tenants who were subject to corn rents; they gave a basis upon which to calculate a tenant farmer's profit, and thereby affected the rentals; and there was the title rent charge, all matters seriously affected by such average. With reference to the circular sent by the Central Chamber from the Commissioners of Weights and Measures, there were more market towns or centres for making corn returns by nearly half in 1864 than 1877. In 1877 the return had been reduced to wheat, 1,912,688 qrs., barley, 1,795,049 qrs., and oats, 176,092 qrs., or only half the towns and half the quantity of corn. As to the increased prices, no doubt for many years corn in North Yorkshire had been sold more by weight than measure. It had been the rule to ask the weight before offering a price. The custom of markets in that neighbourhood had been to deliver 13 stone net, barley 16 stone net, and oats 22 stone net, per sack of four bushels. These weights were no doubt in excess of the weights of the imperial bushel. If collectors of returns had not paid attention to these matters, great unfairness must have been the result. As to the enhanced prices of the *Gazette* averages, there was no doubt but little tail corn was brought to market for sale, it having for many years been more profitable to consume it at home. If the great quantities of such corn during the past unfavourable year had been brought to market it would have had a serious effect upon the corn averages. With regard to the increased values, this appeared to be the chief point, and was very unfair to the producer. Originally tithe was drawn in kind, either from crops in the field or other articles on the farm which were titheable, and were subject to adverse seasons and other inconveniences the same as those of the farmer. But now in taking the averages, they were not taken from the producer, but from the trader, who added the cost of railway transit, his expenses and profits, and from such sales the returns were made. Again, by far the greater part of the grain now sold in our markets was of foreign production and of the best quality, grown in countries far superior to our own for corn growing, the common qualities never entering our market. This had a tendency to unfairly raise the corn averages. As regarded the towns to be selected for making returns, he suggested that towns where the lands were most subject to corn averages should be selected, and those only, seeing that those most interested would have the opportunity of scrutinising the returns. There were many other matters seriously affecting agriculture, which had from time to time been before the Chamber, viz., the questions slightly touched upon by the recent Holdings Act, the incidence of local taxation, the turnpikes recently thrown upon the rate-payers, the unfair system of rating for schools and school boards, and the vagrant question. These all affected agriculture, and were worthy of the attention of a Royal Commission. He therefore thought it was very desirable to support Mr. Chaplin's motion. An inquiry might do good, and it would do no harm. He was also in favour of Mr. Long's proposal for a further inquiry to be made into local taxation.

After some discussion, in which Mr. J. WALKER, Mr. G. J. ROBINSON, Mr. J. SMITH, and others took part,

Mr. TEALE, the secretary, moved:—

"That the representatives of this Chamber be and are hereby requested to attend the Central Chamber of Agriculture to support the resolution to be moved in the House of Commons

by Mr. Chaplin, M.P., as to the depressed condition of agricultural interests, and also the proposal of Mr. Long for a deputation to the Government as to local taxation, and the other matters for consideration by the Central Chamber.

Mr. W. POOLE seconded the motion, Mr. G. J. ROBINSON supported it, and it was agreed to unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the president brought the meeting to a close.

### EAST RIDING.

The monthly meeting was held on June 7th at Beverley Mr. Lee, of Gardham, in the chair. In considering Mr. Chaplin's intended motion for a Royal Commission to consider evidence on agricultural depression, Mr. Park (Cotwick) said he thought the Chamber ought to give the hon. member all the support in their power, for while manufacturers advanced the price of goods to recoup themselves for advanced wages, the farmers received no increased price for their produce. He moved a resolution to this effect, which Mr. Dickens (Beverley) seconded.—Mr. George Langdale (Leaconfield) moved the previous question, on the ground that Mr. Chaplin had all the evidence necessary in his possession, and this was carried. On the subject of corn returns, resolutions were passed as under:—

That the average weight per qr. of wheat for the purpose of corn returns in the East Riding should be 6 lb. per bushel.

That the present mode of ascertaining the average of corn rents is fallacious, inasmuch as the returns are often made by merchants after profits are obtained; and that towns mentioned in the Act should be required to make proper returns.

### GOOLE AND MARSHLAND.

The annual meeting and dinner of this Chamber was held on Wednesday, June 11, at the Lowther Hotel, Goole. The report submitted by Mr. T. H. Goulton, the hon. secretary, referred to the depression in agriculture, and expressed the hope that the motion of Mr. Chaplin, M.P., in favour of the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into it would be agreed to. The following appointments were made for the coming year: President, Mr. S. S. Laverack; Vice-presidents, Mr. John Bladworth, J.P., and Captain Thompson; Treasurer, Mr. R. C. T. Lyth; Secretary, Mr. T. H. Goulton. At the annual dinner subsequently held there, Mr. Laverack presided. Several subjects relating to agriculture were discussed, the depression which is felt in this district keenly being most prominent. Upon this subject the chairman, Messrs. Bennett, Boulton, and Captain Thompson dwelt forcibly, pointing out the necessity, on the part of the landlord, to meet the farmer. Comment was made on the increase of both local and imperial taxation, and this point it was contended must be watched. On the motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Spilman, it was decided to memorialise the Goole board of guardians to ask the magistrates in the West Riding quarter sessions to make the highway district coincident with the Goole rural sanitary authority.

### HEREFORDSHIRE.

A meeting of this Chamber was held at Hereford on June 11th. Mr. D. Edwards presided. It was agreed to support Mr. Chaplin's motion for a Royal Commission to inquire into the depression in the agricultural interest. After a brief discussion on the Valuation Bill, and another on Corn Returns, on which subjects no resolutions were passed, Mr. Duckham made some remarks on the Rivers Conservancy Bill, representing it as entirely a landlord's question. No resolution on the subject was moved.

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

A meeting of the Council of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Agriculture was held at the Corn Exchange on Saturday week, under the presidency of Mr. J. W. Watts, of Harrowden.

The Hon. SECRETARY (Mr. Adkins) again drew attention to the arrangements in connection with the subject of Agricultural Science Teaching. A local committee had been formed for Northamptonshire to endeavour to carry out the scheme. At present he knew of only one teacher who had

applied to go up to London in July. That was the science master of Northampton (Mr. Beeby Thompson). If that gentleman succeeded in qualifying he (Mr. Adkins) should call the committee together with the view of establishing a class.

Mr. T. J. ADKINS read the circular of the Weights and Measures Committee of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, which called attention to the official statement of quantities of British corn returned as sold in market towns in England and Wales. This showed in 1864 on 4,992,300 qrs of wheat, 2,559,316 qrs. of barley, 508,742 qrs. of oats, the towns included in the return numbering 290. In 1879 the figures were 3,398,665 qrs. of wheat, 1,841,678 qrs. of barley, 206,091 qrs. of oats in 150 towns. The 1877 return, however, showed a still further reduction, viz., 1,942,688 qrs. wheat, 1,795,049 qrs. of barley, 176,092 qrs. oats, in the same number of towns as in 1877. The committee invite the assistance and co-operation of the local Chambers of Agriculture throughout England, and they desired to have the opinion and suggestions of this Chamber on the following points:— (1) The increased prices returned owing to the use of weighed measures, which are in excess of the natural weight of the grain, and the failure of the local collectors to convert the quantities sold into true imperial measures before making the returns. (2) The enhanced price of the "Gazette" averages resulting from more corn than was formerly used being now consumed on the farm in the feeding of stock and not brought to market. (3) The increased values returned due to the additional price following on repeated sales—the prices quoted often including the cost of carriage and the profit of corn dealers. (4) The towns, if any, in their district which they would recommend to be made returning markets.

Mr. BERRY considered the return ought to be made direct by the farmers who grew the corn. At present the produce was returned several times over, the dealers selling it again at an increased rate. He thought the best plan would be for five or six of the leading farmers to give a return of the prices they made in their particular market.

The HONORARY SECRETARY said he believed at present only Northampton and Peterborough made a return.

Mr. Berry's suggestion was generally deemed to be a good one, and the Council passed the following resolution:—

"That in order to ascertain more correctly the price of corn, the return should be made by the farmers rather than by the merchants."

It was arranged that a circular should be sent to each member of Council, requesting every one to gather the local opinion of his own district on the question.

It was agreed, on the proposition of Mr. CHETTER, to support Mr. Chaplin's motion, praying for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the depressed condition of the agricultural interest, and the causes to which it is owing, whether those causes are of temporary or permanent character, and how far they have been created or can be remedied by legislation.

Mr. BERRY incidentally remarked that the depression appeared likely to be permanent.

Mr. W. SAULL, in alluding to the Valuation Bill measure, described it as one of the worst Bills that had been introduced. He thought the amendments would effect a decided improvement, and he suggested that the Council should signify their approval of the same.

Mr. WALKER commented on the numerical strength of the amendments, and thought it hardly likely they would agree with the whole fifty brought forward respectively by the most opposite parties.

It was deemed desirable to postpone the consideration of the measure to another meeting.

Mr. WALKER strongly protested against the new principle the Conservancy Bill proposed to introduce of taxing the uplands as well as the valleys for expenses in connection with the rivers, and moved:—

"That in the opinion of this Chamber the Rivers Conservancy Bill should be limited in its application to the lands which are likely to be benefitted thereby."

Mr. BERRY seconded, and it was agreed to.

Mr. W. ADKINS stated that he objected to the Bill also on account of its permissive nature.

## VARIOUS NOTES.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date May 30th:—The desperate position in which certain immigration promoters and other interests find themselves through the stoppage of the United States supply is evidenced by the following noteworthy paragraph in last Tuesday's *Montreal Gazette*, a leading political and commercial paper: "Drovers from Ontario state that, although plenty of cattle can be found in the country, the kinds required for export are getting scarce. The opinion obtains in the trade, that the bulk of both distillery and stall-fed cattle fit for shipment will soon be exhausted, and that the demand will have to be satisfied with a less desirable class of beasts." Can a more cogent proof than this be forthcoming of the enormous amount of lying we have had for a purpose, and of the accuracy of what I have told you all along respecting Canadian cattle export capabilities? Only a few thousand beasts—nearly all distillery-fed—have this year left Canada for England, and already the supply "will soon be exhausted!" Where are the 200,000 animals which the English public were told were ready for exportation? Such misrepresentations are disgraceful to all concerned. I have little doubt that the interests will strain every nerve to get the United States embargo removed, careless of the possible results to English herds—because its continuance involves a certain and even more severe exposure of the fictions imposed for the last two years on the English public and press.

The *London Times* has a paragraph stating that immigration from the North of England is increasing—that a party of nine or ten farmers have left the Durham district for Manitoba, and that more will follow. I am truly sorry for them. Manitoba and the Canadian North-West are far too cold, rugged, and unsettled for English farmers and agricultural labourers. Growls of disgust and disappointment are already heard from Canadians and others who have this year been allured to those inhospitable regions, where sharks, Larpies, cormorants, vultures, and birds of prey of all kinds are on the look out for "greenhorn" victims from the time they arrive till they have a thing left out of which to be victimised. A grasping land-monopoly, which cares for nothing but the satisfaction of its own greed, has nearly all the province by the throat. Indeed, the Rev. Mr. Ross, a Presbyterian missionary there, in a lecture delivered in Toronto this week, expressed "his surprise to hear so many were going to Manitoba, in view of the fact that there was no land in that province available for the settler. The whole of the land was taken up in reserves and by speculators, and immigrants on arriving at Winnipeg would be terribly disappointed on learning the fact, and they would have to go west or north of Manitoba to settle. It is indeed melancholy to think of English farmers wandering about these new untroubled wildernesses, seeking for locations—not getting settled probably till too late to put in even a patch of potatoes, and (as winter sets in about the middle or end of October) thus obliged to live on capital till harvest in 1800, in a country where there are no roads or labour market, and where a poor man is utterly out of place. Writing to the *Globe* on the terrible land grab in those regions of mud and mosquitoes, Mr. James Hendrick says it will be so aggravated by the extraordinary hundred-million-acre European "benevolent" immigration on lock-up scheme of the Government, that though he went to Winnipeg to try and find a home, he intends to go to the States, and he adds that a great many British subjects are at the present time returning to Dakota and Minnesota to make homes for themselves. Mr. W. J. Munro, Toronto official assignee, also writes to the same paper that a great many people have already left Manitoba disgusted, and that "Manitoba is a poor place for a poor

man." He advises intending settlers not to break up their homes, or move their family till they have seen the country—advice I always give myself to anybody who consults me about immigration to any part of this continent. Immigrants from England are still arriving at Quebec, but nobody knows what they can do, or what will become of them. The Ottawa correspondent of the *Toronto Globe* says that a few days ago not less than 100 unemployed adult males were counted within two blocks from the Ottawa City Hall. Wages are going down. The Canada Southern Railway Company announce a reduction of ten per cent. in wages, owing to the increased cost of running the road "under protection," and they have also dismissed a man from each gang. In fact, the new Protection policy does not seem yet to have done more than decrease wages, and give a great impetus to smuggling. The *Halifax Recorder* of the 19th says the appearances are that, even in midsummer, there will be great destitution and suffering in our midst. Every day a more or less number of men have called at the *Recorder* office, endeavouring to get some information about the "job" for which some 200 labourers were wanted, on the Pacific Railway. One young man stated that work was never scarcer in Halifax, and the prospects never less. The funniest thing is that while Protection was expected *par excellence* to foster iron manufacture, the only iron and steel works in the Dominion have been closed under its operations. The *Montreal Witness*, accepted as a good authority on commercial matters, says "the only hope now left to avoid complete national prostration is a good harvest." Yet it is in this position of affairs that that stupendous piece of folly, the Canadian Pacific Railway, is to be pushed on, and Britain asked to assist in an undertaking, the craziness of which is only equalled by its costliness. *Grip* (the *Canadian Punch*) gives a map of the North-West, in which this huge political railway is depicted running tortuously through the territories of "Humbag," "Folly," "Expense," "Nonsense," "Absurdity," "Ruio," "Bankruptcy," and "Corruption." The satire is not too strong. It reflects the opinion of most independent bankers, and justifies what the Hon. A. Mackenzie lately said in the House, that if he were an English minister he would not "guarantee" a sixpence. The N. S. or "National Scheme," as it is called, will infallibly prove more fallacious than the N. P. or "National Policy." The latter, while checking the importation of British goods, has not, as it was said to be intended to do, much checked American. A correspondent of the *St. John Globe* says that from the 12th to the 15th instant there were only about 840 packages of goods from England against 1,060 from the States. Heretofore the importation ratio was largely the other way.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date June 6th:—The Ontario elections held yesterday resulted in a victory for the Mowat administration, and, on account of the issues involved, are of peculiar significance and interest, not only for us but the home public. The Ontario Government is not necessarily connected with Dominion politics. Dominion and Provincial questions, as tests at the polls, may legitimately stand insulated; but in a large number of the constituencies this contest was waged on two main issues—first, a charge that the present "Reform" Government have been extravagant, and secondly that its members had taken part in the Dominion contest last September against the "N.P." or National (protectionist) Policy. Thus the question of Protection *v.* Free Trade came up again before the electors. The verdict they have pronounced after a few months' trial of the new panacea must have an influence beyond this Province, in September last Ontario, at the general election,

returned a majority of 66 to 33 in favour of Sir John Macdonald; yesterday, of 88 constituencies 51 returned supporters of Mr. Mowat's Free-trade administration, and only 26 opponents. The remaining 10 returns are expected to be equally divided. Thus the Government majority in the new House will be about 26—a considerable increase of parliamentary strength. The city of Hamilton—the “Birmingham” of Ontario—returned a Ministerialist, contrary to the expectations of both parties, because the new Tariff might of course be deemed likely to have given unqualified satisfaction in a manufacturing locale. As for the farming constituencies, a brief taste of Protection seems to have been enough for them. At any rate they have gone back on their September vote in exemplary style. The three important York Ridings have returned Ministerialists, whereas last September they returned Conservatives. Mr. Mowat, the Premier, was returned in N. Oxford by 1,400 majority, and Mr. Crooks, one of his colleagues, in South Oxford, by 1,000! The blow to Protection and to Sir John A. Macdonald's Administration is heavy. Indeed, one is driven to the conclusion that a general election coming now would show as signal a revulsion of sentiment throughout the Dominion as has been shown in Ontario; the more so since Sir John and some of the Dominion Cabinet threw themselves into the Ontario battle, and addressed a great public meeting at Toronto on behalf of the Protectionist opposition. Moreover, as much of the Ontario patronage rests with the Ottawa and not the Toronto administration, and as all the influence that involves would tell on the contest, the Ontario Government had an up-hill fight, and their success is so much the more important and conspicuous.

Such of your farmers and others as may have been more or less looking towards Protection as a panacea for existing depression, cannot fail, I apprehend, to be impressed with this decided and speedy renunciation of that great cure-all by Canadian agricultural constituencies. A letter in a leading Toronto paper this morning from a resident of North Wentworth, near Hamilton, may, I think, be accepted as a guide to the reasons which, rightly or wrongly, have swayed the votes of the majority of the electors. The hopes of much additional work so far as manufactures are concerned, have, he says, turned out delusive. Not a single mechanic, for instance, is now at work at the big screw factory at Dundas, nor at Kennedy's boiler shops. Such establishments as are in full work were in full work before Protection. None of the additional “hum of industry” promised is heard; goods are no cheaper; the extra amount of money guaranteed is not in circulation. Meantime employers, for such work as they have, seek to import people from England, while hundreds of willing Canadian workmen are to-day in a perfect wilderness of want and misery.” As for the farmers, the large agricultural vote rolled up in favour of the Ministry shows they have—to put it mildly—become eminently sceptical *re* the blessings of the “N.P.,” and consequently (though the Mowat Administration has undoubtedly been frightfully extravagant in expenditure) they seem to have condoned that peccadillo, and determined to retain the administration in office at Toronto as a counterpoise to their old but now rejected *fiancée* at Ottawa. In view of the popular enthusiasm on behalf of Protection last September the Ontario Opposition may be excused for supposing the “N.P.” would be a good card to play in the Ontario elections. But the result has shown they would have done better to have confined themselves to the issue of extravagance and jobbery, on which undoubtedly they had a strong case.

It is announced this morning that the embargo on the importation of American cattle into the five eastern provinces of the Dominion which would have expired to-day, is extended to September next. This will be a great dis-

appointment to not a few who had been relying on its withdrawal.

The following from the commercial intelligence of a Toronto paper of yesterday is significant and amusing:—“Montreal, June 4.—The live stock market is fairly active. Shipping lots of cattle were eagerly taken in Montreal market at prices ranging from 4.50 dols. to 5.50 dols. per 100 lb. live weight. The impression seems to have been established at that market that the embargo against the transport of American cattle will not be continued longer than the 6th instant, which was the limit last published in the Order in Council, and owing to this belief it is thought that some haste has been shown in shipping all the distillery fed cattle out of the country.” Just so. If you turn back to one of my former letters when this embargo was put on, you will see I wrote:—“The American stock our dealers have on hand, and the native beasts now fattening in the Canadian and other distilleries will, perhaps, serve to keep them going till the end of April.” It seems they have been able to struggle on till the end of May—and now, being at the end of their tether, have been scheming and hoping to get the lifting of the embargo. In this they have failed, and what they will do now to hide, what Prince Hal calls, the “open and apparent shame” of their make-believes supplied to the English papers by the emigration officials puzzles speculation.

Our leading financial organs continue to scout the idea that the Ottawa delegation of Cabinet ministers to England will succeed in bamboozling Downing-street into guaranteeing their wonderful “national scheme” of colonisation and railway making. The *Montreal Journal of Commerce* not only thinks there is “little prospect” of any Imperial co-operation by guarantee or otherwise, but adds, “We confess we entertain the most gloomy forebodings as to this work considering the existing state of depression in all civilised countries.” The *Monetary Times* says we have only a handful of white people on our Pacific coasts; little mail matter; no troops or munitions of war; that the railway “originates in a mere spirit of imitation of the Union Pacific by official promoters who think this country with only one-tenth of the population of the States could perform a similar feat, though the conditions in wealth, population, and trade are wholly different.” There is no doubt the scheme is due to the exigencies of politicians who wish to secure support through the pay and patronage involved.

Nearly everybody in Canada has been unable to comprehend the sudden spurt of emigration to Canada which began to set in from England a month or two ago, and has continued weekly since. Thousands of people want work here, yet immigrants are arriving at 500 a week! The secret is now out. There is, the *Toronto Globe* says, a private engagement on the part of the Dominion Government, with Sir Hugh Allen, for extending the immigration bonus system, so as to recoup that leviathan steam packet owner for the 300,000 dols. or 400,000 dols. he put into the “Pacific Scandal” fund. The *Globe* protests against this as an outrage on the working men of Canada, and says there are now here “tens of thousands of people” out of work. It would take a bulky volume to lay bare the history and mystery of the Canadian immigration “business.”

Our New Zealand (Auckland) correspondent writes under date April 29th:—

It is not without considerable show of reason that Old Aucklanders claim for their province the finest climate, not only of New Zealand, but of all the Australian colonies, the weather during the past summer and autumn now within a couple of days of coming to a close, having been simply superb. While the days were warm and bright, the evenings were deliciously cool, heavy dews

every night refreshing the face of Nature, and in the intervals between the rainfalls, preserving growth and thereby supplying abundance for the flocks and herds depending on the pastures. While in Sydney, scarcely 1,200 miles due west, the inhabitants during the past summer have been stewed, and in Levecka, the capital of the Fiji Islands, about the same distance north, the European residents have been parboiled, breaking out all over into boils and blains from the excessive heat, a state of body neither pleasant nor desirable, the dwellers in Auckland Province embracing a territory of 17½ million acres have suffered but little inconvenience from the heat during the past six months, it being no exaggeration to say that during the whole of that period the weather has been thoroughly enjoyable, as well as highly favourable for all agricultural operations. Tourists and mercantile men arriving from New South Wales, were invariably in raptures as the steamer glided amongst the islands outside of Auckland harbour, when they saw the slopes covered with the richest verdure, and the entire aspect of vegetation generally presenting such a wonderful contrast to the land they had left but five days before, where there was scarcely a green leaf, and the pastures shrivelled up by the intense heat to the colour of the clay. Amongst the aboriginal natives of this province there has been much agitation lately with regard to a portion of the lands still held by them, and which were confiscated to the Government at the conclusion of the last war. The lands in question containing probably as fine land as there is in New Zealand, are known by the designation of the Waimate Plains, and although confiscated for rebellion, were never formally taken possession of, no surveys made, no forts built, and the natives never driven off or interfered with in any way. Sixteen years ago the recent surveys are ordered, and the whole of the lands, amounting to many thousand acres, advertised to be sold in suitable blocks. The present owners, who have during all these years remained in peaceable and undisturbed possession, contending that the Government claim has expired by effluxion of time, rose *en masse* and drove off the surveyors, pulled up their pins, and erased all the marks and divisions laid down by the *Pasteta* (white man). They say in addition to this overt act, that as the principal instigators of the late war were all either killed in battle or have since died in the natural course, that it would be much better to let things remain as they are; in point of fact, they say in different words, although with the same meaning, exactly what the Border Magistrate said to the Scotch freebooter, "Gie the honest man his mear (mare) again," shake hands and be friends. Now this driving off of the surveyors was an act which might easily have led to a serious rupture between the two races, nay, even might have been counted a sufficient *casus belli* for a war of extermination, and large bodies of well-armed police were sent up to protect the settlers on the boundary line, who in days gone by would have instantly been murdered. But the Maori is not deficient in wisdom, and he knows that in a conflict with white men defeat is his doom, and they at once appealed to the Ministry to have their case inquired into in the Supreme Courts, declaring that they were as loyal subjects of Queen Victoria as the white man himself, and that they had no wish to injure any one, but only to have justice. The Premier, Sir George Grey, true to the temporising policy in his dealings with the Aborigines, which has ever been a distinguishing feature of his character, and which has made him so beloved by them and hated by his political opponents, at once ordered the sales to be withdrawn pending amicable arrangements being made of one of the most difficult questions that has cropped up in the affairs of New Zealand for many years. The Maories themselves are holding immense

meetings in connection with this matter, some of the chiefs speaking well, their words being words of wisdom, when translated, and many exposures have been made by them of the modes by which unprincipled white men cheated them out of their land. Blank instruments, to which the signatures were attached when the poor ignorant creatures were stupefied by drink, or misrepresentation of the wording of the deeds under similar circumstances, the filling up being done afterwards, are described in quaint yet faithful and stern language as the leading modes by which natives have been deprived of their lands, without receiving anything at all like their value. The provisions required for these native meetings, where thousands of men and women are collected from all parts of the country, remaining together for a considerable time, is something enormous, and some of the items in the bill of fare are rather out of the ordinary run as articles of food. In addition to great quantities of flour sent up to a native meeting now going on, sheep, pigs, and cattle, no less than 13,000 dried sharks were provided, a large number of casks of salted eels, and an immense number of salted albatrosses, specially procured from the Chatham Islands for the occasion. It seems to be a distinguishing trait of all uncivilized nations—and the bulk of the Maories are but as yet emerging from barbarism—to accompany the transaction of all business of importance with a feast, to which everyone, young and old, who has the remotest connection with the tribe is invited, and think it their duty, even at great trouble and inconvenience, to attend. Sir George Grey has, no doubt, by his humane and liberal policy, disappointed many greedy land-speculators on this occasion, who expected to make fortunes out of their purchases; but if he saves the country from a civil war, by settling this extremely complicated question in a Court of Equity, instead of by the sword, he will not only retain the prestige of this country as a popular and prosperous colony, but deserve the gratitude of all ranks, both here and in the parent country.

The public works policy is being pushed on in New Zealand with considerable vigour, but all operations are cramped and retarded by the scarcity of labour, and the consequent high rate of wages. Notwithstanding the thousands of labourers annually imported the rate of wages is as high now as it was twenty years ago. In some districts it is even higher. Shearers get as much as ever they did, and farm labourers, mechanics, road men, navvies, and others get higher wages than they have done for some years past. All over the colony farmers have been greatly distressed, and have lost much money, not merely because they had to pay high wages, but for the reason that in very many cases they absolutely could not get the labour they needed, no matter what wages they were prepared to pay.

The whole of the single girls arriving by the Hudson, immigrant ship, were engaged at rates higher than on any previous occasion, varying from 10s. to 20s. per week. The farm hands found employment readily, but the demand for tradesmen was not brisk.

**THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.**—The inauguration dinner of this Society took place on Monday the 9th, in the large room of the Freemasons' Tavern, Mr. Thomas Speckley, the treasurer of the Thames Angling Society, in the chair. Nearly 250 gentlemen, amongst whom were many of the principal metropolitan anglers, attended. The toast of the evening, "The Anglers' Benevolent Society," was responded to by its founder, Mr. P. Geen, in terms which were appreciated and responded to by liberal donations. The Society is one likely to have an extended significance as destined to embrace other fields of charity in the fishing industries beyond those the sufferings and necessities of which it at present undertakes to ameliorate.

THE CAUSE OF THE "GID" IN SHEEP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Will you allow me to bring before your readers (who may perhaps not have met with the useful little work from which it is extracted) a most interesting and scientific account of the terrible parasite which produces the most distressing cerebral disease named by West Somerset peasants "Mazeuess," and by scientists the "Gid," in sheep? I met with it recently in a clever little work by Van Beneden, named "Parasites and Messmates" (Henry S. King & Co., London). The work contains within a small compass an immense amount of information on a branch of natural history, the study of which I cannot help believing to be pregnant with importance both to the agriculturist and the student of medicine. Just as the much dreaded human tapeworm requires two organisms—the flesh of the pig and the human stomach—to effect its complete development, so does the cœurus of the sheep only attain its perfect form and pass through the last stages of its existence in the organism of the wolf or dog. The following is its history:—"This worm, which has only lately been recognised in this country in its tenoid (tapeworm) form, has, on the contrary, been long known under the name of *cœurus cerebralis*; this develops itself on the brain of the sheep, and occasions the disease known as the "Gid." The disease may be produced artificially. The sheep which swallows the eggs of this tenia shows the first symptoms of it towards the 17th day. If we kill it at this time we find on the surface of the brain, either at the base or the summit, or sometimes between the hemispheres and the cerebellum, one or more white vesicles of the size of a pea, and on which no traces of buds are yet to be seen. This vesicle, of a milky white colour, and filled with liquid, is the scolex. Near these vesicles are to be seen some very irregular yellow furrows, like tubes abandoned by some tubicular annidia; this is the gallery through which the nesicular worm has proceeded to the place where it is found. A fortnight later, that is to say, about the thirty-second day, the cœurus is as large as a small nut, and one can see with the naked eye some small nebulous corpuscles, separate from each other, of the same form and size; these are the buds, or scolices, which have risen up, but which as yet have neither hooks nor suckers. Eggs of the same tenia have been given to sheep at Copenhagen and at Gressen, with the same result as we had at Louvain. On the fifteenth or sixteenth day the first symptoms of "gid" declared themselves. At about the thirty-eighth day the crown of hooks appeared, the suckers were formed, and the whole head of the scolex was sketched out. All these heads can leave or enter the sheath at the will of the animal. This worm continues to grow for a long time in the cranial cavity, and produces by its presence the gravest results. The sheep necessarily dies at last, unless we remove the parasite by means of the trepan. The cœurus at this point of development, swallowed by a dog, undergoes great changes in a few hours. The large vesicle withers; the different scolices unsheath their cephalic extremity, become free, penetrate into the intestine with the food, and attach themselves to its walls, so as to form as many colonies of tenia as there are distinct heads. A dog which has swallowed a single cœurus may therefore contain a considerable number of tenia. The development of this worm proceeds very rapidly, and it only requires three or four weeks to attain many feet in length. The wolf or the dog follows the flock of sheep, scatters the eggs in their way, and the sheep, browsing on the grass with the eggs attached, become infected with their most dangerous enemy."

And now comes the practical lesson to be drawn from

the above life-history of the parasite. The author continues: "To arrest the disease only one thing is necessary—to destroy by fire the head of every sheep attacked by the "gid." The rest of the animal may be eaten without danger. The cœurus of the sheep is a true calamity when it spreads in a country. The animal attacked by it is lost, and the mischief may be indefinitely propagated by giving as food to dogs the head of the sick animal, with thousands of young tenia enclosed within each."

Hoping the above may prove of interest to your readers,

I am, Sir, &c.,  
Bristol, June 12th. ELIZA BOUCHER.

PROTECTION IN CANADA.

The following cuttings from Canadian papers, the names not being in all cases given, have been sent to us from Canada.

The *Metacary Times* says:—

The rapid development of our live cattle exports to Britain has of late somewhat overshadowed our shipments to that country of butter and cheese, bacon and hams. Our exports to the Mother Country of these articles amount, however, to an annual value of 6,315,918 dollars in 1877-8 and 6,972,177 dollars in 1873-7. The figures of the last fiscal year are: Butter and cheese 5,850,383 dollars, bacon and hams 465,540 dollars, total 6,315,923 dollars. Our new tariff must, by reason of the increased duty on hogs, result unfavourably to the packing or curing for export of purely Canadian hog products; so that if we are not to be beaten entirely in the British market by the Americans' hams and bacon, we shall have to buy American hogs and pack them in bond for export.

Another paper says:—

A visit to a few of the leading merchants in Ottawa this morning resulted in the information that the operation of the new tariff is most oppressive and inconvenient. A wholesale dealer in fancy goods, novelties &c., states that yesterday he paid no less than 40 per cent. duty on a consignment of perfumery instead of 25 as previously paid, and the goods were such as people in moderate circumstances, and not the rich would purchase. The price of almost every article in his business has been increased to the consumer. The rate of advance has been thus:—For every increase in the tariff of 7½ per cent., 10 per cent. is charged the consumer; for an increase of 25 per cent. 30 per cent., and of 35 per cent. 40 per cent. He argues that he has just as much right to expect a profit on the money paid in the increased tariff charges as on the original price.

One curious result of a retaliatory policy against the United States can hardly have been anticipated by the Manufacturers' Association, which had so much to do with guiding the steps of Mr. Tilley when he formulated his wonderful tariff. Will it be believed that certain lines of American manufactures are coming into Canada at the old rates, the producers on the other side paying the duty? This is especially the case, we believe, with hardware and iron products generally, and this may be the main reason why the only iron works in the Dominion, those of Londonberry in Nova Scotia, have been closed down during the past month. One thing is certain, if this goes on Mr. Tilley will derive a far greater revenue from United States imports than he was led to expect, while the manufacturers who relied upon the tariff being prohibitory, will have to agitate for still higher duties before they can hope to shut out foreign competition.

Hide and Skin Markets.

		LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 21.					
		d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.
MARKET HIDES							
58 to 64lbs.....	0 2½ to 0 2¾			Horse hides, each	6 0 to 12 0		
64 to 72lbs.....	0 2¾ 0 3			Calfskins, light	2 0 4 0		
72 to 80lbs.....	0 3 0 3½			Full.....	7 0 0 0		
80 to 85lbs.....	0 3½ 0 3¾			Sheep Skins: Lncls.	0 0 0 0		
85 to 90lbs.....	0 3¾ 0 3¾			Kents and half-breds	0 0 0 0		
90 to 100lbs.....	0 3¾ 0 4¾			Lambs	1 6 8 0		
100 to 105lbs.....	0 3¾ 0 4¾			Do ns	4 6 5 0		
105 to 112lbs.....	0 0 0 0			Tegs	6 0 7 0		

## REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE,

FROM *THE MARK LANE EXPRESS* FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 21.

Some indications of a favourable change in the weather have manifested themselves during the course of the past week, and on the whole the rainfall has diminished, but at the same time agricultural advices are by no means unanimous on the subject of improvement. The saturated state of the heavy soils, particularly in the midland counties, which have suffered most from the recent floods, has retarded the development and impoverished the condition of the wheat plant, concerning the discoloration of which complaints are louder than heretofore. Although scarcely up to a normal point, the temperature has been warm, and this has to some extent counteracted the retarding influence of the abundant rain, but the combination of the two forces has produced a state of atmosphere under which weeds of all kinds have so rapidly increased as to interfere materially with the growth of cereals. Wheat promises but fairly on the mixed and light soils, the condition of the plant on all heavy, low-lying lands giving rise to well founded apprehension, while recent reports concerning barley leave much to be desired. Grass has grown rapidly, and the pastures now present a satisfactory, if not luxuriant appearance, but it will probably be found that the hay crop has suffered in point of quality through the absence of sunshine. Cutting has not yet commenced, and wheat ears are by no means plentiful, indeed the general aspect of the country is scarcely more advanced than is usually the case at the end of May. In Scotland turnip sowing has been retarded by the rainy and unsettled weather, and potatoes show a weekly plant which make a speedy return of warmth and sunshine more than ever to be desired. At this time of year weather influences are usually paramount in the grain trade and any great amount of animation can scarcely be expected to prevail in the market, while the sun shines; still the amount of quietude which has prevailed during the past week has been in a great measure due to the continuance of liberal imports into London and the United Kingdom generally. The arrivals of foreign wheat into London amounted to nearly 58,000 qrs., the greater proportion of which consisted of shipments from North Russian ports. It is not unusual at this time of year to anticipate an increased drain upon foreign supplies caused by the depletion of stocks of home-grown wheat in farmers' hands, but no improvement in the demand from this cause has yet made itself felt, as the deliveries at the principal country markets indicate the existence of far more abundant reserves than was expected. The depressing influence of such supplies has counteracted any apprehensions of a deficient English harvest, and prices remain stationary. The demand has also been limited for all classes of wheat, with perhaps some slight exception in favour of American sorts which were rather actively dealt in at the beginning of the week, as buyers do not appear to think the lowest point has yet been reached, and have consequently abstained from purchasing except in such quantities as their immediate needs have dictated. It is, however, by no means unlikely that a revival of the Continental demand may occur to rally prices from their present depressed level, against the effect of the heavy prospective supplies from Russia and America, but until such takes place it is scarcely to be hoped that the trade will emerge from the uninteresting monotony which has characterised it for so long. But little change can be recorded in the position of feeding corn. Maize has been less inquired for, and spot

corn has only been prevented from receding by reason of its scarcity, a state of affairs not likely to last long considering that the shipments from Atlantic ports to the United Kingdom for the week ending 16th inst. have reached the enormous sum of 290,000 qrs. Grinling barley has moved dull, and there is at present no demand for malting sorts, while oats have receded about 6d. per qr. under pressure of large supplies. The sales of English wheat noted last week were 69,426 qrs., at 41s. 8d., against 26,546 qrs., at 46s. 9d. in the previous year. The London averages for the week ending June 20th were 42s. 9d. on 573 qrs. The imports into the United Kingdom for the week ending June 14th were 687,335 cwt. of wheat, and 193,663 cwt. of flour. In consequence of the unsettled state of the weather, a considerable amount of firmness was apparent in the grain trade at the opening of the market on Monday last, and factors commenced by asking rather more money for wheat, but their views not being shared by buyers, business was restricted and sales were not practicable at any quotable advance. Transactions were mainly of a retail nature as the depressing influence exercised by large present and prospective imports caused millers to limit their purchases to their immediate requirements, and checked speculation. The arrivals of English wheat were 3,239 qrs., and there was very little fresh up on factors' stands. A somewhat improved demand was experienced for choice lots, which were scarce, and as buyers resisted any advance, sales were made at the extreme prices of the previous Monday, the prevalence of rain having been unfavourable to the growing crop. The week's imports of foreign amounted to 41,691 qrs., of which quantity nearly 22,000 were from North Russian ports. America furnished 8,601 qrs., and Germany about 5,000 qrs., the remainder of the supply being contributed by Australia, New Zealand, and Egypt. A steady demand was experienced, particularly for American descriptions at fully former rates, but where Russian sorts were pressed for sale ex ship, holders had to submit to a reduction of 6d. per qr. The exports were 2,004 qrs. against 404 qrs. in the preceding week. There were 340 qrs. of home-grown Barley, and 2,147 qrs. of foreign, and with a limited inquiry prices were unaltered for both malting and grinding descriptions. Maize, with arrivals amounting to 8,279 qrs., was less sought after, but where sales were made previous prices were fully maintained owing to the scarcity of spot corn. The imports of oats were large, being nearly 85,000 qrs., and with an active demand prices receded 3d. to 6d. per qr. on the week for all except the choicest varieties. On Wednesday there were 350 qrs. of English, and 40,620 qrs. of foreign wheat reported. With brilliant sunshine, and an unusually thin attendance, dullness reigned supreme in all branches of the trade, in the absence of sales, prices being nominally unaltered for wheat and feeding stuffs. On Friday the supply had increased to 760 qrs. of home-grown wheat, and 57,260 qrs. foreign. Business was again very inactive, but where sales of wheat were made Monday's prices were as a rule obtainable. Barley, oats and maize were dull and without change in value. The imports of Flour into the United Kingdom for the week ending June 14th, were 193,663 cwt. against 138,366 cwt. in the previous week. The receipts into London were 15,098 sacks of English, and 10,686 sacks and 1,400 barrels of foreign. Business has been slow during the past week, but English sacks have changed hands at

former prices, and holders of the more saleable sorts of foreign have resisted any decline. The trade has been of a hand to mouth character as buyers have only sought to cover their immediate requirements. The week's arrivals of beans were 92,295 cwt., and of peas 12,596 cwt., showing a decrease of 9,895 cwt. on the former, and 65,115 cwt. on the latter. Beans have moved off steadily at last week's currencies, while peas brought 1s. per qr. more money at the beginning of the week, but with subsequent increased arrivals the advance was with difficulty maintained. The deliveries of malt were 16,298 qrs., and the exports 1,516 qrs. The trade remains very dull, but in the limited amount of business passing, previous quotations have been obtainable. The agricultural seed trade remains in its usual state of summer quietude, and there has been next to nothing done either in English or American red clovers. Some slight speculative movement has affected alsike and white clover, but buyers of trefoil are exceedingly difficult to meet with, although holders show no disposition to make any concession on the finer qualities. Mustard and rape have met a moderate inquiry at fully last week's prices, but hemp and canary must be noted slow and the turn cheaper to sell. The country markets have again been well supplied with wheat from the farmers, and with the exception of an occasional advance of 6d. to 1s. per qr. quoted in a few exchanges, provincial trade has undergone little change. Spring corn has been dull, and, if anything, the turn in buyers' favour. At Liverpool, on Tuesday, the market was fairly attended and a rather better demand for Wheat was experienced, as millers bought with more confidence, albeit no advance was obtainable. Flour was in moderate consumptive request and commanded full prices, while beans and peas failed to attract much attention. With continued large supplies maize received  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cental, but was not freely offered at the decline, new mixed closing at 4s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and old at 4s. 3d. The week's imports included 63,000 qrs. of wheat, and 54,000 qrs. of maize. At Newcastle the wheat trade continues dull, but prices have not perceptibly varied, nor has any alteration taken place in flour, for which the demand has also moved within very narrow limits. Maize remains quiet, while oats have shown increased firmness. At Leeds there has been a fair inquiry for English red wheat, but foreign has been neglected. Oats have occasionally brought rather more money and beans are firmly held. At Edinburgh the supplies of wheat and oats have been limited, and both articles have met a ready sale at fully late rates. Barley and beans have been offered more freely, but sales have been practicable without any reduction in values. At Leith the weather has been unsettled and rainy, but a somewhat higher temperature has prevailed. The growing crops on the good lands are looking well, but on the heavy clays the plants are sickly and discoloured from excess of moisture and want of sun. The week's arrivals of wheat, barley, and flour have been large, and a moderate consumptive demand has been experienced at about late rates. At market on Wednesday Scotch wheat moved off freely, but there was only a retail demand for foreign. Oats favoured sellers, but other descriptions of feeding corn met a slow sale at unaltered currencies. At Glasgow wheat has been sparingly offered and occasionally rather higher prices have been obtainable. Flour has been quiet and spring corn unchanged. At Dublin the weather has undergone little improvement, the rainfall having been considerable. Wheat has gone fairly into consumption at last week's prices, but maize has been difficult to sell as holders have declined to make any concession. At Cork a good deal of rain has fallen, but a warm temperature has improved the appearance of the growing crops. A quiet consumptive demand has been experienced for wheat and maize, and last week's prices have been maintained for both articles.

The following are the Reports from Mark Lane during the past month:—

Monday, June 9.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat, 3,483 qrs.; foreign, 50,857 qrs. Exports, 404 qrs. There was a moderate supply of home grown Wheat fresh up to market this morning, but sales progressed very slowly, although there was no quotable decline in value. Of foreign the arrivals were fair, and with a large attendance of millers, an improved demand was experienced, especially for Spring American descriptions, the full quotations of this day fortnight being firmly maintained.

Country Flour 16,451 sacks; foreign, 9,549 sacks and 480 barrels. No improvement could be noticed, the trade ruling dull for both sacks and barrels at about late rates.

English Barley 343 qrs.; foreign, 750 qrs. There was scarcely any inquiry for malting, and grinding sorts sold slowly at former currencies.

Malt: English, 14,891 qrs.; Scotch, 1,105 qrs. Exports, 1,713 qrs. There was no new feature in this branch of the trade, previous prices being obtainable where sales were effected.

Maize 8,177 qrs. Exports 1,455 qrs. Owing to the scarcity of spot corn, sellers were enabled to establish an advance of 6d. to 1s. per qr. on the fortnight, on both round and flat descriptions.

English Oats 114 qrs.; Scotch 301 qrs.; Irish 250 qrs.; foreign 63,059 qrs. Business was restricted owing to the liberal arrivals from abroad, and a decline of 3d. to 6d. per qr. took place on Swedes and inferior Russians.

English Beans 356 qrs.; foreign 3,465 qrs. Firm at last weeks prices, but without much business passing.

Linseed 4,335 qrs. Unaltered.

Monday, June 16.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat, 3,239 qrs.; foreign, 41,691 qrs. Exports, 2,004 qrs. There was a small supply of English Wheat fresh up to market this morning, and factors began by asking 1s. per qr. more money. Buyers, however, held off and no quotable improvement upon last Monday's currencies could be established. Of foreign the arrivals were fair, and with showery weather and a moderate attendance of millers, a steady consumptive demand was experienced at about late rates.

Country Flour, 15,198 sacks; foreign, 10,686 sacks, and 1,400 barrels. Sellers demanded rather higher prices for both sacks and barrels, but were not as rule successful in obtaining them.

English Barley, 340 qrs.; foreign, 2,147 qrs. Both malting and grinding descriptions met a slow sale at former currencies.

Malt, English, 15,848 qrs.; Scotch, 450 qrs.; exports, 1,516 qrs. In limited request at about previous values.

Maize, 8,297 qrs.; exports, 50 qrs. The inquiry was not quite so active as of late for spot produce, but in no case was any reduction submitted to either for round or flat corn both being still very scarce.

English Oats, 343 qrs.; foreign, 84,674 qrs. Exports, 37 qrs. The imports being again heavy, a weaker tone prevailed in the trade, and prices were the turn in buyer's favour for all descriptions.

English Beans, 323 qrs.; foreign, 4,663 qrs. Exports, 200 qrs. Quiet but steady at former quotations.

Linseed, 4,761 qrs. Exports, 3 qrs. Without change.



**CORN IMPORTED AND EXPORTED**  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 14.

	Imported into			Exported.	
	Engl'd.	Scotl'd	Irela'd	British	Foreign
	Cwts	Cwts	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat.....	893360	13748	341613	10562	2567
Barley.....	151273	10724	...	180	1792
Oats.....	310073	9221	...	2368	...
Peas.....	61894	2478	...	63	...
Beans.....	68924	30307	...	...	490
Indian Corn.....	593170	85261	756792	...	6394
Buckwheat.....	103	...	...	...	...
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>2077105</b>	<b>293057</b>	<b>1101435</b>	<b>19256</b>	<b>11243</b>
Wheat Flour....	132021	121593	34567	1843	3674
Oat Meal.....	4898	30560	...	320	...
Rye Meal.....	193	...	...	100	...
Ind. Corn Meal	505	...	...	...	...
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>137617</b>	<b>152153</b>	<b>34567</b>	<b>2263</b>	<b>3674</b>
<b>Grand Total.</b>	<b>2214722</b>	<b>445210</b>	<b>1136002</b>	<b>15519</b>	<b>14917</b>
Malt.....qrs	...	...	...	1866	...

**FOREIGN GRAIN ENTERED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION DURING THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 14.**

Wheat.....cwts.	261812	Peas.....cwts.	41635
Barley.....	1174	Maise.....	75734
Oats.....	227924	Flour.....	26173
Beans.....	19918		

**Covent Garden Market.**

THURSDAY, June 19.

A great improvement has been experienced in demand, supplies still remaining short owing to the backward season, prices being well maintained.

**FRUIT.**

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Apples, 1/2 sieve	1 0	5 0	Oranges, per hundred	6 0 12 0
Filberts & Cobs, 1/2 lb	0 9	1 0	Pears, per doz	12 0 30 0
Grapes, 1/2 lb	3 0	5 0	Pine Apples, 1/2 lb	2 0 4 0
Lemons, 1/2 hundred	3 0	10 0	Strawberries, per lb.	2 0 10 0

**VEGETABLES.**

Artichokes, English	2 0	4 0	Herbs, per bunch	0 2	0 4
Globe, doz	0 0	0 0	Horse Radish, 1/2 bund.	4 0	0 0
Jerusalem, per bush.	0 0	0 0	Lettuces, per doz	1 6	0 0
Asparagus, sp. bun.	5 0	6 0	Mint, per bunch	0 4	0 0
Eng. per bun	0 0	0 0	Onions, 1/2 bushel	12 0	14 0
Fr. giant 1/2 bun	0 0	0 0	Young, 1/2 bundle	0 4	0 0
Total use, bun	0 0	0 0	Parsley, per lb	1 0	2 0
Beans, Fr. 1/2 00	2 0	0 0	Peas, green, per doz	2 0	0 0
Broad, per lb	1 0	0 0	Potatoes, n. w. per lb.	0 6	0 9
Beet, per dozen	1 0	2 0	Rattles, per bunch	0 9	0 0
Cabbages, per dozen	1 0	2 0	New Jersey, per doz	2 0	0 0
Carrots, 1/2 bunch	0 5	0 0	Rhubarb, per bundle	6 0	8 0
New Fr. per bun	1 6	2 0	Shallots, 1/2 lb.	0 6	0 9
Cauliflowers, per doz	2 0	6 0	Spinach, per bunch	2 6	0 6
Celery, 1/2 bundle	1 6	2 0	Swet Potatoes, per lb.	0 0	0 0
Chilies, per doz	1 0	0 0	Tomatoes, per dozen	2 6	3 0
Cucumbers, each	9 1	2 0	Turnips, 1/2 bun.	0 0	0 0
Eradive, Batavayn, doz	2 6	0 0	New Fr., per bun	1 0	1 0
Garlic, per lb.	0 6	0 0			

Potatoes:—Old Potatoes getting scarce, and best samples advanced in price. Best 160s. to 180s.; Champions 100s. to 110s. Rocks, 99s. to 100s. New stuff from Malta, 12s. to 11s., Lisbons 10s. to 12s.; Jersey Kidneys 14s. to 16s.; and Jersey Rounds, 10s. to 14s. per cwt.

**Spirits.**

LONDON, SATURDAY, June 21.

RUM.—Duty 10s. 2d. per gallon.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Jamaica, fine	3 4	5 3	Berberle, proof	1 3 0 0
Do. 30 to 36 over proof	2 6	3 3	Leeward Island, ditto	1 2 1/2 1 6
Do. 26 to 29 ditto	2 4	2 5	First India	1 1 1 1/2
Demerara, proof	1 3 1/2	1 3	Foreign West India	1 2 1 1/2

BRANDY.—Duty 10s. 5d. per gallon.

1375	5 6	8 4	1872	7 5	9 9
1374	6 6	9 0	1870	8 0	10 8
Other Brands, ss. to 13s. 6d.					
Geneva, duty 10s. 5d.	2 4	3 6	Scotch Whiskey	2 8	5
German Spirit, ditto	1 3	0 0	Irish Whiskey	0 0	6
English Gin	1 10	3 0	Mixed Malt and Grain	0 0	0

**Leadenhall Leather Market.**

LONDON, SATURDAY, June 21.

**CROP HIDES.**

ENGLISH.			
lbs.	lbs.	d.	d.
38 to 35	....	10	11
39 40	....	11	15
40 45	....	14	18
46 50	....	17	20
50 55	....	18	21
56 60	....	19	21

**BUTTS.**

ENGLISH.			
lbs.	lbs.	d.	d.
14 18	....	13	23
17 20	....	13	24
21 24	....	14	27
25 28	....	15	30
29 32	....	15	33
33 36	....	16	34

**FOREIGN.**

16 20	....	12	18
21 24	....	13	20
25 28	....	13	23
29 32	....	13	25
33 38	....	12 1/2	26
37 44	....	14 1/2	27
45 50	....	15	27

**OFFAL.**

	d.	d.
English Shoulders	9	15
Do. Cheeks and Faces	6	9
Do. Bellies	6	10
Do. Middle do.	8	12
Foreign Shoulders	10	13
Do. Necks	8	10
Do. Bellies	6 1/2	9 1/2
Do. Middle do.	9	10
Dressing Hide Shoulders	8	11
Do. do. Bellies	6	8
Kip Shoulders	6	12
Do. Bellies	4	8

**DRESSING HIDES.**

	lbs.	lbs.	d.	d.
Common	20 to 24	....	10	14
Do.	25 28	....	10	14
Do.	30 34	....	10	14
Do.	35 40	....	11	17
scalders	30 35	....	15	17
Do.	38 50	....	17	21
Bulls	....	....	9	11
Shaved	14 18	....	13	17
Do.	17 19	....	12	16
Do.	20 23	....	12	16
Do.	24 23	....	12	15
Scotch do.	18 24	....	13	18
Cosob, per hide	....	....	7s. to	7s

**HORSE BUTTS, SHAVED.**

	d.	d.	d.	d.
English	11	13	14	17
Scotch	11	13	13	17

**HORSE HIDES.**

	lbs.	lbs.	d.	d.
English	13 to 18	....	9	to 13
without butts	14	....	11	13
Spanish, salted,	....	....	....	....
without butts,	....	....	....	....
per hide	8	9	9	10 15 0
Do. do. do.	9	12	14	0 19 0
Do. do. do. inferior	7	0	14	0
Do. dry do.	6	8	8	0 13 0
Do. do. do.	9	11	10	0 16 0
Do. do. do. inferior	6	0	10	0 16 0

**CALF SKINS.**

	lbs.	lbs.	d.	d.
Av. weight	20 to 30	....	16	19
per dozen	30 35	....	17	20
Do.	35 40	....	14	30
Do.	40 45	....	18	0
Do.	45 50	....	20	30
Do.	50 60	....	19	29
Do.	60 75	....	18	28
Do.	75 90	....	18	25
Do.	90 130	....	15	23

Welsch, unrounded.  
Av. wt. p. doz. 0 0 0 0  
Do. 0 0 0 0

**KIPS.**

	lbs.	lbs.	d.	d.
E. I. dry salted	4	7	22	24
Do. do.	7	9	18	22
Do. second	18	18	18	20
Do. thirds	18 1/2	18	18	18
Do. inferior	12	12	12	12
English	7	10	11	19
Do.	0	0	0	0

**SHEEP SKINS.**

Basin, unstrained, per lb.	8	20
Do. strained, per lb.	8	19
Do. facing, per doz.	10	20
White Sheep & Lambs	8	18
Do. strained	14	30
Do. aprons	8	11
Tan Sheep and Lambs	8	30
Scotch skins	16	40
Do. skivers	7	25
Sark skivers	7	20

**SUNDRIES.**

Hog Skins, best	each	8	5
Do. second	8	10	
Seal Skins, split, per dozen	0	0	
Do. for bindings	0	0	
Galf Skins, Sumach	0	0	
tanred	80	50	
Do. white	8	19	
Horse Hides, white, each	8	19	
Hide Skins, per lb.	7	11	

**Oil Market.**

LONDON, SATURDAY, June 21. — Linseed Oil was firm but quiet. Rape sold slowly at weak prices. Other Oils were inactive.

**OILS.**

Oliva, Florence, 1/2	20	0 0	0 0
cheats	20	0 0	0 0
Lucca	0	0 0	0 0
Gallipoli, per 252	0	0 0	0 0
3 anish	44	0 0	46 0 0
Linseed, per cwt.	1 3 0	0 0	0 0
1/2 pe, pale	1 10 0	1 10 2	
1/2 rown	1 3 3	1 8 6	
0 d. per tun	27	1 0	0 0
8 oil pale	27	0 0	28 0 0
rown, yel.	20	27	0 0
8 erm	17	0 0	0 0
ard matter	0	0 0	0 0
Southon	0	0 0	0 0
0 roa Nut, per cwt	1 12 6	2 18 6	
Palm	1	7 6	6

**RESIN.**

French	20	0 0	0 0
American	4	3 0	4 0 0

**PITCH.**

British, per cwt.	2	5 9	0 6
Archangel	0	7 6	0 0
Stockholm	0	0 0	0 0 0

**TAR.**

American	20	0 0	0 0
Archangel	0	11 0	0 12 0
Stockholm	0	18 0	18 6 0

**TURENTINE.**

French	0	1 0	0 0 0
American	11	0	1 1 3

**The Tallow Trade.**

OFFICIAL MARKET LETTER.

[ISSUED BY THE TRADE EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.]

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Town Tallow, per cwt.	33	9	11 9
Rough Fat, per 8lbs.	1	4	16 0
Meltd Staff, per cwt.	23	0	6 0
Yellow Russian, new	35s.	6.1	per cwt
Ditto Ditto old	00s.	0.1	
Australian Mutton Tallow.	33s.	0.1	
Ditto Beef	31s.	6.1	

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VOLUME THE FIFTY-SIXTH.

THIRD SERIES

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4 lb. for 20 sheep, price, jar included.....	£0 2 0
6 lb. 30 " " " " " " " " " " " "	0 3 0
8 lb. 40 " " " " " " " " " " " "	0 4 0
10 lb. 50 " " " " " " " " " " " "	0 5 0
20 lb. 100 " " " " " " " " " " " "	0 10 0
30 lb. 150 " " " " " " " " " " " "	0 15 0
40 lb. 200 " " " " " " " " " " " "	1 0 0
50 lb. 250 " " " " " " " " " " " "	1 3 6
60 lb. 300 " " " " " " " " " " " "	1 7 6
80 lb. 400 " " " " " " " " " " " "	1 17 6
100 lb. 500 " " " " " " " " " " " "	2 5 0

Should any Flockmaster prefer boiling the Composition, it will be equally effective.

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"For JOHN TINGEY, Esq.,  
"R. KENNEY.

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"R. KENNEY.  
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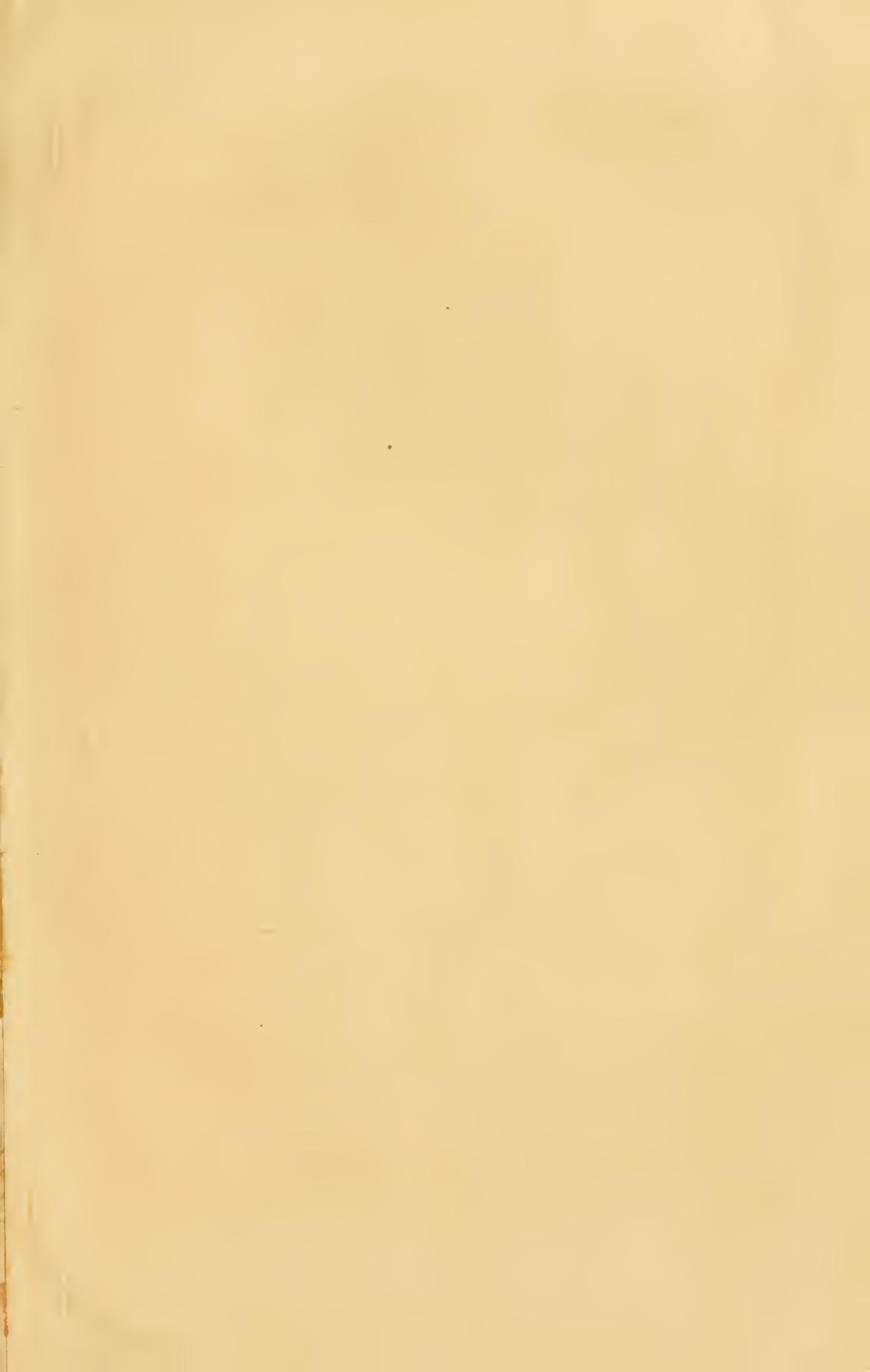
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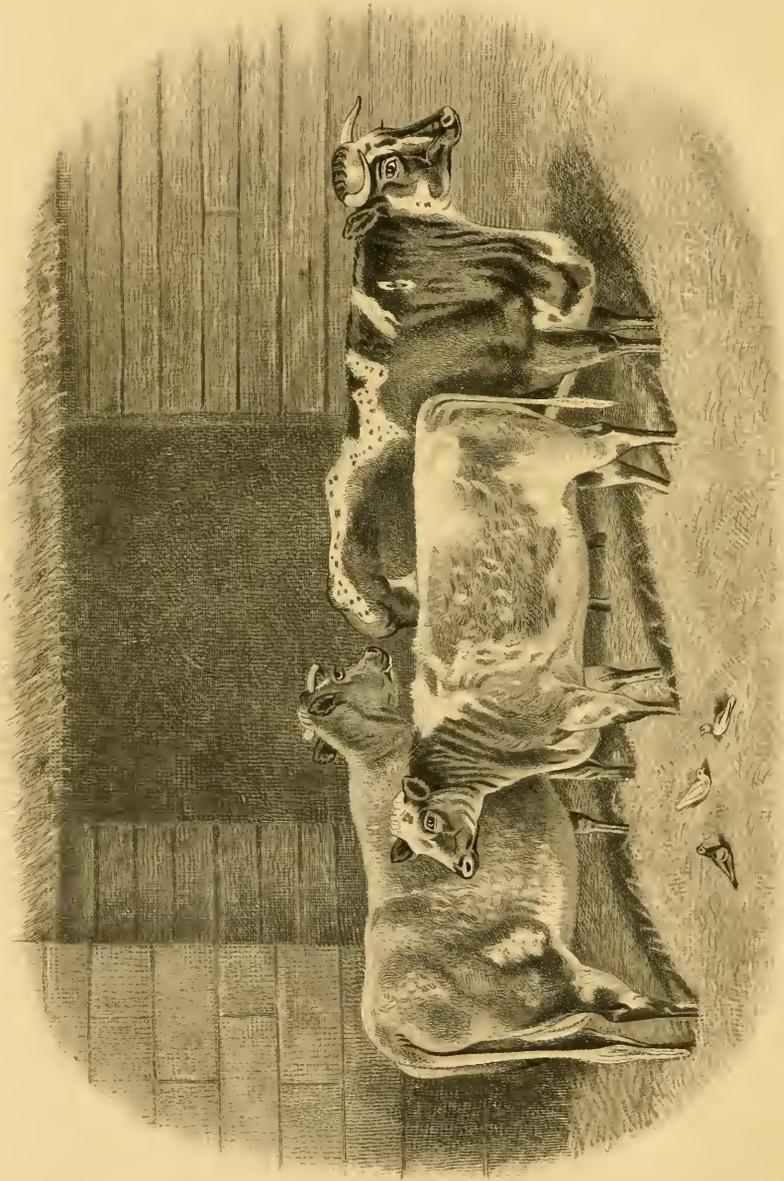
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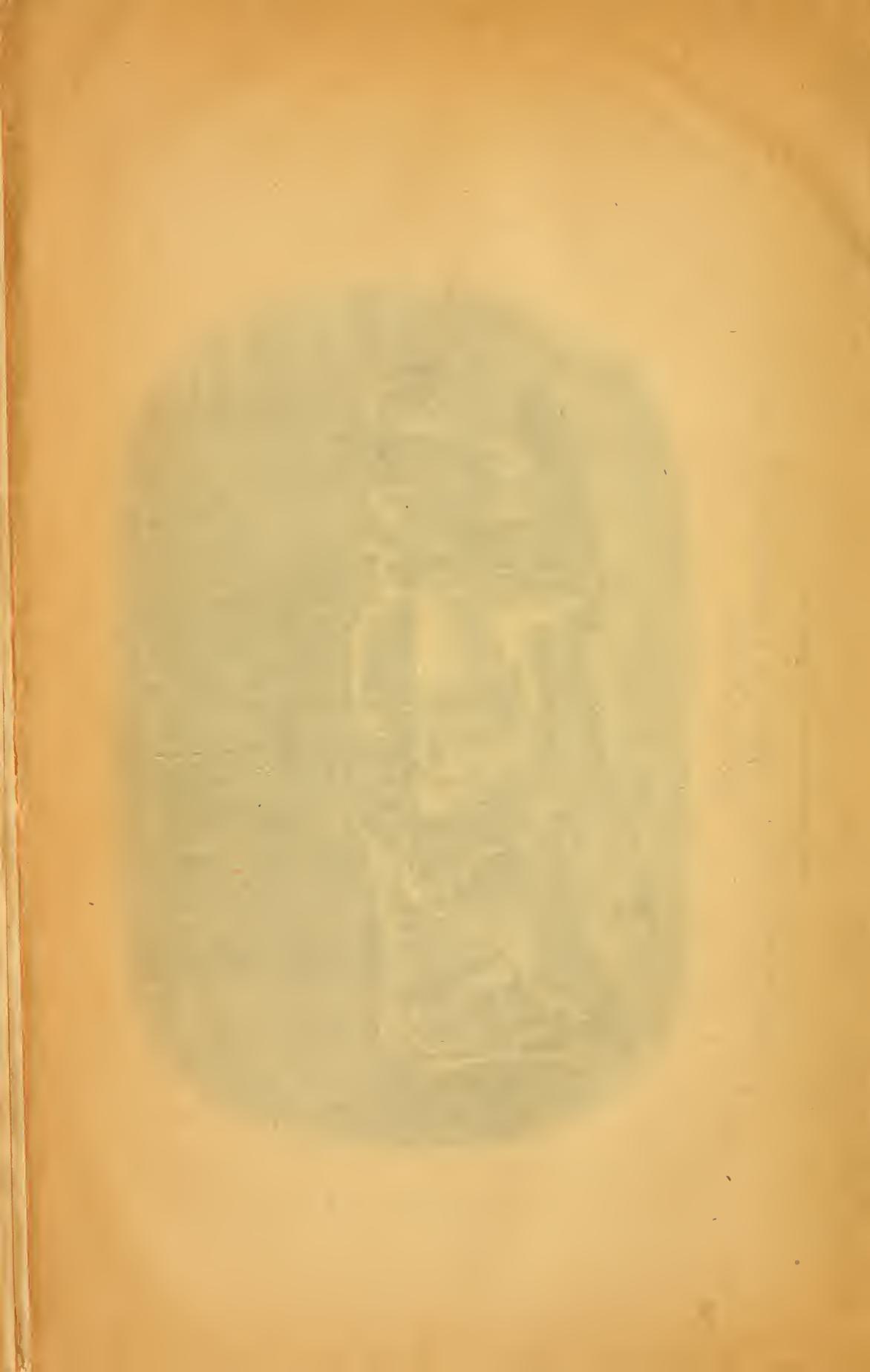


*Folly Gwynnes.*

*The property of Captain Williams, B. V. Dillon House, Barnstable.*

*London, Published by Rogerson & Tuxford, 265, Strand, 1879*





# THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER, 1879.

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## PLATE.

“POLLY GWYNNE.”

THE PROPERTY OF CAPTAIN WILLIAMS, R.N., PILTON HOUSE, BARNSTAPLE.

The trio in our plate represents Ross Gwynne, Lady Gwynne, and her daughter, Lady Clarence Gwynne, which are descendants of the well known branch of the Polly Gwynne tribe and a capital sample, being of good form and quality, with Shorthorn character throughout.

In the southern part of Devonshire Shorthorns are on the increase, but this is the only herd in North Devon, and is composed of two tribes, viz., the “Gwynnes” and “Old Daisies,” both great favourites with the public, and going back to the first volume of the Herd Book. The farm is on the banks of the estuary of the Taw, a half marine

and half pastoral hamlet, about three miles from Pilton House, which gets the first of the Atlantic breezes that our New York cousins are continually telegraphing arrivals of, reminding the Captain of his former days of strife—and as the cattle thrive—of the cosmopolitan powers of the Shorthorn which do well, contrary to the prognostications of the local farmers who predicted failure with any cattle other than their own North Devons. The Shorthorns clear out of the park once a year to make room for the Barnstaple Horse Show, the largest in the West of England, and in which Captain Williams takes an active part.

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## AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

The Council of the Institution of Surveyors, which is said to represent by its members about one-third the entire landed interest of this country, has come to the extraordinary conclusion that the “main cause” of the present agricultural depression “is the deficiency of yield under the last three harvests, aggravated by the bad season of 1878; and the low prices are a secondary cause.” The series of resolutions passed by this body of land agents, which we published on August 4th, is obviously intended to persuade landlords—and whoever else may be induced to believe it—that the causes of the depression are but of a temporary nature, and that the exercise of a little charitable benevolence on the part of landlords, in the form of temporary remissions of rents, supplemented by gifts of manures and feeding-stuffs, will suffice to meet the necessities of the case. This transparent sophistry may be well received by landlords; but it will fail to convince tenants that they have nothing to do but to accept what landlords and their agents are pleased to give them, go on as they have been going, and hope for better times. Farmers have need of

business-like consideration from landlords and their agents, but they do not require charity. It is not remissions of rent which have become a first necessity, but a *bona fide* reduction of rental which may be equivalent to the commercial demand for farms. This must come, whether agents and landlords are willing or not; unless the owners of the soil are prepared to farm it themselves. We have evidence on every hand that they are not in a position to do this; and if farms lie vacant in a half cultivated state, a gross injustice will be done to society, not only in respect of non-production, but also in the loss of time and money which will result from the land getting foul. There are estates to be found, in plenty, which are rapidly going back in point of cultivation; and before they can be got round again there will be hard work and hard money to be spent upon them. Here is a case in which the so-called rights of property assume a form which is incompatible with the rights of the people—the social claims which the public have on the owners of land. The law of supply and demand will settle the question of rents in spite of the oppo-

sition of land agents and the charity of land owners. The letting value of land naturally increased when there were forty tenants seeking for one vacant farm; and it will as naturally decrease now that there are forty farms to one seeking tenant. The Institution of Surveyors, powerful though it be in its influence on landlords, may pass any number of resolutions without adding a feather's weight of effective opposition to the course which agricultural matters are taking. Agricultural depression is not in itself a novelty, though a period of prosperity prior to the last decade may have rendered some of the present generation of farmers comparative strangers to it. But the present position of agriculture, now fast ripening into a crisis, is unprecedented in its nature, and will be unprecedented in its results. The factors in the case are simple and patent, namely, the cumulative effect of certain features of our land laws in relation to a foreign competition in food-products which has been evolved—with marvellous rapidity during the last half-decade—out of the growing civilization of the world. And yet the Council of the Institution of Surveyors have the temerity to put before the world, as the grave deductions of a body of influential and practical men, their unanimous opinion that the difficulties of the agricultural position are the direct result of four bad harvests, that they are of a purely temporary character, and that the remedy is one which may come within the bounds of charitable benevolence! It is not by any means an unusual thing for tenant-farmers to regard the land agent and the family lawyer—oftentimes rolled into one—as their natural enemies, whose patent interest lies in serving the owner at the expense of the occupier. How far this view of the case may be generally true we do not pretend to say; but the code of resolutions emanating from the Institution of Surveyors, to which we now refer, may enable our readers to judge for themselves. We take it that before the cloud is lifted from the agricultural prospect a darker time will have to be experienced and passed through; and before agriculture can again be prosperous in this country a re-adjustment of its elements will have taken place. In this process middle-men of all kinds will suffer, more, perhaps, than other classes; and land agents, for example, may find not only their numbers reduced, but much of their present occupation gone.

Low prices are not necessarily an evil to the tenant-farmer, and they are decidedly a boon to the public. It is the amount of profit which has to be considered, not the price of the article, and the possibility of making a profit is the gist of the whole question. With rents as they are now, with restrictive covenants, the Law of Distress, game, and insecurity for capital invested in unexhausted improvements, no profit can be made in agriculture under present and probable future competition from abroad. Taken in connection with existing agricultural burdens and disabilities, and with defective harvests, low prices constitute a very serious difficulty, instead of being merely a secondary matter as the Surveyors say. Bad

harvests, if long continued, might of themselves create a depression in agriculture; but before foreign competition in food-products assumed its present dimensions high prices attended defective yields. Now a bad crop brings scarcely an appreciably higher price than a good one. The position is simply that the country consumes so much corn, and buys what is not produced at home to meet this demand; the price of the whole being mainly determined by the imported grain, because of its great abundance. So that a low price constitutes a more important element in the agricultural difficulty than a bad harvest, when each is taken *per se*, as regarded by the Institution of Surveyors. The fallacy of their reasoning must be apparent to the most superficial observer. In whatever direction we may turn the certainty of low prices for food products, in the immediate future, is evident. To those who have made a careful study of the rapidly increasing productiveness of the world under the march of civilization, the conviction that the home producer must be put on radically different terms as to the conditions under which he cultivates the soil is overwhelming. The essentially different conditions under which wheat can be produced, and at a much smaller cost, in India, the United States, and the Argentine Republic—not to mention the European sources, especially Russia, from which surplus grain-products have hitherto been received—with their influence on Mark Lane rates of to-day in face of a disastrous harvest at home, must be conclusive evidence of the fact that the price of bread-stuffs in England will henceforth be ruled by the exporting power of foreign wheat-growing countries, rather than by the produce of our own soil, whether much or little, good, bad, or indifferent. Then, with regard to meat, we have to look forward to a production on the part of the United States which, from its marvellous antecedents, baffles all calculation as to its possible extent; to a certain effort on the part of the Australian Colonies to send us fresh meat by refrigerative processes on the basis of a prime cost of 1d. per lb. to the exporter; to possible efforts on the part of the Argentine Republic to send us live animals or fresh meat, or both; and to a continuation of the exports from the Continent of Europe. Added to this is the fact that wool is now grown in various parts of the world to an extent with which our manufacturing demand cannot keep pace. And in the face of all these facts—for they are facts—the Institution of Surveyors is bold enough to tell us that the agricultural depression in Great Britain, which has alarmed the whole world, is merely the result of four bad seasons, and that the low prices are a matter of secondary importance! If this may be taken as their deliberate and honest opinion, it will be clear to agricultural readers that whilst these gentlemen may perfectly well understand their business and their profession, they do not understand nor comprehend the causes, the nature, nor the magnitude of the agricultural depression, the issues involved in it, nor the measures by which it may be remedied.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Among the various matters now placed under the superintendence of the Local Government Board not the least important is the detection and exposure of the adulteration of food. At the end of the year 1878 the Board had approved 201 appointments of public analysts in England and Wales, and these gentlemen examined 16,191 articles of food in the course of that year, and found 2,782 of them, or 17.2 per cent., adulterated. As compared with 1877, there is a decided improvement in the quality of the milk analyzed, though it cannot be regarded as satisfactory that even now more than one-fifth of the 5,000 of the samples examined failed to reach the standard of genuineness generally adopted by analysts. This standard is necessarily low, because the present state of science does not enable the analyst to pronounce beyond a certain limit whether excess of water is due to natural poverty of milk, of ill-fed cows, or to the dilution of milk which was originally good. It is to be feared that where the magistrates inflict only small fines, a good many milk-sellers find it profitable to pay the fines and continue adulterating. Of the bread examined, about 7 per cent. of the samples were reported against, for the most part in consequence of additions of alum to improve the appearance. Of the 600 samples of flour, only 11 had been similarly tampered with. There were 904 samples of butter examined, and 116 were pronounced adulterated. The sale of a compound of foreign fats in place of butter seems to be somewhat on the increase. The public analyst for St. Giles's district observes, with regard to this article, that "it is more palatable than common rancid butters," and as he also states that the commodity is wholesome and nutritious, the Board see no reason against its use provided it be invariably sold under a distinctive name, and not fraudulently substituted for the genuine product of the churn. As regards coffee, also, the returns for 1878 show some increase of adulteration, bringing the ratio up to 18.5 per cent. Mixtures of chicory and coffee are still extensively sold without due warning to the purchaser; and a new preparation of coffee, mixed with roasted and ground date-stones has been introduced. As regards mustard, too, it may be said that, while some perfectly harmless and very palatable preparations of mustard are deservedly popular, they are too often sold without an intimation to the purchaser that they are compounds, and not merely mustard flour. Under the heads of pickles, jams, and confectionery, the returns show only a small amount of adulteration, and in very few instances was it likely to prove injurious to health. Of wine only two samples out of 76 were reported against, and it is inferred that the sophistication of cheap wines is not so common as is popularly supposed. One of the two adulterated samples is described by the analyst as a "concoction resembling nothing in particular, and called sherry;" the other was an entirely fictitious claret, coloured with magenta, and is described as "a most unwholesome beverage." About 5 per cent. of the 999 samples of beer examined were reported against, but in the metropolitan district all but six samples out of 237 were genuine. In most cases excess of salt was the adulteration, and the use of noxious ingredients seems to be nearly obsolete. Very different estimates appear to be made of the amount of salt that may be naturally present in beer brewed from nothing but malt, hops, water, and perhaps sugar, and to which nothing has since been added. The analyst for the Strand district found a sample of Yarmouth ale containing 125 grains of salt per gallon, naturally present; and an examination of the materials used by a well-known London firm of brewers showed that the water itself contained chlorides estimated as equivalent to 48 grains of common salt per gallon, which would account for 64 grains per gallon of beer (requiring a gallon and a third of water), without reckoning the not inconsiderable amount of chlorides in the malt, sugar, and hops employed. Nearly half the samples of spirits examined are reported against, but this result is due almost entirely to the practice of diluting spirits with water, and there is scarcely an instance of the addition of the pungent ingredients, such as capsicum and oil of vitrol, which used to be employed to simulate strength in reduced spirits. The Board observed that probably nobody could drink "genuine" gin, if by that term is meant gin as it comes from the still. But there has been considerable difference of opinion as to the amount of dilution which should be allowed, and there seems much need of a settlement of this question by the

establishment of a standard by general agreement or by legal enactment. A fourth of the 491 samples of drugs were found adulterated. The analyst for the West Riding of Yorkshire, noticing the importance of analysis of drugs, observes that the dilution of sweet spirit of nitre by addition of water causes a gradual decomposition of the nitrous ether on which its medicinal value depends, thus rendering it worthless. A good many samples of violet powder were examined. No admixture of arsenic (as in a well-known case) was discovered, but in several instances substances which would act as irritants rather than as sedatives were sold under the name of violet powder. The analyst for Hackney reports that some samples of cocoa (labelled, it is true, as mixtures) contained only 10 to 15 per cent of cocoa, and should have been rather described as "arrowroot flavoured with sugar and cocoa"—a compound comparatively useless as food. On the whole, the Local Board say that, though the growing demand for excessive cheapness has a tendency to produce spurious imitations, yet, speaking generally, adulteration seems to be diminishing, and its character, where it exists, is much less noxious than formerly. The *Lancet* Commission in 1854-6 reported against more than half the samples analyzed; in 1877 the proportion was less than 20 per cent. on the whole, and in 1878 it was little more than 17 per cent., and less than 14 if spirits are excluded from the calculation. In fact, under the Act of 1875 say the Board, persons taking reasonable caution may obtain genuine articles of consumption. We may add, in regard to tea, that the Commissioners of Customs, in their account of the quantity of tea imported found unfit for food, report a great diminution in the teas rejected in 1878, and consider that it indicates that some check has been put upon the adulteration of this article of food; and they add that the principal, if not only, adulterant in the year, was found to be exhausted tea leaves. Of the 16,191 analyses above-mentioned, only a small proportion were made at the instance of private individuals, and in many districts all the samples analysed had been procured by inspectors appointed under the 13th section of the Act.—*Times*.

INEQUALITIES OF LOCAL TAXATION.

H. T. F., writing to the *Times*, says:—

With the unequal burdens imposed upon land as compared with other descriptions of property, it is no wonder that the owners and occupiers of land complain. It is a simple fact that the incidence of local rating upon real property alone, the replacing of indirect by direct taxation along with and following upon the removal of Protection, have thrown an unequal share of the burden upon the land.

My neighbour A is the owner of 200 acres of land, which he lets for £120. He pays:—

	£	s.	d.
Land-tax.....	12	0	0
Income-tax, Schedule A—say .....	11	0	0
Total .....	23	0	0

His tenant pays:—

Poor and highway rates .....	82	0	0
Drainage rate .....	63	0	0
Income-tax, Schedule B—say .....	7	10	0
Education rate .....	0	0	0
Total .....	175	10	0

I may say that practically it is almost impossible for the farmer to obtain a return of Income-tax, Schedule B, even though his profit be *nil*.

My neighbour B has an income of £800 from funded property. He pays:—

	£	s.	d.
Land-tax.....	0	0	0
Income-tax—say .....	20	0	0
Poor and highway rates.....	2	16	0
Other rates.....	0	0	0
Total .....	22	16	0

A touching instance of filial piety comes from Cork county, Texas, where a resident has a set of furniture made from the trees on which his father was hanged ten years ago.

## CARSE FARMING.

An Agricultural Correspondent of the *Dundee Advertiser* under the *nom de plume*, "Harrow," writes as follows:—

What ought to be done with clay land in this country, now that the expense of its cultivation has become so great and the worth of its produce so small? Those who mingle much with farmers and others interested in heavy soils have, no doubt, often heard the question put, and received a great variety of replies.

To cultivate clay soil in the high pressure system, which has been the rule in most Carse districts ever since the Crimean War, is now seen to be out of the question. If rent is or should be the surplus of the produce, after labour, seed and manure are paid, then it will not be difficult to show that under the present system stiff clay soil is worth almost no rent at all, if cultivated, say in a seven course rotation of (1) Hay, (2) Oats, (3) Potatoes and Beans, (4) Wheat, (5) Turnips, (6) Oats or Wheat, (7) Barley. We take this rotation as being the one under which the soil is put to perhaps the greatest strain, and its capabilities most severely taxed.

Let us take the case of a farm of 280 imperial acres, and see what is the approximate annual outlay in the cultivation of such a farm in districts like the Howes of the Mearns or Kinnaird, or the Corses of Gowrie or Stirling. We shall suppose the farm at the moderate distance of a couple of miles from a railway station. Seven pairs of horses will be required thoroughly to perform the field labour and cartage. This no practical farmer will deny. What then is the annual expense of working and feeding a pair of farm horses and keeping up their harness and implements? Well, my details may be called in question, but taking one year with another of the past six, I think the following estimate may be found to be substantially correct at least in its sum:—

Ploughman's money wages, ... ..	£32	0	0
His milk and meal, fire, light, and potatoes, ...	12	10	0
Corn for horses, 35 qrs. at 25s. ... ..	43	15	0
Light barley (boiled) 10 qrs. at 25s. ... ..	12	10	0
Hay, 300 stones at 1s. ... ..	15	0	0
Keeping up horse harness, shoes, carts, ploughs, and all field implements ... ..	15	0	0
Deterioration in value of a pair of horses for one year, and to cover loss by mortality ... ..	20	0	0
Tolls and sundries ... ..	2	10	0
	£153	5	0

Nothing is charged for straw used either as litter or fodder, since we assume the usual condition of lease to be in force viz., that the straw is to be consumed on the farm and so returned to the soil as manure. The horse work on a 280 acre farm will therefore amount roundly to

£150 by 7, ... ..	£1,050	0	0
Harvest and field workers' wages, ... ..	150	0	0
Seed, ... ..	280	0	0
Manures account, including artificial manure and the manurial value of oil cake, &c., consumed by bestial, ... ..	380	0	0
Sundries—coals, oil, engineer, veterinary sur- geon, &c. ... ..	20	0	0
Wages to farmer for work and expenses going to market, ... ..	60	0	0
Interest on capital—£2,800, at 5 per cent., ... ..	140	0	0
Total, ... ..	£2,080	0	0

This is very nearly £7 10s. per imperial acre. In other words before the farmer has a shilling of profit or is able to pay any rent he has to make his farm produce a crop worth £7 10s per imperial, or £9 7s. 6d. per Scotch acre.

The following may be taken at a fair estimate of the produce of such a farm as we have supposed. The prices of the grain are higher than the farms' prices for the past six years, taking the quadruple quarter together,

40 acres wheat, 3 qrs. per acre, at 40s. ... ..	£240
40 " barley, 4 qrs. do., at 32s. ... ..	256
80 " oats, 6 qrs. do., at 26s. ... ..	624
20 " beans, 3½ qrs. do., at 40s. ... ..	140
20 " potatoes, at £12 per acre, ... ..	240
40 " turnips, at £8 per acre, ... ..	320
40 " hay, 200 stones per acre, 8,000 stones, at 1s per stone, ... ..	400
	£2,220

If the expenses as above—£2,080—be deducted from this sum £140 is all that is left for rent, or 10s. per acre.

Perhaps since the average rent in the districts to which we refer is about 45s. per imperial acre, it may seem incredible that farmers have recently been losing so heavily as a rate of 38s. an acre would imply. But we believe they have. Let us bring to the test of evidence. An experienced and reliable authority in one of the districts we have named recently gave us the names of ten farms, all lying contiguous on which, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a sum of not less than £10,000 of capital had been dropped by the farmers during the last six years. Without giving the names of the ten farms, we may merely state that they comprise an acreage of over 2,500 acres of for the most part clay land, and have been quite as well, if not better, farmed than the average of the district where they are situated. Our informant believed he rather under than over estimates the amount of the losses; but even take the sum as he puts it, a yearly loss of the full rent of the land as given in the valuation roll is shown, and this every year for six years! But even this does not show the full extent of the loss. During the same period the land has been deteriorated on the whole. Farmers may not be the amount of their rents poorer so far as their bank books may show, and yet if their farms have been bearing crops without an adequate return in manure being given to the soil, the amount of the land's deterioration must be added to the loss.

We have heard another case worth citing. A farmer who is considered one of the very best managers in his district has told us his experience of an out farm of clay soil which he has farmed for a lease newly terminated. From the farm he got neither milk nor meal, and it was required to bear no part in maintaining a household. Up to 1870, when wages and expenses rose to about their present level, he had made a little. Since then it had been constant loss, and this even during the last year of his lease, when farms usually begin to disgorge—if they have ever swallowed anything. At the end of this first-rate farmer had just his original capital, but it had borne no interest, and he had not got a shilling for his trouble during all the years of his lease.

If then our estimates of income and expenditure given above be correct, and if they are borne out by facts such as those we have cited, it is clear that during the past few years clay land has scarcely been paying more than expenses, and in fact would have been dear enough if held *rent free*.

Is such a state of matters to continue? What is the remedy? Are better seasons the only remedy, or may improvement not be attained by other means? Are the crops grown on clay the most suitable in the new circumstances of the labour and grain markets? Would any change in the system of cropping improve matters? Can expenses be reduced materially by steam cultivation? Would any change in the conditions as to the selling of straw, &c., be of avail? Would grazing stiff clay be practicable? Would a return to more bare fallowing be of any use? Should hay be sold off, or should grass be consumed rather by cattle in courts? Should fewer turnips be grown, and cattle more ly wintered—being fed off in summer?

Solutions of these and similar questions can be given only when regard is had to the circumstances of the farm on which change is thought to be desirable. With the Editor's permission we shall in a future paper examine some of the suggested remedies for the deplorable pass to which clay farm is now reduced. We may only say at present that better reasons, though much to be desired, cannot be wholly looked to. The estimated returns we give may be frequently exceeded, but not to such an extent as to make clay farming a profitable business as carried on under present conditions as to rent and wages. Five quarters of wheat per imperial acre is

an average seldom or never exceeded on a whole crop. The price of 40s. per quarter may be looked upon as the likely price of the future. And even £10 an acre is not an extravagant return as a maximum, where the expenses are £7 10s. per acre, without allowing anything for rent. Oats and barley are not cheap at 26s. and 32s. respectively, and six and four quarters are fair crops of these grains, taking one year with another in such a rotation as we specify on clay land. Turnips may be thought too cheaply valued at £8 per imperial acre; but frequent failures of the crop on clay must be remembered, and the recent experience of consuming a good crop which left little or nothing owing to a fall in the price of beef cannot be ignored. The same thing must be remembered as to potatoes. Heavy crops of sound tubers are not the rule in clay districts, and the allowance of bought-in dung and artificial manure, which we give above, will not permit of very heavy manuring to all the green crops, if the barley is to get a fair share, as it ought. Young farmers and foolish old ones may be heard bragging of tremendous crops of beans, from 8 to 10 quarters per imperial acre may be heard of, according to the carelessness or capacity for bounce of the speaker; but crops like those of 1878 must not be forgotten, when little more was reaped than what was sown. Seven bolls per imperial acre (*i. e.*, almost nine per Scotch) is not a bad average between extremes such as crop 1878 and a return of 15 bolls a Scotch acre, which may be considered a heavy crop, and seven bolls is the average per imperial acre we allow.

In our last communication we endeavoured to prove that the farming of clay land in the usual rotation of grain and green crops as hitherto practised cannot now be remunerative unless the soil be held rent free. We shall now examine some proposed remedies. A satisfactory solution of present difficulties is of the greatest importance to both landlords and tenants. Present rents cannot long be paid, nor can the present occupiers of Carse land escape ruin unless a change come, and come soon. Never before in Carse districts have arrears of rent been so large, and never before has there been so little hope of their ever being fully paid up. Factors could tell a tale which would astonish outsiders. Better seasons would, no doubt, mend matters, but an uninterrupted succession of good crops cannot be looked for; and with fair average crops, such as we allowed for in our calculations, there is no margin sufficient to warrant half the current rents of clay land. That substantial relief is to be obtained by higher prices for grain we do not expect. However much farmers' friends (?), such as Mr. C. S. Read and others, may delight to dangle protection before the eyes of a distressed tenantry, there is no hope in that direction. And even were the Corn Laws to be at once reimposed, the temporary benefit (to be followed we fear by disastrous results) would accrue to the landlords and to such farmers only as had a considerable portion of their leases to run. But "that they may stick to the wa'." The Corn Laws will not be reimposed, and for the interest of all classes it is not desirable they should.

In different and improved methods of farming tenants must seek for amelioration of the present situation. And if such new methods are not to be found, or are beyond the reach of the tenantry from want of sufficient capital or any other insurmountable cause, then rents of clay land must fall, or be almost abolished, and the loss must ultimately be the landlords'.

The greatest item of expense in the cultivation of clay land is for horse labour. It is natural that in it, therefore, re-trenchment should be attempted, and the greater employment of steam power is maintained by many to be the best way to accomplish this object. Now it is one thing to calculate for how much an acre of land can be ploughed by a steam tackle, and finding how cheaply it can be done in comparison with horse labour, to recommend right and left the adoption of the steam plough. It is quite another and more difficult thing to show how steam cultivation can be rendered expedient, practicable, and profitable in Scottish clays. The sizes of the farms and of the fields constitute a serious difficulty. The average size of clay farms in Scotland is rather under than over 200 acres, and there is not enough ploughing on such farms to employ a steam tackle. The difficulty of employing the engines during summer and when not ploughing is a serious matter. A tool, whose first cost is from £1,200 to £1,500, cannot profitably

be allowed for more than half the year to lie idle, and the doing of farm-cartage by steam-power has not yet been proved by engineers to be profitable. Many farms have already stationary engines for thrashing, and to add a couple of traction engines to the dead stock of an ordinary Carse farm is a serious consideration in such times as the present. Then the size of useless end ridges left by steam plough, the shallowness of the drains in clay soils, and the difficulty of effectually ploughing high-ridged land by steam-power constitute further difficulties in the proposed change. Besides all which, it has not been by any means proved that such a number of horses could be dispensed with, were steam adopted, as to make the change profitable in the case of either large or small holdings. There are serious practical objections to farmers having joint proprietorship in ploughing machinery; and steam cultivation by a public company has been tried in Scotland, and found simply ruinous. Where the farms are large, steam may in part be adopted with advantage, especially in cases where the engines can be employed when not required for ploughing. But quite a revolution would be necessary before steam cultivation could be engrafted upon the existing state of matters in clay land districts. As any considerable relief to the present race of Carse farmers, and as a solution of present difficulties, we fear the utility of steam cultivation is not yet a question of practical agricultural use.

While what may be called Mr. Prout's system is not to be looked upon as a model to be literally copied by Scotch clay farmers, we believe a great deal can be said in favour of more extensive selling off of straw and other produce than has been customary. We believe the value of straw as a manure producer by itself is usually very much exaggerated. The valuable experiments of Dr. Lawes have drawn general attention to this subject.

Let us see if we can come to the approximate manurial value of the straw grown on such a farm as we supposed in our former article—280 acres, cropped in a seven-course shift, and with four divisions in white crop. The total breadth of straw, including beans, is 180 acres. A fair crop of straw is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons per acre, giving 270 tons as the total produce of the farm. If this quantity of straw be all used in the consumption of 40 acres of good turnips (say 40 acres at 15 tons per acre—600 tons) we shall have about 1,000 tons of manure as the result. This is the very largest estimate of the manure-producing capability of straw. If any farmer who has about the extent of land we name will bethink himself, he will allow that 1,000 tons of dung is a big estimate of the annual output of his cattle court. What is the value of this quantity of manure? When no artificial foods are used we think 10s. a ton a high valuation. This gives us a sum of £500 as the total manurial value of 270 tons of straw and 600 tons of turpins. This estimate, we may remark, is 50 per cent. higher than the values as calculated by Dr. Lawes' tables, but we wish to give every advantage in the calculation to the side of those who maintain the great worth as manure of trodden straw and mashed turnips. If asked whether we would take the dung of a 280 imperial acre farm or a cheque for £500 we know which we would choose. £500 would buy—delivered free at railway station—nearly 2000 tons of town's dung, or 65 tons of dissolved bones, or 45 tons of guano.

What would the straw and turnips bring if all sold off, as in the Prout system? Some years ago straw was worth 1s.; just now it is at the minimum price of from 6d. to 8d. per 22 lbs.; take 8d. per 22 lbs., or £3 10s per ton, as an average value.

The money value of turnips varies very much, and the position of the farm as regards a railway station goes a great way to determine their worth. But 15s. per ton is not a high value—free on rail. Here, then, is the value of the straw and turnip crops, if all sold on the Prout system:—

270 tons of straw, at £3 10s.	... ..	£945	0	0
600 tons of turpins, at 15s.	... ..	450	0	0
		£1,395	0	0
From this falls to be deducted the manurial value (£500) and the worth of the turpins for feeding (£320),	... ..	820	0	0
Leaving,	... ..	£575	0	0

With this sum the farmer would have to meet the extra labour involved in carting off the turpins and straw, and

bringing back a substitute. We say *extra* expense, because turnips are not brought to the steading for nothing, neither is manure carted from the steading to the fields for nothing. If the railway station be quite contiguous to the farm, it is as easy to put the turnips on rail as cart them to a turnip sled—easier if the field where the turnips are grown happen to be close to the railway trucks. Then as to the straw. It is a bulky commodity, and not cheaply handled; but where it is all sent off a cattleman's wages is saved, and £575 is a large sum to pay for extra cartage. It would pay the keeping up nearly four pairs of horses and the wages of their drivers for a whole year. The carting of 270 tons of straw is not after all, such a very heavy undertaking where seven pairs of horses are kept. What if the cattlemen with a single horse were kept at nothing else but carting off straw?

But then there is the bringing back of the compensation. This will also vary as the farm is nearer or more distant from the railway. At most it is but the difference between carting from the station and lifting the manure from the steading to the field. The quantity need not exceed 1,000 tons, and the half of the £500 might be better spent on bone and other phosphatic and ammoniacal manures. Eight horses in single carts with four men would drive 1,000 tons from a railway station a mile distant from the farm in three weeks. The same force would not lift 1,000 tons from the cattle courts and cart it to the fields in much less than half that time. The extra expense in the case we suppose would therefore be the expense of four pairs of horses for a period of ten days, or a fortnight at most, and surely £30 would amply cover it.

Of course, this change in the system of Carse farming need not be carried to its full extent. Only half the straw and turnips might be sold off, and the rest consumed on the farm. In any case, sufficient straw and turnips would require to be kept for the cows and horses.

Mr. George Storer, M.P., whose letter we referred to in our former communication, says this system of selling off is successful in Mr. Prout's case only because it is exceptional, and he adds that if every farmer were to sell straw it would soon become of very little value. We reply that usually the production and profitable sale of any article is not checked from any fear of everybody taking to selling it. Shoemakers don't say, "We shall give up selling shoes because if everybody were to make and sell them they would soon fall in value." We do not counsel all farmers to sell all their straw, and this is not likely ever to happen. It seems more as if the whole world had taken to over production of wheat. Further, we have to reply that so far from the market being overstocked with British straw, an increasing proportion of the litter used in our large towns comes from the Continent. While our farmers are compelled by absurd and antiquated lawyer-made leases to bury straw which is worth £3 to £4 a ton in open market, and is only worth say £1 as manure (Dr. Lawes says 12s. 6d.), foreigners are reaping the benefit. Here is a protection with a vengeance! The proprietors, by their restrictions on the liberty of the tenantry, are protecting foreigners! This is a nice illustration of the community of interest, about which lairds and factors so often speak at agricultural dinners! From a suspicion that their tenants cannot be trusted to manure their land sufficiently, the majority of lairds compel them to destroy £3 to £4 worth of straw to produce three to four loads of muck. This operates against the community. Straw and turnips are made so dear that cowfeeders cannot in some seasons make both ends meet. Another thing of which we would remind Mr. Storer is this—Were straw and hay made more articles of commerce the anomaly of seeing them sold in one county at double the price they fetch in another would cease. That fodder is so various in value in these days of free trade and easy and cheap communication by rail and water surely indicates a screw loose somewhere.

One great desideratum is a cheap and easy mode of packing straw and hay. Foreigners have more readily accommodated themselves to the necessities of the case, and send over large quantities of baled straw; and the English Government actually, we believe, purchases at times large lots of foreign straw and hay for use in cavalry barracks. Here is a subject of inquiry for the Agricultural Commission.

We may also give a hint on this subject to the Highland Society. It is all very nice and pretty to see a fine show of cattle bred and fed by dukes and lords and gentlemen farmers,

but something more valuable might be accomplished by giving more attention to practical agriculture in these days when farmers are at their wit's end how to make farming pay. A very interesting competition might result, for instance, if a premium of £100 was offered for the simplest, cheapest, and best press-packing machine for hay and straw. We think straw might be baled as fast as it comes from the threshing-machine. It would then be possible to carry it as cheaply as minerals by sea or rail. We should be interested to see the returns of the imports of hay and straw. Their money value which goes to Frenchmen, Germans, and Dutchmen, might easily be diverted to the pockets of clay farmers without loss to proprietors of such land.

One of the objects of the new Farmers' Alliance is to promote freedom of cultivation and sale of produce. Is it too much to hope for that one of the lessons of this time of agricultural depression may be the granting of full liberty to deserving tenants of clay lands.

## THE POTATO CROP.

"The Wife of a Wiltshire Landowner," writes to the *Times*: Will you allow me space in your columns for a few remarks respecting the potato crop, which will again this year prove a failure all over England? The failure of the potato crop year after year entails, of course, heavy losses on the labourers who grow potatoes and little else both in their allotments and gardens, hoping to insure a crop heavy enough to provide for the home consumption of themselves and their families during the winter. I need not enlarge here on how potatoes form a part, and often the principal part, of our labourers' dinner most days of the week; the question, therefore, of diseased or non-diseased potatoes is to them a vital one. Potato-growing is, however, neither a mystery nor a matter of chance. To insure successful crops, you must observe several plain rules, the most obvious and important of which is to plant only from perfect and undiseased potatoes; but this is not the practice of our labourers. It therefore requires no prophet to foretell the yearly recurrence of the failure of the potato crop and the consequent increase of the disease. The labourer chooses from his damaged crop the few sound potatoes to save for his winter consumption; the second best only (and that means potatoes which are already touched) are reserved for seed; the worst are boiled for the pigs. Every year, therefore, damaged potatoes being planted, matters grow worse, and we have to import more from abroad. The *Economist* of some weeks back gave some interesting statistics about the money paid last year for foreign potatoes. I feel convinced, and I know many eminent farmers and agriculturists think the same, that nothing effectual can be done unless the Government take the matter up and appoint a Commission to investigate affairs. Much might be done by the introduction of sound foreign potatoes, depots for the sale of which for seed could be established in our country towns and other agricultural centres; and I also venture to suggest that science might be called in to aid with the microscope in the detection and elimination of all germs of the disease, and do for potatoes what has been already so successfully done for pedigree wheat. Experiments in this direction have been made, and successfully, I am told, in the north of Ireland. Sound, healthy, potatoes are obtainable in other countries. Mr. Caird mentions the fineness of those grown in India, and speaks of their entire immunity from disease; but a Commission would decide on this and all other matters pertaining to this scheme.

## MOWER AND REAPER TRIALS IN FRANCE.—

Messrs. Harrison, McGregor, & Co's Albion Mowers and Reapers have recently added to their previous successes in France. During the present month we notice that the following important awards have been gained by these machines, viz.:—The first prize, at Sauze Vaussia, on August 2nd and 3rd, by the Albion Mower; the Gold Medal at the International Trial of Reapers, held at Chaumont, on the 8th and 9th of August, by the New Patent Albion 1 horse Self-delivery reaper; the first prize (*ex æquo*) at the Concours of Gemozac, by the patent Albion 2-horse Self-delivery Reaper; and the Silver Gilt Medal by the Albion Mower, at the Concours of Peronne on the 17th ult.

## UNION AND REPRESENTATION OF TENANT-FARMERS.

The latest, and let us hope the most successful, attempt to get farmers to unite for their common interests—the Tenant-Farmers' Alliance—has met with strong condemnation from several landowners, and is being viewed with suspicion and disapproval by many others. Why should this be so? Why should farmers not unite. Is there no necessity for such action? The two last questions were answered in a rather curious fashion by Lord Houghton, as reported in our columns last week. His Lordship is reported to have said that he was glad to meet the farmers as a body at an agricultural show, "but he was not sure that he was equally glad to hear of farmers meeting together for the purpose of personal combination against some approaching or present dangers or difficulties; and he was actuated in this by a reflection that there was no class of people in the country who required less the advantage of combination than farmers did.

Unfortunately there are too many his Lordship's ranks imbued with ideas such as these. The action or inaction of farmers in the past has tended to foster opinions of this sort, farmers having so long refrained from anything approaching to combination for any purpose whatever, that some people may almost be excused for thinking that no class in the community are so little in need of the advantages of combination as farmers.

Though farmers themselves may, to a large extent, be to blame for encouraging landowners in the belief that the facts are as stated by Lord Houghton, the opinions expressed by his Lordship sound very absurdly indeed in critical times like the present. It appears to us and to many others that, instead of tenant-farmers requiring the benefits of combination and common action less than any other class, they really are more in need of them than any other section of the community. No class have suffered so much from the absence of mutual understanding and united action as farmers have done and are doing. No class of the community have so little security to their capital; no class would have tolerated so long the operations of laws that enable others to pounce, legally though not justly, on their property, as farmers have done. In their negotiations for the hire of land, the tenants of Great Britain have to approach parties naturally in a stronger position. Of this there would be no cause of complaint, if it were not that the natural situation of the owner of the land is at almost every turn unduly fortified by the operations of ancient, artificial, and thoroughly one-sided laws, which prevent the weaker party from meeting the other on a fair footing.

Farmers have for many years grumbled about the extent to which, in their bargains with the owners of the soil, they have felt themselves handicapped, and their capital at the mercy of others, by the existence of laws of unequal presumption. Unfortunately, however, they have done little but grumble, and of course that counts for very little in the estimation of those in whose favour the legal enactments referred to are supposed to operate. We need not dwell on what would have occurred if farmers had looked properly after their common interests long ago; but we cannot overlook two facts—(1), that in no class of free men has there been so little done in the way of union or sympathetic action with one another as among the occupants of British soil; and (2) that farmers have to contend with laws and customs of a more unfair and fettering character than any other section of the community has nowadays to labour under. Is there no connection between these facts and circumstances? We are convinced there is: but for the former facts the latter state of matters would not likely have existed at the present day.

When at length there is a prospect of vigorous action among farmers of the highly-rented, intelligent occupants of British agricultural holdings, meeting together and working earnestly for the protection and promotion of their long neglected interests, it is rather strange, not to say suspicious, that certain landowners should endeavour to throw cold water on the movement. After the experience many of them have had, farmers might be left to judge for themselves as to the advantages of combination. In any case Lord Hough-

ton and others who have spoken from the proprietors' side against union among farmers, should not forget that advice from such a quarter is apt to be viewed with suspicion. There can hardly be a doubt that a combined effort on the part of farmers, not to seize the property of any other class, but to secure the removal of laws which confiscate the tenant's property, would benefit the farming community. Therefore if, as Lord Houghton and many others say, the interests of landlord and tenant are identical, the owners of the soil should not object to any movement calculated to result in an adaptation of the land laws and farming customs to the altered circumstances of modern times.

Lord Houghton "saw no reason why the farmers of this country should combine against any interest whatever, and especially against the landlords' interest, and for this simple reason that the interest of the landlord was really their own." The ardour of the leaders of the Farmer's Alliance is not likely to be damped by his Lordship's inability to see any reason for their efforts; nor, on this account, will many farmers hold aloof from the Alliance. Indeed, his Lordship is a much fairer and better opponent than those who persist in terming the Alliance a party political dodge. By misrepresentations of that sort some men who are politicians first and agriculturists next, may be prevented from joining the Alliance. Gradually, however, farmers are coming to see that the only dodge in the matter is the endeavour to convince people that the movement has been got up for party political purposes. It has, of course, been nothing of the kind. On the contrary, purely party political questions find no place on the programme.

The objects of the Alliance, and the facts of the situation, were well put at Birmingham by the chairman, Mr. James Howard of Bedford, who said, "One of their main objects was to remove all impediments to progress and increased production. They had no object to subserve but the interests of tenant-farmers, and, through them, of the whole community. Their motto was, 'Agriculture first, and politics afterwards.'" They welcomed all, whether Liberals or Conservatives, to their ranks. For his own part he felt that the farmers of England had not much to thank either of the great political parties for. Whatever might have been the case with the Irish farmers, the English farmers certainly were under no debt of gratitude either to Whigs or Tories. The opinions of tenant-farmers had long been systematically unheeded in the great council of the nation, no matter what Government was in power." The condition of things described in the preceding sentence or two has no chance of being remedied until the farmers make their influence felt in the councils of the nation. That can only be accomplished by sending to Parliament more *bona fide* representatives of tenant-farmers, and this in turn cannot be secured except by united action and more energy on the part of agricultural constituencies at election times. This good work the Alliance is already setting itself to in earnest; and it is the duty of all true friends of agricultural progress and reform to support it regardless of all considerations of party politics. In fact, we think that farmers would be nearer their purpose if, at the coming general election, they would pay less attention to the side of the House on which the candidate promises to sit, and more to his opinions and professions on important questions of land law reform than has hitherto been the case. Party politics are good enough in their way; but a slavish adherence to them is not at this juncture the wisest course for the farmer to adopt. Let the farmers vote for the man, whatever his party politics may be, who has the best programme so far as agricultural questions are concerned, and who proves before the electors that he is sound on those subjects. Do not, if you can possibly help it (and to a very large extent you can), send a man to Parliament to represent a county constituency simply because he promises to support either Beaconsfield or Gladstone as the case may be. Elect the man who comes nearest your own views on agricultural subjects, and send as many tenant-farmers to the House as you find ready and qualified for such an honourable post. If some such course as this is followed in the various counties, and the farmers realize the facts that they have grumbled long enough in vain, and that earnest, manly, and united action can now only serve their purpose, we have no doubt the legislative redress, so long talked and written about, would not be much longer delayed.—*North British Agriculturist.*

## ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTS.

Dr. J. B. Lawes has seasonably published a record of the proceedings carried out on his experimental farm at Rothamsted since the year 1843. We extract from it the following brief account of the origin, scope, and plan of the experiments:—

Mr. Lawes was the founder of the Rothamsted experimental station. He commenced experiments with different manuring substances, first with plants in pots, and afterwards in the field, soon after entering into possession of his hereditary property at Rothamsted\* in 1843. The researches of De Saussure on vegetation were the chief subjects of his study to this end. Of all the experiments so made, those in which the neutral phosphate of lime, in bones, bone-ash, and spatite, was rendered soluble by means of sulphuric acid, and the mixture applied for root-crops, gave the most striking results. The results obtained on a small scale in 1837, 1838, and 1839, were such as to lead to more extensive trials in the field in 1840 and 1841, and subsequently,

In 1843 more systematic field experiments were commenced; and a barn, which had previously been partially applied to laboratory purposes, became almost exclusively devoted to agricultural investigations. The foundation of the Rothamsted Experimental Station may be said to date from that time (1843).

The Rothamsted station has up to the present time been entirely disconnected from any external organisation, and has been maintained entirely by Mr. Lawes. He has further set apart a sum of £100,000, and certain areas of land, for the continuance of the investigations after his death.

In 1854-5 a new laboratory was built, by public subscription of agriculturists, and presented to Mr. Lawes, in July 1855, from which date the old barn-laboratory was abandoned, and the new one has been occupied.

From June 1843, up to the present time, Dr. J. H. Gilbert has been associated with Mr. Lawes, and has had the direction of the laboratory.

The number of assistants and other helps has increased from time to time. At first only one laboratory man was employed; but very soon a chemical assistant was necessary, and next a computer and record-keeper.

During the last twenty-five years the staff has consisted of—

One or two, and sometimes three chemists.

Two or three general assistants. One of these is usually employed in routine chemical work, but sometimes in more general work. The chief occupation of the general assistants is to superintend the field experiments—that is, the making of the manures, the measurement of the plots, the application of the manures, and the harvesting of the crops; also the taking of the samples, the preparation of them for preservation or analysis, and the determinations of dry matter, ash, &c. These assistants also superintend any experiments made with animals. There are now more than 25,000 bottles of samples of experimentally-grown vegetable produce, of animal products, of ashes, or of soils stored in the laboratory.

A botanical assistant is also occasionally employed, with from three to six boys under him, and with him is generally associated one of the permanent general assistants, who at other times undertakes the botanical work.

Two or three (for some time past three) computers and record-keepers have been occupied in calculating and tabulating field, feeding, and laboratory results, copying, &c.

One, and sometimes two, laboratory men are employed. Besides the permanent laboratory staff, chemical assistance is frequently engaged in London, or elsewhere; and, in this way for some years past, Mr. R. Richter, of Berlin, has been almost constantly occupied with analytical work sent from Rothamsted.

The field experiments, and occasionally feeding experiments, also employ a considerable but a very variable number of agricultural labourers.

Nothing has been done at Rothamsted in the way of manure, feeding-stuff, or seed control.

\* Rothamsted is in Hertfordshire, twenty five miles from London, on the Midland Railway, station, Harpenden.

The investigations may be classed under two heads:—

## 1.—FIELD EXPERIMENTS, EXPERIMENTS ON VEGETATION, &amp;c.

The general scope and plan of the field experiments has been;—

To grow some of the most important crops of rotation, each separately, year by year, for many years in succession on the same land, without manure, with farmyard manure, and with a great variety of chemical manures: the same description of manure being, as a rule, applied year after year on the same plot. Experiments on an actual course of rotation, with different manures, have also been made. In this way field experiments have been conducted as follows:—

On wheat, thirty-six years in succession; 13 acres 35 plots.

On barley, twenty-eight years in succession; 4½ acres, 23 (or 29) plots.

On oats, ten years (including one year fallow); ¾ acre, 6 plots.

On wheat, alternated with fallow, twenty-eight years; 1 acre, 2 plots.

On different descriptions of wheat, twelve years; 4-8 acres (each year in a different field), now more than 20 plots.

On beans, thirty-two years (including one year wheat and five years fallow); 1½ acre, 10 plots. Also twenty-seven years; 5 plots, 1 acre.

On beans, alternated with wheat, twenty-eight years; 1 acre, 10 plots.

On clover, with fallow or a corn crop intervening, twenty-eight years; 3 acres, 18 plots.

On turnips, twenty-eight years (including three years' barley); about 8 acres, 40 plots.

On sugar beet, five years; about 8 acres, 40 plots.

On mangel wurzel, three years (in progress); about 8 acres, 40 plots.

On potatoes, three years (in progress); 2 acres, 10 plots.

On Rotation, thirty-two years; about 2½ acres, 12 plots.

On permanent grass land, twenty-four years; about 7 acres 20 plots.

Comparative experiments with different manures have also been made on other descriptions of soil, in other localities.

Samples of all the experimental crops are taken, and brought to the laboratory. Weighed portions of each are partially dried, and preserved for future reference or analysis. Duplicate weighed portions of each are dried at 100° C., the dry matter determined, and then burnt to ash on platinum sheets in cast-iron muffles. The quantities of ash are determined and recorded, and the ashes themselves are preserved for reference or analysis.

In a large proportion of the samples the nitrogen is determined.

In selected cases, illustrating the influence of season manures, exhaustion, &c., complete ash-analyses have been made, numbering in all more than 600.

Also in selected cases, illustrating the influence of season and manuring, quantities of the experimentally-grown wheat grain have been sent to the mill, and the proportion and composition of the different mill-products determined.

In the case of sugar beet the sugar, by polariscope, has in most cases been determined.

In the case of the experiments on the mixed herbage of permanent grass land, besides the samples taken for the determination of chemical composition (dry matter, ash, nitrogen, woody fibre, fatty matter, and composition of ash), carefully averaged samples have frequently been taken for the determination of the botanical composition. In this way, on four occasions, at intervals of five years—viz., in 1862, 1867, 1872, and 1877—a sample of the produce of each plot was taken, and submitted to careful botanical separation, and the percentage, by weight, of each species in the mixed herbage determined. Partial separations have also been made in other years.

## INVESTIGATIONS OF SOILS.

Samples of the soils of most of the experimental plots have been taken from time to time, generally to the depth of 9, 18, and 27 inches, but some times to twice this depth. In this way about 600 samples have been taken, submitted to partial mechanical separation, and portions of the mould have been carefully prepared and preserved for analysis. In a large

proportion of the samples the loss on drying at different temperatures, and at ignition, has been determined. In most the nitrogen determinable by burning with soda-lime has been estimated. In some the carbon, and in some the nitrogen as nitric acid, have been determined. Some experiments have also been made on the comparative absorptive capacity (for water and ammonia) of different soils and subsoils. The systematic investigation of the amount, and condition of the nitrogen, and of some of the more important mineral constituents, of the soils of the different plots, and from different depths, is now in progress or contemplated.

#### RAINFALL AND DRAINAGE.

Almost from the commencement of the experiments the rainfall has been measured—for twenty-six years in a gauge of one-thousandth of an acre area, as well as in an ordinary small funnel-gauge of 5 inches diameter. From time to time the nitrogen, as ammonia and as nitric acid, has been determined in the rain waters. The chlorine has, also, in some cases been determined.

Three "drain gauges," also of one-thousandth of an acre each, for the determination of the quantity and composition of the water percolating respectively through 20 inches, 40 inches, and 60 inches depth of soil (with its subsoil in natural state of consolidation) have also been constructed. A more numerous series of smaller "drain gauges," arranged for the investigation of the influence of different crops, and of different manures, are in course of construction. Each of the differently manured plots of the permanent experimental wheat field having a separate pipe-drain, the drainage waters have frequently been collected and analysed.

Professor Frankland has determined the nitrogen, as ammonia, as nitric acid, and as organic nitrogen, and also some other constituents, in many samples both of the rain and of the various drainage waters collected at Koshamsted. Dr. Voelcker also has determined the combined nitrogen, and likewise the incombustible constituents, in many of the drainage waters.

The nitrogen existing as nitric acid, sometimes that in other forms, and also some other constituents, are, and for some time past have been, determined periodically, in both the rain and the various drainage waters.

#### AMOUNT OF WATER TRANSPIRED BY PLANTS.

For several years in succession, experiments were made to determine the amount of water given off by plants, during their growth. In this way various plants, including representatives of the gramineous, the leguminous, and other families, have been experimented upon. Similar experiments have also been made with various trees.

#### BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS, &c.

Having regard to the difference in the character and amount of the constituents assimilated by plants of different botanical relationships, under equal external conditions, or by the same description of plants, under varying conditions, observations have been made on the character and range of the roots of different plants, and on their relative development of stem, leaf, &c. In the case of various crops, but more especially with wheat and beans, samples have been taken at different stages of growth, and the composition determined, in more or less detail, sometimes of the entire plant, and sometimes of the separated parts. In a few cases the amounts of dry matter, ash, nitrogen, &c., in the above-ground growth of a given area, at different stages of development have been determined. The amounts of stubble of different crops have also occasionally been estimated.

#### ASSIMILATION OF FREE NITROGEN.

Experiments were made for several years in succession to determine whether plants assimilate free or uncombined nitrogen, and also various collateral points. Plants of the gramineous, the leguminous, and of other families were operated upon. The late Dr. Pugh took a prominent part in this inquiry.

#### II.—EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS, ETC.

Experiments with the animals of the farm were commenced early in 1847, and have been continued, at intervals, up to the present time.

The following points have been investigated:—

1. The amount of food, and of its several constituents, consumed in relation to a given live weight of animal within a given time.

2. The amount of food, and of its several constituents, consumed to produce a given amount of increase in live weight.

3. The proportion, and relative development, of the different organs or parts of different animals.

4. The proximate and ultimate composition of the animals in different conditions as to age and fatness, and the probable composition of their increase in live weight during the fattening process.

5. The composition of the solid and liquid excreta (the manure) in relation to that of the food consumed.

6. The loss or expenditure of constituents by respiration and the cutaneous exhalations—that is, in the mere sustenance of living meat-and-manure-making machine.

The general plan of experimenting was as follows:—

To provide data as to the amount of food, or its several constituents, consumed in relation to a given live weight of animal within a given time, and to produce a given amount of increase in live weight, several hundred animals—oxen, sheep, and pigs—have been experimented upon. Selected lots of animals were supplied, for many weeks, or for months consecutively, with weighed quantities of food, selected and allotted according to the special point under inquiry. The composition of the foods are determined by analysis. The weights of the animals were taken at the commencement, at intervals during the progress, and at the conclusion of the experiment.

The amount, and relative development, of the different organs and parts were determined in two calves, two heifers fourteen bullocks, one lamb, 249 sheep, and fifty-nine pigs.

The percentage of water, mineral matter, fat and nitrogenous substance, were determined in certain separated parts, and in the entire bodies of ten animals—namely, one calf, two oxen, one lamb, four sheep, and two pigs. Complete analyses of the ashes, respectively, of the entire carcasses, of the mixed internal and other offal parts, and of the entire bodies of each of these ten animals have also been made.

From the data provided, as just described, as to the chemical composition of the different descriptions of animal, in different conditions as to age and fatness, the composition of the increase whilst fattening, and the relation of the constituents stored up in increase to those consumed in food, have been estimated.

To ascertain the composition of the manure in relation to that of the food consumed, oxen, sheep, and pigs have been experimented upon.

In the case of oxen, the food and litter (sometimes with an acid absorbent), were weighed, sampled, and analysed; the animals were led in boxes, for periods of from five to nine weeks, and the total dung produced was well mixed, weighed, sampled, and analysed. The constituents determined in the food and litter on the one hand, and in the dung on the other, were dry matter, ash, and nitrogen.

In the case of sheep no litter was used; the animals were kept in lots of five, on rafters, through which (but with some little loss) the solid and liquid excreta passed on to a sheet-zinc flooring at such an incline that the liquid drained off at once into carboys containing acid, and the solid matter was removed two or three times daily, and also mixed with acid. The constituents determined in the food and manure were dry matter, mineral matter, sometimes woody fibre, and nitrogen.

In the case of pigs, individual male animals were experimented upon, each for periods of three, five, or ten days only. Each animal was kept in a frame, preventing it from turning round, and having a zinc bottom, with an outlet for the liquid to run into a bottle, and it was watched night and day, and the voidings carefully collected as soon as passed, which could easily be done, as the animal never passed either faeces or urine without getting up, and in getting up he rang a bell, and so attracted the notice of the attendant. The constituents determined were, in the food and faeces, dry matter, ash and nitrogen, and in the urine, dry matter, ash, nitrogen, and urea.

The loss or expenditure of constituents, by respiration and the cutaneous exhalations, has not been determined directly, that is by means of a respiration-apparatus, but only by difference, that is, by calculation, founded on the amounts of dry matter, ash, and nitrogen, in the food, and in the (increased) faeces and urine.

Independently of the points of inquiry above enumerated, the results obtained have supplied data for the consideration of the following questions:—

1. The characteristic demands of the animal body (for nitrogenous or non-nitrogenous constituents of food) in the exercise of muscular power.

2. The sources in the food of the fat produced in the animal body.

3. The comparative characters of animal and vegetable food in human dietaries.

In conjunction with Professor Way, an extensive investigation was undertaken on the application of town sewage to different crops, but especially to grass. The amount and the composition of both the sewage and the produce grown were determined; and, in selected cases, the composition of the land drainage-water was also determined. Comparative experiments were also made on the feeding qualities of the differently grown produce; the amount of increase yielded by oxen, and the amount and composition of the milk yielded by cows, being determined. In this inquiry part of the analytical work was performed at Rothamsted, but most of it by Professor Way in London.

The chemistry of the malting process, the loss of food constituents during its process, and the comparative feeding value of barley and malt, have been investigated.

Although many of the results of the investigations above enumerated have already been published, a large proportion as yet remains unpublished.

## THE EXPORT OF CATTLE.

### THE TREATMENT OF THE ANIMALS.

The following letter appeared in the *New York Times*. It was written by Mr. George W. Johnston, agent of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He was sent over by Mr. Henry Bergh, the President of the Society, to inquire into the condition of cattle coming from the United States while on shipboard. He writes as follows:—

To Henry Bergh, Esq., President, &c.

In compliance with your letter of instructions, I have the honour to submit the following report:—On the 5th of April I sailed for Europe, and since that time have availed myself of every opportunity to gather reliable information concerning the treatment of cattle on shipboard. I find that the only animals taken, unless we include cows by special contract, are bullocks, usually about four years of age. These animals are arranged in stalls composed of stanchions and shifting boards, and are tied with ropes, head to head amidships. It is said the animals can lie down within the space occupied by their bodies while standing, and for that reason always have sufficient room for rest. But, from observation, I am convinced this is an error; that while it is true the animals may lie down within the space indicated, still there is not sufficient room for any movement of the body, and a cramped condition must follow, resulting in sores and bruises. The stalls erected for the confinement of cattle are arranged longitudinally along the entire distance of the ship allotted for the purpose. In large ships, sometimes three, and on rare occasions four, rows of bullocks are secured. When there are more than two rows, the same arrangement is observed of tying them head to head, with their flanks toward the sides of the vessel. The cattle are usually confined four in a stall 11 feet wide by 8 feet long, although, when the animals are large, a length of 9 feet is allowed. These dimensions are altogether too meagre and inadequate, and they have evidently been determined upon in order that the closest economy of space may be observed. It is perfectly obvious that in respect to room, the convenience or the comfort of the cattle is not taken into consideration. From inspection, I am led to conclude that at least one-third more space should be allowed. When the vessel is at sea, during the first day, but seldom longer than the second, the cattle seem inclined to a loss of appetite; consequently, they are fed lightly, usually given a few ears of corn each. By the third day they recover their appetite and eat all that is placed before them. I use the words "placed before them" in a qualified sense, not intending to be understood that the animals are

always well fed. And here it may be parenthetically remarked that the condition of the cattle at sea is very similar to that of the human being. They experience the novelty and inconvenience of the voyage, and seem to feel the irksomeness of the confinement, all of which soon wears off if they are properly treated; in fact their recovery from sea-sickness, which they seem to experience if the weather is at all boisterous, and their general behaviour at sea is in many respects not unlike the conditions of emigrants when massed in great numbers in the hold of a vessel. The animals are fed from troughs placed at the top of the shifting boards, which are so adjusted that each bullock can receive his full share of food; all conditions, such as its proper distribution, being observed. The usual routine of feeding cattle during the voyage is as follows:—Hay at 5 in the morning; water shortly after; corn at 10; hay again at 1; water at 3; corn again at 5; hay for the last time at 6, when their beds are made for the night. The manner herein described of feeding cattle while at sea has reference only to cases where they are accompanied by their owners, and are taken on the regular lines. Those unfortunate creatures which are sent over in ships hastily chartered, with no arrangements for proper care being shown them necessarily suffer terribly. They are generally insufficiently fed and watered, and are left solely to the attention of the sailors. When drovers are sent to accompany them they are usually seasick most of the voyage, and those who have suffered from this malady can imagine how little care animals would receive from men hardly able to care for themselves. Under such circumstances, when animals are prostrated by sickness or broken limbs—there being no veterinary surgeon on board to determine what shall be done for them—to kill them seems to be the only merciful way to relieve them of their suffering; but there is seldom a butcher on board to do that work well and quickly. This may be illustrated by the reply a sailor made to me when I questioned him as to how he killed a bullock that had lain for hours with its legs broken. "Oh! I did it with this," said he, showing me a small jack-knife. "Well," I replied, "you could hardly have killed him immediately with that knife." "No," said the sailor, "but I gave him such a cut that he did not get over it."

The drainage of the stalls, in which the cattle are confined, is necessarily very imperfect, owing to the uncertain motion of the ship, especially during a storm; still, an effort is made, usually twice a day, where proper attention is given to the animals, to remove the excrement, and to keep them in as healthy a condition as possible with the conveniences afforded for that purpose. There is, however, great room for improvement in respect to drainage, and very much remains to be done in that regard for the comfort of cattle while at sea. The bedding furnished the animals—usually of straw or hay—is not removed during the voyage, but is allowed to accumulate, layer upon layer. This is partly because of the inconvenience of disposing of it, but principally, it is claimed, to afford the cattle, owing to the condition of the material under them, a firmer footing in case of bad weather. Where the attendance is good each bullock is given about eight gallons of water—either fresh or condensed—per day. The number of cattle shipped usually varies from 50 to 500. During the voyage, in case of the death of an animal, the shifting boards are taken out, the carcass removed by windlass to the deck, and thrown overboard. The death rate cannot be easily obtained, as such information is given with great reluctance but I am enabled to state that the number varies largely, the conditions being treatment, ship accommodation, and weather. In some instances as high as 50 per cent. of the cattle have died at sea. I regret that in no case have I found that the subject of ventilation has been given proper attention. Even the best appointed ships lack in this respect, as the most cursory examination will determine. This remark has reference not alone to ships at sea, but to those in port, it being frequently the case that cargoes of cattle are in the hold of vessels some days before sailing. Suffocation and death among these animals, as a matter of course, must follow their standing for a long period amid sickening exhalations, stifling fumes from excrement, the reeking stench of bilge water, and the poisonous air always incident to such surroundings. The results of bad ventilation are apparent in every season of the year. In the summer the atmosphere is close and sultry between decks, more particularly so when the vessel is lying in port, and in the winter the cold compels the battening down of hatches,

which prevents all circulation of air, except through funnels, which are frequently insufficient and improperly constructed. I desire to call attention to a matter of most serious importance concerning the shipment of cattle by a class of irresponsible speculators, who charter vessels without any semblance of proper arrangements for the convenience of transporting cattle. To such an extent has this nefarious business been carried on between the United States and Europe, that the disgrace is being felt by all reputable shippers. I find that in a large majority of cases the serious complaints of cattle dying at sea, arriving at their port of destination in a mutilated and unhealthy condition, and of the improper sanitary arrangements of vessels are made against those irregular contractors, who are called in the trade "Jews." I do not use the word in its national or offensive sense, but with reference to a class who are the most heartless in their treatment of dumb animals. The usual *modus operandi* of these irregular shippers is to take advantage of what they believe to be a rising market in Europe, pick up as many cattle as they can find, good, bad, and indifferent—not unfrequently the lame, halt, and the blind—charter some vessel that has come into port "light," make a close bargain with the captain, who, of course, is anxious to take something home to cover the expenses of his return voyage, and then send the animals adrift, trusting to luck or Providence that enough of them will reach their destination alive to make the speculation pay. It may be said, how do these vessels escape the vigilance of United States authorities, who are expected to know of such transactions? I can only say they do. As the vessels referred to are not regularly in the trade, they cannot be easily identified, but it may be relied upon as a fact that nearly all ships sailing out of the port of New York for Europe in ballast can be chartered to carry cattle; that such vessels will be found on investigation to be entirely unfit for the business they are engaged in, and that the chartering of such ships results in the most revolting acts of cruelty to the imprisoned animals.

Under your instructions I have sought the advice of the best veterinary surgeons, but have been unable to gain from them much information of a practical character. This has not been because of any lack of knowledge on the part of those whom I have occasionally asked, or the absence of a disposition to impart information, but has arisen from differences of opinion concerning matters which I desired most to understand. In other words, I find that "doctors disagree" here as well as elsewhere; and especially has this been the case with regard to pleuro-pneumonia. In fact, I have been unable to find any two veterinary surgeons who entertain the same opinions concerning this disease. There are those who are still in doubt with regard to its character—taking the ground that it is the old-fashioned lung distemper; others that it has a modern origin, and is not well understood. Those holding the latter opinion seem to be in the majority. Many veterinary surgeons insist that the disease is contagious, while some can be found of equal reputation who assert that it is not. In consequence of finding the opinions of veterinary surgeons so conflicting, I have not recorded them.

In conclusion permit me to add that it would afford me pleasure to speak in commendation of some ships which are regularly in the trade of carrying cattle, and of the good condition of the animals on their arrival here, but I cannot do so without making invidious comparisons.

### THE GORILLA AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

On the occasion of the Foresters' Fête there were exhibited for the first time a gorilla and a chimpanzee, which only a week before had arrived at Liverpool direct from the West Coast of Africa, and had been purchased by Mr. Garcia, of Manchester, with whom the directors have made arrangements for the appearance of these little animals, which are both young, the chimpanzee being a male about three years of age, and the gorilla, a female eighteen months old. They had been placed in a large iron cage, and their evident attachment and playful antics caused great amusement to the numerous relays of visitors

admitted during the day. On Wednesday a party of scientific gentlemen attended by invitation, but the animals were somewhat reserved, it having been found necessary, in order to secure them from the injurious effects of draughts, to place them in a huge glass case, to which they had not quite got accustomed. Among the visitors were Mr. Alfred R. Wallace and the Rev. J. G. Wood, the former of whom, at the request of Mr. Flood Page, manager of the Crystal Palace, delivered a short address upon the Anthropoid apes. The gorilla, he said, was the largest of these apes, attaining when full-grown an average of 5 feet 6 inches, as compared with 4 feet 2 inches, the average height of the orang-outang and chimpanzee. Each of these three had certain peculiar resemblances to mankind, but while the two smaller apes had arms of enormous length, their hands reaching almost to the ground, the arms of the gorilla were relatively short, being very little longer than those of some men. The hand of the gorilla also approached more nearly the human shape, while the ears in the gorilla and in man were wonderfully alike. The side-view of the face of the specimen under consideration was exactly like that of a negro, as was also the shape of the head, but when the full face was presented the peculiarity of the nostrils, which opened forward instead of downward, detracted from the resemblance. These animals were peculiarly liable to lung disease, and if they survived a first winter usually succumbed to the second. In conclusion, Mr. Wallace announced that the Rev. J. G. Wood would lecture daily on the Anthropoid Apes. Mr. Wallace afterwards favoured the attendants with some excellent practical advice as regards ventilation and temperature, his experience of the orang-outang during his twelve years' research in the Malay Archipelago admirably fitting him for this task. Considering that Gena is the first gorilla which has arrived direct from Africa, and the third ever exhibited, it is sure to prove a great attraction, the more so that its companion the chimpanzee serves to show prominently the differences which exist between the species. Readers of M. Paul du Chaillu, on whose accounts of the gorilla much doubt was at one time cast, will here have an opportunity of verifying many of that explorer's statements.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.—The composition of the Royal Commission on Agriculture just appointed is a little mixed. The high apostle of territorial Conservatism, Walter Francis, Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, in the same boat with that philosophical Radical and abstract Republican, Joseph Cowen, of the *Newcastle Chronicle*! I observe another Northumberland man in the list, Jacob Wilson to wit, without whom nowadays no agricultural function seems really complete. Few men combine more than he does the *fortitor in re* with the *suaviter in modo*. Being land-agent to Lord Tankerville, he made himself most useful as a sort of major-domo on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's visit to Chillingham Castle, the seat of the famous wild cattle. Jacob accompanied the Prince back to London in the special train provided by the Great Northern, and at Newcastle proved of signal service in repressing the enormous crowd of roughs who had carried the station by storm, and who, on the arrival of the train there, threatened almost to carry the Prince also in the exuberance of their loyalty. Jacob Wilson was equal to the emergency. He got out and harangued the crowd, saying that if they would only stand back for a few minutes the Prince would address them; and so, temporising with the excited mob, he gave time for the officials to get the train started; and just as it was moving off he himself made a dash for the carriage-window, like the harlequin in a pantomime, and was literally dragged in head foremost. Many thought for this exploit he would receive his spurs, and it is still thought he will live to become 'Sir Jacob.'—*World*.

# Chambers of Agriculture.

## HAMPSHIRE.

### THE TITHE RENT CHARGE AS AFFECTED BY THE CORN AVERAGES.

A Meeting of this Chamber was held at Fareham, recently Mr. J. Trask in the chair.

Mr. J. T. TWYNAM opened a discussion upon the subject of "The Tithe Rent Charge as Affected by the Corn Averages," by reading a paper of which the following is a portion:—

In opening this important question I am anxious first to set myself right with the public upon the often disputed point as to the justice of the claim for tithe, and I will shortly dispose of it by observing that in my opinion there is no payment to which the land of England is so clearly and fairly liable as to that of tithe. Land and estates have been bought and sold for long centuries subject to this charge; it has been considered and its value abated from the purchase money paid, and therefore does not belong to either the owner or occupier of the soil.

It would be irrelevant to our present discussion if I stopped to inquire into the more reasonable doubt which exists as to the proper distribution and application of tithes, or whether the Church or the nation has the best title to them, but an indisputable title one or the other undoubtedly has, and the owners of land can only possess them by redemption by purchase, as in the case of the land tax, or other legitimate charge, a plan which recommends itself to many as the best means of settling for ever this much vexed question.

The old practice of taking tithes in kind is practically known to some few of us present; the tenth stock of wheat—the tenth "pook" or "wad" of barley, oats, pulse, or hay—the tenth lamb, calf, and pig—the tenth of everything produce on the farm or gardens was formerly taken by the tithe-owner, by his own or hired teams, and the corn, pulse, and hay stacked or imbarred in the premises of the well-known parsonage farm.

This practice led to such ill-feeling and heart-burning between the rectors and their parishioners that the less objectionable mode of compounding for tithes was adopted some sixty or seventy years since by the payment of a fixed sum of money annually, which composition, in the first Reformed Parliament, elected in 1832, was converted into the present rent charge, subject to variations regulated by the corn averages.

It is with this latter payment we have now to deal, and I have been induced to undertake the introduction of the subject chiefly on the following grounds:—First—Because I hope to show that the basis on which the Act is founded is very inequitable, particularly under the system of free trade, which did not come into operation until twelve years after the Tithe Commutation Act was passed, and which was founded on the prices of corn existing under protective duties. Secondly—That the addition of the seven years' average amount of poor and other rates then prevailing to the amount of the rent charge was unjust. Thirdly—Because at the time of its passing I was lessee of the tithes of a large parish—Whitchurch, in this county—and in that character had frequent conferences with the Tithe Commissioners and Valuers appointed to apportion them. Fourthly—Because I believe it is a clear matter of justice that if landowners who virtually pay the tithe rent charge, are to be called upon to reduce their rents to meet the reduced prices of corn, meat, and other agricultural produce consequent on free trade, the tithe owner, whose rent charge was based on prices ruled under a system of protective duties, and rates double those now prevailing, should abate his claims on the land in proportion.

In dealing with my first proposition, the basis of commutation, I would observe that the composition paid in lieu of tithe was taken by the commissioner as the basis, which composition, as I have observed, was entered into under the protection prices, which for the seven years previous to 1836—the year in which the new Tithe Act was passed—averaged 7s.—discarding fractions—per bushel for wheat, 3s. 9d. per bushel for barley, and 2s. 11d. per bushel for oats. By way of illustration I will take £100 as the composition on a given

farm. One-third of this sum was reduced to bushels of wheat at the 7s. per bushel, one-third to bushels of barley at 3s. 9d., and one-third to bushels of oats at 2s. 11d., together making up the £100 rent charge, called the commutation, at which it now stands.

Now, before going into the averages, it is right we should form a fair basis on which the commuted sum should be calculated. If we were to take the average prices of this year, 1879, we should find barley and oats about the same, but wheat at 5s. instead of 7s. per bushel, or £10 per load, instead of £14. As one-third of the composition named, £100 (£33 6s. 8d.) was presumed to be made up of wheat at the latter price, 7s. per bushel, if adapted to the present price, £10, we should have to take off 27½ per cent. on the £33 6s. 8d., the value of the one-third reduced to wheat, reducing it to £24 5s. 21, or £9 1s. 6d. reduction on the £100 composition leaving £90 18s. 6d. instead of £100 as the commutation value on which the averages should act.

As 40s. per qr. for wheat, 30s. for barley, and 23s. for oats are certainly prices quite as high as we should be justified in calculating upon for seven years together, under the greatly increased and ever increasing area of foreign competition, I submit this calculation as a near approximation of what every £100 rent charge, as now existing, should be, under our altered circumstances, making about 10 per cent. reduction on the original commutation.

But a greater injustice than this was inflicted on the payer of rent charge, by adding the seven years' average of poor and highway rates under the old poor law, whose laxity and abuse were proverbial, to the new rent charge.

Our poor rates in Whitchurch at that time were 7s. in the pound. At Andover, immediately adjoining, they were much higher, and I could name places where, until the new poor law of 1834 stopped their ruinous advance, they had reached 12s. in the pound. I should suppose the Tithe Commissioners never did add such a monstrous charge as the latter, but I know they did the 7s. in my parish, making up the £100 composition agreed on under protection prices, and adopted as rent charge, to £135.

Of course as the owner of the rent charge had to pay the rates on the commuted sum, it was but fair that the rates which he would have actually to pay should be tacked on to the rent charge. But what has he paid since the old poor law was abolished? I venture to say not more than 3s. 6d. in the pound, or half what was added to his rent charge for the purpose of paying rates; therefore evidently he receives £17 10s. per annum more than his due, and this not for a definite period, but in perpetuity.

Admitting my premises to be correct, I think I have shown that this £100 rent charge of 1836 ought to be reduced 10 per cent. by reason of free trade prices, and £17 10s. by reason of reduction of rates, as compared with rates added to it at the time of its commutation, together £27 10s., and this irrespective of the higher value to which a most imperfect return of the corn average has raised it.

To this second, but somewhat more complicated part of the subject, I will not draw your attention; very many times during the last twenty-five years I have endeavoured to show by statements in the public papers the manifest unfairness of these returns, the great laxity exhibited by the constituted authorities in collecting them, the smallness of the returns as compared with the known sales, and the total omission for weeks together of any return of some particular corn, sometimes of barley, at others of oats, charges proved by the returns published in the weekly averages.

From the great outcry lately made upon the subject, the comptroller of the Corn Returns has at last been driven to a stricter attention to his duties, and an improvement has been effected, but still the returns are such as not fairly to represent the prices obtained by the growers of corn, which undeniably is the object of the Act of Parliament requiring these returns.

On the 26th of June last the House of Commons issued an order for a copy "of a memorandum addressed to the Board of Trade by the Comptroller of Corn Returns on the diminution of the quantities of wheat returned as sold in the different markets of England and Wales, and on other matter connected with the corn returns." This return has been published, and passing over the question of diminished returns, which seem to be partially accounted for, I will proceed to notice the more important question of the re-sales of corn by dealers, and

returned with the sales from growers at each succeeding re-sale, and the probable quantity of inferior corn consumed at home by farmers, and consequently not operating upon the market prices, which regulate the averages.

1) reference to the re-sales the Comptroller observes, in answer to the order of the House, "In the Act it is specially directed, as regards London, that factors and dealers, as well as farmers, are to return the sales they make, not as in other towns the purchases they make." Now, I confess to belong to what I believe to be the great majority who have hitherto remained in total ignorance of any such clause—who did not know that the farmers selling in the London markets made returns of corn sold, a privilege forbidden their country cousins.

But the wording of the clause, as given by the Comptroller, completely confirms the justice of the tithe-payers' complaint, viz., that the dealer and factor both add their profit prices on to the first sale of the farmer, and the united prices obtained by each, rather than the price of the grower, which alone the Act requires, go to raise most unjustly the averages which regulate the tithe-rent charge payments.

Further, the Comptroller volunteers an opinion on this practice by observing, "Speaking as a statistician I should be disposed to object to any change, if it would have the effect of yielding a different price from what would be obtained on the present basis." And what do you think, gentlemen, is the sapient and equitable ground on which this great official founds this objection? Simply because the comparison of future years with the past would be thrown out, and the value of the record of corn prices, which has now become very great, would be impaired.

Verily, here is justice with a vengeance! Statistics must be held inviolate, even, as here shown, if obtained on false or equitable returns, and the value of the corn prices of the past alike false and unreliable, by the same showing, must be upheld (or using in a false comparison with the genuine prices, the sure result of an amendment of the present one-sided Corn Averages Act.

Equally unsatisfactory are the Comptroller's remarks in this precious document on the question of the home consumption of corn. "There is no evidence," he says, "of the returns being effected, and of the price being higher than it would otherwise be, in consequence of a larger proportion of corn being consumed by farmers at home than used to be the case." So reports the Comptroller to the Commons; he might have added "But the evidence is ready when your honourable House thinks fit to call for it; and while the subject is being weighed I will submit a little evidence for the guidance of any parliamentary representatives who may be willing to hear it."

I contend that, on an average of years, fully one-tenth of the corn grown is consumed at home, either in the shape of "tailings," or damaged corn—and that the value of this tenth is, at least, less by 85 per cent. than the best corn sent to market. This lower value of the tenth, added to the greater value of the nine-tenths and equalised by division, would reduce value of the latter (if wheat at 40s. per qr.) by 2s. per qr., or 5 per cent. On barley and oats there would be the proportionate reduction, and consequently on the whole computed rent charge of the farm, £5 per cent. reduction.

I have now £32 10s. against this rent charge of £135, and I claim a further 5 per cent. deduction on the ground of the higher range of the averages which prevail in consequence of the large portions of inferior corn, which, although brought to market, is never returned at all, coupled with the irregularity of adding the dealers' profits.

Without troubling you with an elaborate calculation, I am well persuaded I am under the mark when I put, as I have done, this last item at 5 per cent.—making an aggregate of £37 10s. or 27½ per cent., now paid to the tithe-owner of £135 rent charge over and above his legitimate claim, if based upon prices on which he may fairly calculate will prevail in the future of free trade—if a fair amount were allowed for rates based upon the averages prevailing since the enactment of the new poor laws, in place of the extravagant rates paid under the old poor law, now forming part and parcel of the rent charges—and if a fair percentage were deducted from the returns collected on account of the refuse corn consumed on the farms.

Thus every £100 now standing as rent charges, together with the £35 added for rates at 7s. in the pound, making £135, would be reduced to £93.

This, gentlemen, is the position to which a careful analysis of my arguments will bring the present tithe rent charge. I will now leave the discussion of it in your hands, believing it, as at present calculated, one of the most inequitable imposts levied upon the lands of England.

After the discussion,

Mr. TWYNAM proposed a series of resolutions in accordance with the several points brought forward in his paper, but, some difference of opinion being manifested, on the motion of Mr. J. GATER, seconded by Mr. W. WARNER, it was ultimately resolved—

"That the rent charges, as connected with the corn averages, is a fit subject for the consideration of the Royal Agricultural Commission now engaged in the inquiry into the question of the present agricultural depression."

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.—Lord Beaconsfield's passion for grandiose burlesque has rarely found a finer opportunity for display than in the Royal Commission just appointed to inquire into the causes of agricultural depression. His contempt for his followers was pithily expressed years ago in the never-to-be forgotten declaration about educating the Tory Party. That contempt is as plainly indicated now; but with such emphasis of pomp and circumstance that the stricken and bewildered Bæotians mistake it for god-like compassion. When he spoke the language of common sense, telling them their misfortunes were beyond the scope of legislative remedy, they had neither ears nor understanding. They would have a commission; and he has given them their heart's desire. Never was such a White Elephant. Names, numbers, powers and patronage in amazing abundance. It is the veriest mountain of a Royal Commission; and the offspring of its protracted labour will fulfil the classic proverb. The comfort left for the distressed agriculturists lies in the certainty that most of them will be dead before the report of the commission reiterates the hackneyed story of Humpty Dumpty. When Mr. Shaw, the Irish leader, was asked why he also refused to be a Royal Commissioner, he said, with a brogue that would have delighted Cicero himself, "Timeo Danaos, et dona ferentes." Mr. Rodwell, Q.C., who went into Parliament on the backs of the tenant-farmers of the Fen Country, is comfortably shelved. He could hardly refuse, so he gave up the wool-sack with a sigh, and will henceforth dream of land law reform on retrogressive principles. Mr. Goschen's appointment is a delicate compliment to reward the Conservative tendencies of that Liberal statesman. But it is more—it keeps out Mr. Shaw Lefevre, and Lord Beaconsfield thinks that a *sine qua non*. The member for Reading is the Premier's aversion—"I do not like thee, Dr. Fell," &c. The fact is inexplicable—to Mr. Lefevre.—*Mayfair*.

"THERE IS A REAPER WHOSE NAME."—One day just before harvest, an Ohio farmer went to Cincinnati to buy a reaper. A delighted agent collared the Grainger and dragged him into his warehouse. As they walked down the well-stocked room, the farmer, in a meditative mood, quoted the line, "There is a reaper whose name is death," but before he could start the next line, the agent broke in: "Ah yes I know it, sir; I know it like a book. We handled that reaper one season, sir, and I'd take 5,000 dol's. out of my pocket this minute if it would undo the damage that reaper did our business in that one year. You don't want it, sir. You don't want to look at it. The machinery is complicated; it gets out of order easily; you have to send clear to Akron for a new piece of gearing; it does not cut clean, and it nearly kills the horses. Jams their shoulders all to pieces, sir. I know that reaper, sir. It's an old, old style, sir, and you don't want it. Now here, sir, I can show you a reaper that"—But the astonished farmer just interrupted him to say he knew that the reaper he mentioned was an old style, but he was certain that it did its work well, though, all the same, it wasn't the kind he wanted, and he had no idea of buying it to work on his farm. He bought another reaper, bloodthirsty as a Cossack, and red as an autumn sunset, and the agent told how he sold a reaper to an old fellow who came in here just dead set for some old machine that he had never heard of before.—*Western Farmer*.

## Farmers' Clubs.

### MIDLAND.

A meeting of the Midland Farmers' Club was held on Thursday, Aug. 21, at the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham. Mr. H. A. Howman presided.—After some preliminary business,

Mr. E. MOUNTFORD COLEMAN read a paper on "Agricultural Leases and Agreements of Tenancy," or, in other words, as to the relations which should exist between the owners and occupiers of land. This was a question, he said, which most intimately affected agriculture and agriculturists, and he had endeavoured to look at it without prejudice. He had special facilities for doing so, because, besides being a tenant farmer himself, he acted professionally for several landowners, and as solicitor he had prepared agreements of tenancy and leases where the terms had been settled between tenants and landlords. He urged that in the case of every agricultural tenancy there should be a written agreement, and he had found in his experience that farmers were perfectly well able to take care of themselves in making their agreements—(laughter, and "Question")—for they knew their own interests better than landlords or their agents. As to the question whether leases or agreements should prevail in agricultural tenancies, he was strongly of opinion that this must be decided by the circumstances of each particular case. If a farm were in a bad state and wanted new buildings, heavy repairs, or draining, and the landlord were unable or unwilling to do the work, then the tenant would be very unwise to do it, unless he obtained a long lease at a rent to justify him in making the improvements, or unless he had made a special arrangement by which the landlord should repay him at the termination of the tenancy an agreed proportion of his outlay on substantial improvements. Where a farm was in fair condition, and where the tenant had to find capital for farming purposes only and not to make landlord's improvements, all that he wanted was a sufficient security for the unexhausted improvements as a tenant, or sufficient time to enable him to exhaust all that he was fairly entitled to exhaust. Leases were not, as a rule, good things for tenant farmers or for the land, and he advocated instead a tenancy terminable by notice of sufficient length to enable a tenant to exhaust what he had put into the land at his own cost. He did not believe in compulsory agreements by Act of Parliament though he considered the Agricultural Holdings Act had already done much good by establishing the principle that tenants ought to be paid for their unexhausted improvements. (Hear, hear). He believed that the Act had been used much more than was generally thought, and where it was excluded, some compensation for unexhausted improvements was almost invariably agreed upon to suit the circumstances of the case. In no case, where it had been asked by a tenant, had he found a landlord for whom he acted refuse tenants the benefit of the Act, or equivalent compensation clauses. He next spoke of the difficulties of making agreements by Act of Parliament, and said he could not see why a tenant farmer should want protection from the law when he was perfectly competent to protect himself, or if not competent, could readily obtain assistance. The rent which should be paid for the land was a very important question, and should be settled by the laws of supply and demand. The rent, when agreed upon, should be reserved quarterly, but should, as a rule, be paid half-yearly, at Lady Day and Michaelmas, each landlord giving his tenants as much time after those dates as he could afford. He objected to rent being paid in advance; and he then argued that an owner should have the same power of distress for rent as an owner of houses possessed. With reference to the game question, he thought the best plan was to fix a value upon the right of sporting according to the circumstances of each case, and then let the landlord pay the sporting rent to his tenant, or reduce his rent by the sum agreed upon where he exercised the right of sporting; and where he did not exercise the right let the tenant have the right to sport or to let such right to others. Every landlord who adopted this plan would know what his sporting right cost him, and the tenant would know that he was receiving a definite and fixed sum for that right. All tenants should be protected in some way in their agreement against the damages by ground game where the owner retained the right of sporting. (Hear, hear). They should either have

compensation clauses in their agreements, or they should have the right to kill the ground game when it was shown to be doing damage. There was no doubt much damage was done by ground game where large quantities were kept, but he believed that bad farming was often responsible for bad crops when the rabbits were blamed. As regarded the capital which a landlord should require his tenant to possess, he was strongly of opinion that a tenant should be called upon in the first instance to show that he had sufficient capital to work the farm properly. He believed ninety out of a hundred farmers had not sufficient capital employed on their farms. After the weather, he considered the insufficiency of capital was the main cause of the present depression in the agricultural world. Many farmers, through want of sufficient capital, were compelled to sell their corn and their stock at an improper time, in order to obtain money to carry on their farms; and the great majority of farmers, through a succession of bad seasons, had lost a large proportion of the capital employed by them in their farms, and in many cases it could never be recovered. Every farmer should stipulate for ample farm buildings, and where a farm was large the yards should be covered so that the whole of the cattle might be protected through the winter months. Every farmer should also stipulate for proper accommodation for his labourers within easy distance of their work. There was great difference of opinion as to the proper person to bear the cost of laying down arable land into permanent pasture. Some landlords paid for the seeds and nothing beyond, while some landlords made a money allowance when the work was done to their satisfaction, and some landlords made no allowance. One large landowner in Warwickshire allowed his tenants £5 per acre if the work were properly performed, and the rent remained the same for twelve months, after which date the rent of the field laid down was raised five shillings per acre, or 5 per cent. upon the cost to the landlord. This was the most liberal arrangement he was aware of, and at the same time it seemed a very fair one between landlord and tenant. Tenants, however, had the remedy very much in their own hands as regarded being paid for land which they had laid down to permanent pasture at their own cost, for they always retained the right to break up such land during their tenancy, and if the pasture proved a good one, a landlord would always be glad to allow a tenant a fair compensation before the tenancy expired rather than have the land broken up. Tenants possessing intelligence and capital should be allowed the greatest freedom as to the system of cropping, selling hay and straw, and otherwise as to the management of their farms. (Hear, hear). In conclusion, Mr. Coleman said that tenant farmers had for some years had many difficulties to contend with, and they were in many cases no doubt hampered with improper agreements of tenancy; but public opinion certainly was tending towards giving tenant farmers greater freedom, and the more the subject was discussed the more willing would landlords and their agents be to give liberal terms to men of capital, intelligence, and energy, who might be willing to embark in agriculture.

A discussion then followed, in which Mr. Bowen Jones freely criticised the points referred to, urging that the law of distraint was most iniquitous, and it was monstrous such a law should remain on the statute book. He further argued that rabbits should be treated as vermin, and no legal right should be retained with reference to ground game. He trusted that the crisis they were passing through in the agricultural world would be the means, if they tided it over, of more closely identifying and drawing together all classes connected with the land-owners, occupiers, and labourers; and that they would see more prosperity in the future than they had in the past.—The Chairman, Mr. Houghton, Mr. Jasper More, and Mr. Fowler also took part in the discussion; and Mr. Lowe moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Coleman for his paper.—Mr. Freer seconded, and the proposition was carried.—A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding terminated the meeting.

### TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

On August 15 the members and friends of the Tunbridge Wells Farmers' Club assembled to hear a paper by Mr. ALEXANDER JEMMET, of Binfield, Berkshire, on the future of agriculture and the best movement for farmers to make. The chair was taken by Mr. J. NOAKES, the president of the club. A discussion followed.

Mr. JEMMETT, after some introductory remarks as to the present condition of agriculture, asked whether it was right that farmers should be tied down by restrictions as to the mode of farming their land. He answered in the negative, and gave several instances to show, that it was neither to the interest of the landlord or the tenant. The producer's powers were paralysed by these restrictions so persistently clung to, and they were a serious check to agriculture. They were trammels which now fettered agriculturists, and they were a clog to the due development of the land. There were large tracts which could now, by a judicious expenditure, be brought under cultivation, and be made profitable. Another subject was the question of rates and taxes, which now weighed so heavily upon farmers. He considered that we had not made much progress in the mode of farming pursued by our forefathers, and he recommended a closer acquaintance with the nature of soils, and a due selection of seeds. To sum up his paper, he recommended freedom of cultivation, security of tenure, by lease or otherwise, co-operation in sale and purchase, and the query whether farmers individually were up to their work.

## FARMING IN SOUTH-WEST MINNESOTA.

Another late and deficient harvest must enormously aggravate the difficulties which beset so many farmers; capital and credit are seriously shrunk; poor crops, indifferently saved, do not pay increasing expenses; the arable land, befouled by wet seasons, and often by imperfect cultivation, is not in a promising state for producing bountiful returns during the next few years. Some farmers, from choice, more from necessity, are accordingly giving up their holdings, and anxiously enquiring what they are to do. With a wider choice of farms to let, some take lighter arable or grass lands at reduced rents, and with more freedom of action. For the second class of heavy poorer farms, inadequately drained and equipped, it is, however, difficult to find tenants, and this difficulty, unfortunately, will be still greater next Michaelmas. Very many industrious farmers, who can extricate something from the sale of stock and crops, will follow Lord Derby's recent advice and emigrate. Some proceed to the Australian colonies; the Cape, when peace is once more restored, will receive a contingent; but many, preferring a home within a fortnight's run of the old country, will go to America. Under the British flag in various parts of Canada, capital and enterprise find satisfactory investment. At present, however, the great tide of emigration, not only from Europe, but from the older Eastern American States, is directed especially to Illinois, Northern Iowa, and Minnesota. From friends who have just returned from several weeks' sojourn in South-Western Minnesota, I received very satisfactory accounts.

The State of Minnesota lies between 43½ deg., and 49 deg. north latitude; Great Britain and Ireland are north of 50 deg. Its winter temperature, although lower than ours, on account of its clear atmosphere and dryness, is less trying. Winter sets in about the middle of Nov., spring commences towards the close of March, harvest begins in July, and extends into August. From the more northern colder States and from Canada, as well as from the warmer relaxing Southern States, invalids frequently resort to South-Western Minnesota. The soil is generally a deep, friable loam, easily worked with a pair of horses. Much of it lies in a wide, undulating prairie, unencumbered with timber, or even with scrub. A ploughing in autumn, and another in spring prepares the land for wheat, of which the average acreable yield is 17 bushels, but care and cultivation double and even treble this result. Mr. Houth V. A. Jackson, State Statistician, in his official reports, records that in 1877 Minnesota produced 32,250,637 bushels of wheat, of 60 lb. weight to the bushel. This amount can be enormously increased, and Mr. Vernon Smith, in his recent paper in the *Nineteenth Century*, and other authorities, declare that this State could itself produce the seven or eight million quarters of wheat and flour with which America supplements our British bread stuffs. But other grains are also abundantly and profitably produced. Barley yields an average of 18 to 30 bushels; oats give 40 bushels; buckwheat, Indian Corn, and amber cane flourish; vegetables and fruit grow abundantly; potatoes produce 250 to 300 bushels. Not only is there food in plenty for man; grasses, clover, and roots are readily produced for

live stock. Large herds of cattle are being raised; dairying and feeding are carried on; hay for winter food is easily saved, without the costly interruptions to which English farmers are so often subjected; belts of sheltering plantations are planted, and handy shedding cheaply run up for the protection of live stock during the winter; several good herds of Shortlions are met with, and distribute superior bulls among breeders and dairymen; sheep are also extending, especially in the upland districts, whilst some farmers turn their attention to horse-breeding.

The lands which produce such varied, good results can at present be purchased at 20s. to 30s. per acre. They are mostly within ten miles from water or railway transport; indeed, some lots still unallotted are within a mile or two of the new lines of railway which are being rapidly pushed into new districts. When judiciously purchased and well cultivated these lands rapidly advance in value. In this country a rise of one per cent. per annum is considered very satisfactory; in the western world, however, even farming lands, whilst paying a handsome annual per centage, also often double their value in five years.

The cost of reaching this promising agricultural country is small; £10 or £12 defray the passage across the Atlantic; £7 is the first-class rate for the forty-eight hours journey from New York to St. Paul's—the capital of Minnesota, but on this charge emigrants receive handsome deductions. By contract a convenient house of six rooms can be rapidly built for £200. Horses or working oxen, ploughs, drags, a reaping machine, a waggon or two, and a few smaller tools, are the chief farm requisites. Means of livelihood for twelve months will also be necessary unless the immigrant will take employment from some of his neighbours. The land need not at once be paid for in full. A deposit of one-tenth, and an undertaking to stock or cultivate a certain proportion annually, and to pay 7 per cent. on the unpaid capital secures the ownership of the holding. The profits of Minnesota farming soon enable the industrious man to pay for his claim in full. The ordinary expenses of arable cultivation consist chiefly in 10s. per acre for ploughing, 7s. for seed and sowing, 7s. for reaping and threshing, 2s. for marketing, and say 10s. for interest on capital. This outlay of 36s. per acre produces on a very moderate estimate, 17 bushels of wheat, which can be disposed of at any convenient railway station at 3s. per bushel, making a gross return of 51s., or a profit of 15s. per acre. Some fortunate settlers in South Western Minnesota, have paid down the usual deposit of 10 per cent. on their section, and been able, from the profits of their first year's farming, to clear off the whole of their purchase money, and become in perpetuity prosperous owners of their property. Nor in these new countries are there tithes and rates, education, sanitary, or cemetery imposts, such as tax the farmer at home. The State has given over sections of land, equal to one eighteenth of its total area, for the perpetual support of the schools, which are now numerously distributed; an agricultural college is established, charities are everywhere springing up. There is abundant scope in Minnesota for other pursuits as well as agriculture. The Mississippi and other rivers not only afford ready means for communication, but their waters drive hundreds of flour mills, where flour, in rapidly increasing amount, is being sent to the British markets. In the rivers and lakes fish of various sorts are plentiful. In the woods, which form about one-third of the State, timber and game abound. The timber converted in saw and planing mills and in factories is employed for building and other purposes. From maple and amber cane sugar is largely manufactured. Shopkeepers, who complain that co-operative societies have destroyed their business, clerks and other young men who fail to find satisfactory work in this crowded old country, as well as farmers and farm labourers, will find in those healthful, fertile regions of the West abundant remunerative employment. Steadiness and industry will certainly rapidly meet their reward, and small capitalists will discover in land or in business remunerative investment for their means.—FENLAY DUN in *Shrewsbury Chronicle*.

Most persons have heard of a dead wall, but a correspondent writes to say that he actually has got a living room in his house.

## Literary Notices.

**BURNHAM BEECHES.** By Francis George Heath. London: Sampson Low and Co.—Everyone knows that the famous Burnham Beeches recently had a narrow escape of being sold by auction with the rest of the estate on which they stand. Mr. Heath was instrumental in saving them, by inducing the Corporation of London to purchase a portion of the estate for the benefit of the public, Sir Henry Peek buying the rest. The subject does not appear to be a very wide one for a book to be written upon it; but put Mr. Heath among some fine trees, and he will write a volume on them at very short notice. The little book before us will serve as a very attractive guide-book to numbers of Londoners who have hitherto often heard of but never visited the charming woods of Burnham. The history of the parish and the description of the beeches with the district around them are done in Mr. Heath's best style, and the illustrations by Mr. Birkett Foster and Mr. Vernon Heath are very charming. The volume is very properly dedicated to the Corporation of London, "in recognition of the promptitude displayed by that public-spirited body in acting upon the suggestion made to it by the author for the acquisition of Burnham Beeches for the permanent enjoyment of the public." No acts of the Corporation have rendered it more popular than the saving of Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches for the benefit of the public.

**HISTORY OF THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.** By Alexander Ramsay. Edinburgh and London: Blackwood and Sons.—We noticed this valuable contribution to agricultural history in our leading columns last week.

**THE SUSSEX HERD BOOK.** Arranged by Alfred Heasman, Edward Cane, and George Cooté. Lewes: *The Sussex Agricultural Express*.—In placing this first volume of the "Sussex Herd Book" before the public the editor does not fail to show the courage of his opinions when he says: "The fact that Sussex animals make meat more rapidly than any other class of stock was clearly demonstrated last year at the Smithfield Club Cattle Show." We should not have supposed that so important a "fact" could possibly be "demonstrated" at a single show. The volume before us is divided into three portions; the first containing the names of breeders, with the animals they have entered; the second, the pedigrees of the animals; and the third, the animals which have won prizes, with the prizes they have won. It would have been well if a short history of the breed had been prefixed to these details.

**CATECHISM OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY.** By J. F. W. Johnston, M.A., &c. London: Blackwood and Sons.—We are glad to see the late Professor Johnston's admirable catechism re-issued in an enlarged form, as edited and revised by Dr. Cameron. That this is the thirty-seventh edition sufficiently shows the public estimate of the little book, as an introduction to more elaborate works, such as the same author's "Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology." We are glad to see that the new chemical terminology replaces the old one in the present edition.

**AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.** Two pamphlets one by Gilbert Murray (Bemrose and Sons, London), the other by "A Retired Norfolk Farmer" (Curtis Bros., Brighton).—Both are well worth reading, though the latter is not sufficiently comprehensive, especially in proposing remedies.

**THE LAW OF DISTRESS.** London: Edingham Wilson.—The summing up of Lord Justice Baggalay, in the case of *Lake v. Duppa*, is here given in pamphlet form.

**THE SAIDAPET FARM MANUAL AND GUIDE.** By CHARLES BENSON, M.R.A.C. Madras: Published for the Government by R. Hill.—Mr. Benson is the superintendent of the Saidapet experimental farm, and he has prepared the volume before us with the object of preserving in a convenient form for reference various writings referring to the practice of agriculture in the Madras Presidency. The book is interesting and instructive, as showing the efforts that have been made to improve agriculture in India, and the degree of success with which they have been rewarded. The improvement of the live stock of the country is one portion of the subject, and various experiments in this direction, as also in feeding, are recorded.

**NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY.** London: W. Tronnce (for the Society of Arts).—This is the report of the Annual Conference on National Water Supply, Sewage, and Health, held on the 15th and 16th of May last. The subject is one of great importance, and we shall deal with it at some length on a future occasion.

**RHYMES IN THE WEST COUNTRY DIALECT.** By "Agrickler." London: Houlston and Sons. As this is the fourth edition of the volume before us we presume that old fables, stories, and common-places put into bad spelling have a charm for some readers. We fail to find either wit or wisdom in these rhymes.

**HINTS ON BUTTER-MAKING.** By H. M. JENKINS, F.G.S. London: Clowes and Sons. As we have reprinted this little pamphlet in our columns, we may leave it to the judgment of our readers. It was written by the Secretary at the request of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society.

**THE SACK TRICK.**—With reference to a controversy which is going on about the wonders of Spiritualism, I express no opinion here, but it is necessary to remark that because a thing appears to be impossible it does not follow that the accomplishment of it is supernatural. For instance, what can be more marvellous at first sight than the sack and box trick which conjurers sometimes perform? A man is put in a sack, the neck of which is securely tied up with string and the knots carefully sealed. The sack is then placed in a box which stands on a platform above the stage; the box is locked, and numerous seals are placed on the cracks where the lid closes. How utterly incredible it seems that the man can free himself—that is to say until one knows how it is done. The first idea which will occur to the inquirer is that the prisoner falls through a trap-door and is released below. This, however, is impracticable, for a trap in the platform and another in the box could scarcely be made so neatly as to avoid detection; and besides, visitors are invited to place strings, sticks, &c., below the platform, any disturbance in the positions of which could be detected. But how is it done? Very simply, indeed, darkness being secured. The sack is made of an elastic fibrous stuff through which the captive can easily make his way without disturbing the neck; and the hole through which he has escaped closes behind him in consequence of the elasticity of the material. He is now free in the sealed box and what does he do next? The top of the box is so constructed that when a spring is touched it turns easily upon a rod inserted longitudinally through the top. There is, in fact, a false top, some inches above the apparent top where the locks and seals are. They remain intact while the false top is now swinging loosely. A second touch of the spring when the captive has slipped out securely fastens the false top. The lights are turned on, spectators are summoned to look at the seals, which have not, of course, been touched; the seals are broken, the box unlocked, and there in the box is the empty sack, while, to the amazement of all present, who do not know the secret, the man who was so firmly entrapped steps forward upon the stage.—*Sporting and Dramatic News.*

## THE FORTHCOMING DAIRY SHOW.

The prize list of the fourth annual Dairy Show, to be held by the British Dairy Farmers' Association on the 13th and four following days of October next, contains offers of plate, money, and medals to the estimated value of about £1,500, and is divided into live stock, comprising dairy-cattle and goats, poultry and pigeons; dairy produce, including clotted cream and dairy salt; dairy utensils, comprising apparatus for cheese and butter making; vehicles for conveying milk, milking machines, and cow-house fittings; and finally models and drawing of dairy homesteads.

Several alterations and additions are noticeable in comparison with the schedule of last year, the most important of which are the following:—

**COWS.**—In Shorthorns, not eligible for the Herd Book, four prizes are to be awarded instead of three, and the entries will be made singly and not by pairs. The "any other breed" class, both in cows and heifers, will admit pure specimens only, in hopes of bringing forward Devons, Dutch, and other good milking varieties, the "crossed or mixed" having then a class to themselves. The class for "any other breed of bulls" is similarly changed to any other pure breed.

**GOATS.**—An extra class is provided for "maiden" goats over twelve months and under two years, with a view to discourage the practice of too early breeding. A silver medal is offered for the best kid.

**CHEESE.**—The Stilton class is open to makers only, and the prices doubled in value to encourage manufacturers. An additional class appears for "loaf cheese," and one for cream or soft cheese.

**CHEESE FAIR.**—Entries here are also restricted to makers this year, and the first prize is a gold medal and £10, instead of a silver medal and £30. The Champion prize is done away with in the cheese classes and fair, it being justly considered impossible to designate the best cheese out of so many different kinds.

**FOREIGN CHEESE.**—This is classified under the various known varieties in this country, such as Roquefort, Gorgonzola, Gruyere, Parmesan, Edam, Goudar, and Soft Cheese, instead of the plan previously adopted, as "French," "German," &c., thus offering fair competition in each class between specimens of the same kind, which before could not possibly be done.

**CLOTTED CREAM** is now added, with a silver and bronze medal as prizes for the two best samples of not less than three pound.

**BUTTER, FRESH.**—In order to better apportion this prize to the number of entries, butter made from the advark of Channel Islands cattle, which has generally a larger percentage over other makes, is classified by itself, the remainder being subdivided into lumps of two pounds and pints of one pound.

**BUTTER, CURED.**—Scotch and Welsh this year will compete together in the "any other variety" class.

**BUTTER, FOREIGN,** forms but two classes, "fresh," and "cured," instead of "fresh, salted, or preserved" being all jumbled up together under the names of the various countries whence they are sent, which has hitherto resulted in a series of empty classes.

**DAIRY SALT** forms a novelty this year, the prize being a silver medal. The quality is to be judged by analysis.

**DAIRY UTENSILS.**—Medals are offered for the best collection independently of those shown in action, thus having a class to themselves. In cheese and butter making the fees are reduced from £5 to a guinea, in order to encourage manufacturers to compete.

**MILKING-MACHINES,** with a silver medal as prize, is also novelty on this occasion.

**VEHICLES FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF MILK** have three classes instead of one, being divided into those for station purposes, for retail delivery, and for perambulators or trucks.

**MODELS AND DRAWINGS** will be designed this year for the accommodation of from 20 to 80 cows instead of from 50 to 100, and the fee for entry is reduced by one-half. One great feature in the schedule is the reduction of entry fees to members of the association, by which subscribers are allowed the advantage of 25, 30, and, in some instances, 35 per cent. discount upon the fees for non-members.

Schedules may be obtained of the hon. secretary, Mr. H. S. Holmes Pegler, at the offices of the Society, 446, Strand.

AGRICULTURE AND THE LAWS OF  
ENTAIL AND SETTLEMENT.

The Special Commissioner of the *Norfolk News*, in continuing his valuable articles on "The Condition, Prospects, and Needs of Norfolk Agriculturists," says:—

And here I may incidentally mention a case which I first heard of in another part of Norfolk, and which illustrates one of the evil effects of our present system. I heard of a lordly residence and magnificent estate, the acreage of which is represented by five figures, and which apparently returns to its owner a splendid rent roll of some twenty thousand pounds a year. My readers need hardly be told that there are many cases of this kind which outwardly seem like a golden inheritance but which are in reality nothing but a gilded cheat. Such is the estate now possessed by ——. It matters not how it came about, but it is said the present owner never got into his pocket half of the twenty thousand, and that, from some cause, he now possesses very much less than that proportion of the income, while it is even questioned whether it has not pretty well reached the vanishing point. Unable to sell any portion of the land, of course it is heavily mortgaged; and this, with other claims on the estate, eats up the rent roll. At any rate, I am informed the lawyers are now in possession, and it is well-known that these gentlemen have ways and means of getting their demands settled irrespective of consequences. The mansion is let to an alien. A rich gentleman hires it together with the shooting. As a matter of course, he has no interest in the tenants or in the people of the locality. His only interest in the place is to get as much sport out of it as possible. The result is that the gamekeeper is ubiquitous and hares and rabbits and winged creatures multiply to an alarming extent. In the meantime, the lawyers' demands must be satisfied, and rents, even in these terrible times for the farmer, are screwed up to the highest pitch, the farm buildings are neglected and fall into disrepair, the schools in the neighbourhood suffer, and the charities dwindle and die. Now—— is well-known to be a kind-hearted landlord. He would not oppress his tenants; but others who have no such consideration now perform the duties of landlord for him. Were he in a position to manage his own estate, he would keep his tenants well supplied with farm buildings, support the schools, and aid the charities; but the management of the estate has passed into the hands of those who have no regard for anything save the immediate claims of their clients, and all things go to wreck and ruin. Now what does the Law of Entail effect in this case? It embarrasses and impoverishes the owner by giving him a splendid position without the means to maintain it, while it operates disastrously for the tenants and the neighbourhood. If — could sell a portion of his estate he might free himself from an incubus, while a large number of real owners would spring up and give a value to the land which cannot be hoped for from the hands of a single fictitious one. As it is, however, the estate cannot be sold, and unless the law be altered it will descend to its next owner burdened with still heavier charges, and thus the evil will be aggravated rather than lessened. I have no doubt from what I heard, that cases of a similar sort might be found in this and other parts of the county, but I am careful not to make my observations too pointed.

**PRICES FROM 1820 TO 1827.**—A Parliamentary return issued recently shows the quantity of grain and flour imported into the United Kingdom from 1820 to 1827. The *maximum* quantity was in 1827—namely, 6,849,272 cwt., and the *minimum* (in 1823) 144,256 cwt. The average price of wheat for the year 1820 was 67s. 10d.; for 1821, 56s. 1d.; 1822, 44s. 7d.; 1823, 53s. 5d.; 1824, 64s.; 1825, 63s. 7d.; 1826, 58s. 9d.; 1827, 56s. 9d. For butchers' meat the average price in 1820 was—beasts 3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d. per stone of 8lb.; sheep, 3s. 4d. to 5s. 2d. per stone; 1821, beasts, 2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d.; sheep, 2s. 2d. to 4s.; 1822, beasts, 2s. to 3s.; sheep, 1s. 10d. to 3s. 2d.; 1823, beasts, 2s. 4d. to 3s. 2d.; sheep, 2s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.; 1824, for beasts and sheep, 3s. to 4s. 4d.; 1825, beasts, 4s. 2d. to 5s.; sheep, 4s. 4d. to 5s. 8d.; 1826, beasts, 3s. 6d. to 5s.; sheep, 3s. to 5s.; 1827, beasts, 4s. to 5s. 4d.; sheep, 3s. to 4s. 10d. In 1827 the price of butter was £3 17s., and cheese, £2 9s. per cwt.; milk was 1s. 1d. per gallon. In 1820 English Southdown wool fetched an average price of 1s. 5d. per lb.; and it fell gradually in successive years till in 1827 it only fetched 9d.

## FARMING IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.

By J. S.

The most striking feature of the present day in connection with the agricultural interest in the South of Ireland is the intense desire to possess land, evinced not by one class alone, but by all alike, from the extensive farmer who rents hundreds of acres down to those whose holdings run from five to twenty. No matter how low the price of corn, butter, or, for the time being, cattle and sheep—and even this class of agricultural product does occasionally fluctuate in a most extraordinary manner—and no matter how loud or how continued the grumbings of those whose receipts are thus lowered it may be, until the balance very probably has got to the wrong side, the number of bidders for every piece of land, the tenant's interest in which is offered for sale, and the extraordinary sums offered, are astonishing beyond measure. Plain-going people who are in the habit of paying 20s. in the pound, and who naturally feel desirous of making a living for themselves, while adhering to their principles of commercial honesty, feel it hard to get a place at what looks to be the value, and find themselves again and again outbid by men of a bolder and more speculative turn, whose first aim is to acquire possession, leaving the chance of payment as an open question to be discussed leisurely in the future. It must not be supposed that the farmer who makes such a purchase acquires any right to or shares any privileges of the "patentee," or secures the slightest mitigation of his claim, this standing exactly as before, unless in cases where a needy landlord does occasionally withhold his sanction to a change of tenants for the purpose of enforcing a rise of rent, in which case, if yielded to, the incoming tenant, instead of quietly taking the exact position of his predecessor, finds that, notwithstanding his great outlay in hard cash, he is saddled with a heavier annual payment. The purchase money being solely for the interest and goodwill of the outgoing tenant, the latter, when he happens to be so fortunate as to be under a landlord imbued by generous feelings, and who does not attempt to ent him out from the beneficial clauses of the Land-Act—and to their lasting honour, be it said, there are many such, the Earls of Bandon, past and present, being leading examples—is thus enabled to secure compensation for whatever permanent improvements he may have effected during his tenancy, as well as the highest market price for the increased value of the land since coming into his possession, the latter being often a considerable sum, when the land is fertile and the take an old one.

In the absence of a lease, with the agreement only from year to year, compensation for permanent improvements—which in this case may be assumed to be incorporated with the increased value of the land per acre, and summed up in one item, at a certain number of years' purchase—must be paid by the landlord if he is removing his tenant for no other reason than the non-payment of rent, and does not permit a public or private sale, compensation for disturbance in the case of small farms being also given on a graduated scale by the provisions of Mr. Gladstone's Land Act. Evasion of the whole or any portion of a tenant's righteous claims on the part of a landlord, even when supported by a favourable decision in the law courts, and a rise in rent obtained without giving him a corresponding payment renders a landowner extremely unpopular, and has, as is well known, led to terrible reprisals, particularly when the Celtic population have been so dealt with. When an outgoing tenant has trusted his claim for compensation to the issue of a law-suit, it does not by any means follow that he will be successful; on the contrary, he may if not

altogether non-suited, be yet so cut down on all his items, that, after all expenses are paid, he does little more than stand clear. Even although it is admitted by the opposite side that the whole or at least the greater portion of the sum claimed, has been expended there are so many loop-holes for escape, by the so-called improvements being undesirable and uncalled for on the part of the landlord, by the fences which were thrown down to square and straighten the fields, and make them of a size consistent with the advance of agriculture, and the necessities of modern husbandary being done without his consent, or in fact altogether against his decidedly expressed opinion, that this portion of the claim is almost certain to come to grief. Draining, road-making and fence building, the outlay for which can be clearly shown by reference to books or the statement of respectable and competent witnesses, and the necessity for which is not attempted to be denied, may get cut down to a nominal sum, on account of the tenant having had the use of these improvements for so many years as to in a great measure reimburse him for the original expenditure. Recently applied manure is a pretty safe item in the tenant's favour, when sufficient proof can be had of its application to satisfy the court, and so are stables, cow stalls and other out-buildings, when clearly proved, whether put up with or without the owner's consent, and when the construction is strictly confined to utility to the exclusion of ornament. Above all other things a man must be cautious when he builds, renews, or adds to a dwelling house on the property of another, as if he is not careful, he may in a very short time find himself minus both the house and the money it cost to build it, without the most forlorn hope of recovering a single penny.

In the matter of a resident, the ideas of a farmer and his family are very much changed within the past generation, and where a man's father was satisfied with a thatched house of only a ground floor, or with a second floor which was only a loft, his own views are much more pretentious, and, if possessed of moderate means, he builds a house of modern construction, the principal rooms possibly with oriel windows and the internal arrangements combining elegance with comfort. To expect compensation for such a house in a court of justice is simply to court disappointment, as the application is almost certain to be shelved by the observation from the presiding judge that the whole erection was simply luxurious, and quite out of keeping with the position of a farmer. With this, or some other equally lucid argument, which in most cases has the merit of being final, the unfortunate claimant must rest satisfied, and the house which was built with his money, passes into the possession of the landlord in almost every instance to greatly enhance the value of his property, the good residence attracting a superior class of tenant quite irrespective of the suitability of the other structures or the fertility of the land. With men of generous and liberal disposition as landlords, it is generally the most prudent course on the part of the tenant to settle by private arrangement, or by arbitration, and when of the opposite character a better bargain will often be made in the same way than by going into court, as even with the favourable clauses of the "Land Act" to aid him, the plaintiff, unless he can present an usually favourable case, will find great difficulty in substantiating his claim. On the whole, it is the opinion of most practical men that the tenant is not yet sufficiently protected, and until the law is amended men of capital will not risk it in a business which will place them in the power of another, almost as soon as it is expended, rendering it optional, or at least dependent, on that other man's character and necess-

ities whether the greater portion of amount may not be forfeited. It is not, therefore, on account of their interests being legally protected that men evince such an excessive anxiety to obtain possession of land, the mere purchase money being all they are sure of, and even in this they are sometimes thwarted by the landlord's objecting to the purchaser, nor are they much influenced by the likelihood of its turning out a profitable investment or the reverse, but simply because the bulk of those who desire to remain in Ireland must go into farming whether they like it or not, little other occupation being open to them. It is this want of opening for their industry, talents, or capital, that compels such a large number of Irish youths to seek their fortune in the colonies, in the army and navy, in the civil service, and in every way open to young men of good education, to obtain a respectable living, the system of admission to Government positions by competitive examination enabling lads of comparatively humble parentage to take precedence of the sons of gentlemen of good standing in the country. Parents have at last got their eyes thoroughly opened to the absolute folly of keeping their children at home to eke out, it may as likely as not be, a hand-to-mouth living on a small piece of land, talking all manner of humbug about love of country, dignifying it by the name of patriotism, and, in extreme cases, continually looking forward to an improvement in their position by a change of Government, or political agitation, which, in days gone by, was too often the case, and ended only in misery. Educational privileges being now within reach of most people, boys begin young to prepare for examination, by making the particular department they intend to try for a speciality, and thus get in positions which render them self-supporting at a very early period of their life. The system of purchasing the interest of a farm, as now pretty well established in the South of Ireland, although highly advantageous to the out-going tenant by giving him the full value, and, in extremely favourable cases, more money than all his improvements ever cost him, with a liberal allowance over for his goodwill in giving up quiet possession, has yet the demerit of robbing the incoming tenant of his capital, and, as a necessary consequence, crippling him in all his future operations, unless unusually well-to-do. If compelled to raise money by the mortgage of his lease—a contingency under existing circumstances often unavoidable—he at once places himself under as heavy a rent as if he had got a new lease direct from the landlord himself, probably even more than the latter could have enforced by putting it up to public competition. Moreover, he places himself in a position which involves the necessity of attending personally to renew his bills and pay the interest beforehand, the neglect of which would place him at once at the mercy of the banker, or other money-lender, any of whom may take more severe and hasty measures for the recovery of their money than the owner of the land, notwithstanding all the harshness with which his class are so abundantly credited. The man who begins farming with sufficient capital of his own in any country, no matter where, has an enormous advantage over the borrower, the mere fact of a man being able to place his spare cash to his current account, instead of paying it away as interest on borrowed money, or instalment of an old debt, raises his spirits, and enables him to hold his head proudly and with independence among his fellows; while the tendency of the opposite mode is to sink a man's spirits to something considerably below zero, lessening his energies so much when he feels himself overweighed as often to render him incapable of attending to the duties of the farm. It is easy to tell when a man has all-but exhausted his capital in his intense desire to obtain possession, by laying it out in purchasing the interest of a larger farm than its amount would warrant, as he does

not make the slightest attempt to improve the houses farther than to make them passably habitable, or does anything to gates, fences, or surface improvements; and as for drawing manure from a neighbouring town, or any source whatsoever, to improve the condition of the land, the idea, from its financial impossibility, probably never enters his head. The popular solution of such a difficulty is to place a number of milk cows on the farm, and hand them over to a dairyman, at a rent varying according to the style of cattle, quality and condition of the land, and facility for disposing of the produce. Ten guineas is about the average payment for each cow, nine about the lowest, and rising to thirteen pounds on really good land able to carry heavy cattle, the calves in the latter case being valuable, and bringing in a good slice of the money, they being the property of the dairyman, with liberty to keep them on the land until a stipulated date, when they must be sold, the owner of the cows having the option of purchase at market price. Moderate as these sums may appear to many, they yet could not be obtained in a purely butter dairy, unless aided by certain allowances to the contractor, these consisting of a free house and the necessary offices, a certain amount of fuel, the keep of a horse or two, and a number of sheep, together with pigs in unrestricted quantity, if they have a wish to keep them. So as to reduce the labour account of the farmer to the lowest possible limit, the dairyman undertakes all the work, turning out and in the cows, milking and feeding them; and so infinitesimal is the amount of labour actually kept on such a farm paid by the farmer himself, that in years distinguished by a good deal of broken weather it is practically useless, no single operation of the whole year being put out of hands in a business-like manner, or at all in proper season. The number of cows put on is so arranged as to realise at the contracted price per cow such a sum in the aggregate as will pay rent, rates, and taxes, interest of money, and the small labour bill, leaving something of course for the farmer himself by which he is to live, but scarcely a penny for contingencies, and certainly nothing whatever for general improvement. In the attempt to make the sum actually necessary to keep the concern floating, more cows are very often put on than the acreage will carry, and the cattle suffer great hardships during the winter, few turnips being provided, and in consequence milk but poorly, a state of things which leads inevitably to a hostile and bitter feeling between the contracting parties, and not seldom to a troublesome and expensive litigation. Farms thus managed can be easily picked out by the initiated in passing through the country by road or rail quite as easily in fact as those conducted on the most advanced system of modern husbandry, as they are mostly characterised by broken fences, dilapidated gates, and furze-grown pastures, while the farm-yard has a singularly desolate and broken down appearance, caused by the absence of a stack-yard, in itself a great ornament to a farmery, and the want of the labour so necessary to keep the yards and approaches clean and tidy, and the very absence of a number of people bustling about, gives the entire concern an aspect from which to the mind's eye cheerlessness and discomfort are inseparable. About 30 years ago, or just immediately after the famine, when the country was beginning to recover from the prostration consequent on that overwhelming calamity, landlord farming became very fashionable, and agriculture was one of the most engrossing topics of conversation at the clubs, private parties, hunt and race meetings, and all places of public resort, and a new and permanent phase of Irish prosperity was confidently predicted from the improvement that was sure to result by the introduction of improved breeds of sheep and cattle, as well as the best modern implements and machinery. The leading

landowners, many of whom had large breadths of land thrown on their hands during the famine years, began to improve with praiseworthy assiduity and vigour, and extensive works were carried on in draining, fencing, and building offices, the great number of unemployed, and low rate of wages ruling at the time, being a kind of encouragement to go on. Members of the very highest families mixed freely and on a footing of equality for the time being with the general public at fair or market, and even a nobleman might be seen standing over a lot of sheep, and detailing their merits and breeding to the would-be purchaser, or chaffering over the sale of a single ram with as much zeal and apparent anxiety to conclude the bargain in his own favour as the most struggling farmer in the entire assemblage. While the pursuit of "gentleman farmers" remained popular, a great deal of good was done to the country in the very way that was anticipated, and poorer men getting a taste for improved stock, and better methods of cultivation, began gradually to imitate the examples thus set them, greatly to their own benefit, and the general prosperity of the country. Singular to say, however, notwithstanding the low price of labour, and the advantages which naturally accrue to a man working his own land, amateur farming on a large scale became in an overwhelming majority of cases, a most expensive and money-losing amusement, and after probably a dozen years' vitality, the idea began to wear out, and farm after farm was let to tenants, the owners glad first of all at so conveniently getting rid of a continual drain on their finances, and rejoiced at the prospect thus opened up of a substantial increase to their income. With large proprietors the "home" farm is still, of course, a settled institution, the establishment of a landed gentleman being incomplete without it, and many of them afford examples of good farming, which, notwithstanding all the improvements that have taken place of late years, prove of great value to the tenantry on the estate who have the good sense to copy them. The point on which failure seemed to set in with the extensive gentleman farmer was turnip growing, and that to a degree which no amount of patience or exercise of ingenuity in lessening the working expenses could overcome. Some of the large English proprietors who hold land in the best districts of Tipperary and Limerick went into farming on an extended scale, entrusting the management to men of undoubted experience and ability, who came over from England for the express purpose, and fields were enlarged to facilitate operations, drained and levelled, expense, in the first instance, being no hindrance, as not the slightest doubt was entertained of all being ultimately recouped when everything was got into working trim. Splendid buildings on the most approved plans were erected at great expense for cattle-feeding on an extended scale, and nothing was neglected in-doors or out which was considered necessary to ensure success, great height and breadth being the leading characteristics of the cattle-stalls, feeding from the head by means of trucks running on the tramways being introduced also at that time as a great improvement. The latter, however, was rather a questionable one, assuming as it did a too long and unbroken line of cattle, and although a good deal imitated and highly spoken of at the time, has of late years fallen into disuse. While the preparations were going on for getting the land put in working order and condition suitable for the growth of remunerative crops, all went well, and glowing reports of the vast improvements being effected, and the excellent prospect at a future date of realising a handsome profit, always of course accompanied by the little bill, were sent over periodically to the proprietors, one in particular being a well-known nobleman and distinguished statesman of that day. By-and-bye, however, the latter, beginning to

wonder at the lengthened period that had elapsed since the operations commenced, and wearied by the continual drain of cash, peremptorily ordered retrenchment, which still not having the desired effect of increasing the returns, the whole works were stopped, and the lands let in farms of convenient size. In the whole of the southern counties of Ireland, which are the immediate subject of this sketch, instances of this kind occurred, being conceived nearly always in the first instance to give employment, but notwithstanding the terribly low rate of wages and the great success attained in the growth of green crops, the cost outran the profit. The great extent of the fields, and the vast size of the buildings, many of them now unoccupied, still testify to the outlay, and stand before the public monuments of misdirected energy, but with the one redeeming trait that the money was circulated amongst, and greatly benefitted an impoverished population at a most trying time. Even the celebrated Blarney estate, within four miles of the city of Cork, has since 1864 been gradually dismembered, farm after farm of splendidly-laid-out and highly-cultivated land having been let from time to time, last year having seen the greater part of the home farms surrounding the Old Castle let to tenants, the proprietor, Sir George Colthurst, retaining only a comparatively small number of acres surrounding the magnificent modern mansion recently erected. On this estate the late Sir John Jeffries, whose commanding genius as an agricultural improver has made his name historical, spent a life-time in making it what it now is, and for many years it was the scene of improvement on a most extensive scale, hundreds of men being continually employed, and everything was done substantially and in accordance with the most advanced ideas of modern husbandry. Many miles of fences were erected on a system that combined security with shelter, and now the lines of planting that form the shelter, being well grown, they are a great ornament to the district, and the admiration of the thousands of visitors who annually throng to the celebrated Castle of Blarney from all parts of the world. Stretching away on every side until lost in the distance, now dipping into the valley, and then again appearing in a straight line on the opposite slope, they have a splendid effect, harmonizing well with the surrounding delightful scenery, and breaking the monotonous appearance of the large fields. Morasses were laid dry that were for ages the abode of waterfowl and nothing else, and turned into splendid feeding ground for stock, and hundreds of acres of land on such a dead level that until undertaken by the late Mr. Jeffries, it was thought impossible to dry it, have been so improved by the elaborate system of arterial drainage carried out by him, that the crops of meadow hay yearly taken are almost impenetrable by the mowing machine. Although so many have found amateur, or as it is here styled gentleman farming, a failure, and more especially when the system of convertible husbandry was attempted on an extended scale, there are still to be found men who continue it, and can show by their balance sheet that it pays them to do so. For extensive green cropping and cattle feeding two striking examples are furnished in the south-west, by the Earl of Bandon, on his home farm, at Castle Bernard, and by Mr. Bence Jones, of Lisselan, Clonakilty, the latter under probably as unfavourable conditions as could be presented in any part of the United Kingdom. Much of the land which he had taken up of late years was naturally light and unproductive, and still further impoverished by the careless system of cultivation pursued by the small farmers who occupied it, deprived in fact of the whole of its natural resources, and yet by draining deep stirring, and the application of lime, dung, and bones in all forms, and in almost fabulous quantities, it has been so much improved

as to grow crops of all kinds which would be a credit on land of the finest quality. Mr. Jones, at one period of his life a distinguished London barrister, but retired from it early to devote his time, talents, and energies to the improvement of his Irish estates, has been able to transfer his abilities to such a different sphere of labour as agriculture with so large an amount of success as to not only reap the well deserved reward of a largely increased income from his landed property, but also, as in the case of the late Mr. Jeffries, vastly improve the appearance of the district which has been the scene of his operations. Ably assisted in all his plans for improvement by his energetic steward, Mr. Law, a Scotchman of great and acknowledged ability in all that pertains to agriculture, Mr. Jones has organized and perfected a system of farm management in which liberality is the leading idea. Every thing from the soil upwards is fed almost regardless of expense, and the young stock are pushed from birth, never being allowed to stop in their growth or lose condition, and are thus enabled to be disposed of at the earliest possible age ripe for the butcher, store stock of any kind being seldom sold. For young growing stock, both cattle and sheep, immense quantities of cotton cake are used in the rough or undecorated form, the result being highly satisfactory, both as regards the condition of the animals, and the improvement of the fields where they are so fed. For stall fed cattle, a mixture of cake, crushed barley or other meals is given with the turnips, the high prices obtained, and the keen competition amongst the butchers to obtain them, proving incontestably that liberality is the correct policy in all that pertains to stock-feeding. Although in the management of this property there is much to admire in every department, the great feature of success is to be found in the growth of the different varieties of green crop, the swedes more particularly. No labour or expense is spared in the preparation and treatment of the soil, the preliminary operations beginning immediately after harvest when the entire surface intended for green crop undergoes a thorough process of autumn cultivation, in which Clay's powerful four-horse grubber takes a leading part, the harrow following to shake out the weeds, when all are carted away after being collected in rolls by the chain harrow. A deep furrow is then given by the plough, and the land lies clean and dry until spring, when but little more trouble is required to make it fit to drill in the very best style, where no attempt is made to begin sowing until the soil is in a thorough state of comminution. But for the system of autumn culture, the great extent could never be overtaken in spring, while the season for each crop is caught with perfect ease, when the work is thus finished months beforehand. Bones are purchased at wholesale prices throughout the year, from men who collect them in every town and village for miles round, and are ground at home by water-power into suitable sizes for the various purposes required. Although bone phosphates are also used, the preference is given to those mechanically prepared, for their lasting effect on the pastures, and the quantity used each year is extraordinary, the acreage being so extended, and the money value given to each statute acre close on five pounds. With good cultivation, plenty of dung, and such an amount of bones, with a sprinkling of Peruvian guano to give the plant a start, it may well be conceived that a heavy crop of bulbs can be raised however adverse the season, and in reality the weight per acre is extraordinary, individual bulbs running from 20 to 25lb. each, but the great weight per acre is attained more by uniformity of size and weight all over the fields than by the extra weight of a portion of the bulbs. At our visit in 1877 the harvest was just finished, and all drawn to the stack-yard, the greater portion of the corn being built up

under substantial wooden structures about 80 feet in leath and 18 in breadth, the timbers used being grown on the estate, and sawn into shingles by the same power which drives the bone-crushing machinery. To any one interested in agriculture the stack-yard was a most interesting and instructive sight of neatness and tidiness, nay, almost elegance being the all prevailing feature, but above all a vast collection of valuable crops, all perfectly secured at such an early period of the autumn (third week of September) was a scene of itself so suggestive of forethought, energy, and judicious outlay as to amply repay the trouble and expense of a visit, even if that was all that was to be seen.

Before leaving a copy of the balance-sheet for the previous two years was given us by the courteous manager, in which every shilling of expenditure and every shilling of the receipts were duly entered under the various heads, and on the former being deducted from the latter the result was so favourable as to at once explain the long continuance of Mr. Jones as an amateur farmer, and his enthusiasm in all that relates to the furtherance and prosperity of agriculture. In the South of Ireland, by which is here meant the Province of Munster, the leading agricultural industry is dairy farming, some men, as has been already noticed, devoting their entire acreage to it, scarcely breaking up sufficient to grow winter food beyond the starvation point; others again pursue a system of mixed husbandry, which nearly always includes the dairy, the growth of a greater or less breadth of corn, according to the suitability of the soil, a proportionate extent of green crops, and probably turn out a number of stall-fed beasts each year, but in no case do the purely tenant farmer class adhere so slavishly to a regular and fixed rotation, as is done in some parts of the sister countries. Sheep farming claims a large share of attention, and deservedly so, as with the best and purest blood of the most valued breeds now so extensively distributed and so easily procured by the smallest occupiers this kind of stock from the short time they take in reaching maturity, the high prices they invariably realise when well treated, has kept remarkably well of late years. The dairy, however, with the great bulk of farmers takes the most important position, and although undoubtedly at times carried to extremes, the receipts obtained from it are yet so certain and regular to in a great measure justify its popularity and entitle it to the position it has so universally attained.

A DOG "STORY."—A few months ago I made the acquaintance of a dog, which, I think, is worthy of a place among the dogs, and cats, and rats, and mules that are helping the pages of *Nature* to determine the degree and kind of animal intelligence. "Priest's" is a hotel on the way from the Calaveras Grove of Big Trees to the Yosemite. In former years, on the arrival of the stage, the landlady would send the dog to the poultry yard to catch chickens for the tourist's dinner. Now, the dog "takes time by the forelock." The stage is due at 6 o'clock. About 5 o'clock the dog saunters leisurely down the road till he meets the stage, he then bounds back to the poultry yard, catches chickens, bites their heads off, and takes them to the cook! The number of chickens he kills bears a relation to the number of passengers he saw in the stage. A gentleman who was stopping at the hotel for a few days went into the woods one afternoon with a gun. When he returned, the dog came to him in much excitement to see what game he had taken. Finding his hands and his bag empty, the dog ran into the forest and returned in less than an hour with a bird, which he gave, with an air of compassion, to the unskilled hunter.—*Nature*.

FOND FATHER: "Well, my son, how do you like college? *Alma mater* has turned out some great men." Young HOPEFUL (just expelled): "Yes sir, she has just turned me out."

## Agricultural Societies.

### BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

At the Council Meeting, held July 29th, 1879, at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, there were present—The Right Hon. the Earl of Coventry, president, in the chair: Sir J. T. B. Duckworth, bart., Sir J. W. Walrond, bart.; Messrs. Jonathan Gray, J. C. Moore-Stevens, H. G. Moysey (vice-presidents); Messrs. J. T. Boscawen (Hon. and Rev.), W. J. Brown, C. Bush, R. H. Bush, Frank Drewe (Colonel), Thomas Dyke, Charles Edwards, Walter Farthing, Antony Gibbs, Frederick Gill, H. P. Jones, J. E. Knollys, Robert Lang, R. Marker, R. Neville, S. P. Newbery, Sir J. Shelley, bart., R. Trood (Colonel).

#### FINANCE.

Mr. Charles Edwards, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, brought up the Quarterly Statement of Accounts. He stated that although the takings at the Exeter Show were nearly £1,000 in excess of those at Oxford, yet, owing to various extra disbursements arising out of the peculiar circumstances of the Meeting, it was probable that a considerable loss would have to be reported on the proceedings of the year.

#### PRIZES AT WORCESTER.

In the absence of Colonel Luttrell, Chairman of the Stock Prize Sheet Committee, it was resolved to defer the consideration of the amounts to be offered in prizes and otherwise at the forthcoming meeting at Worcester.

#### LOCAL SOCIETIES.

Sir J. W. Walrond, bart., moved "That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration our relations with County Local Associations within our district, with reference to an uniform system of co-operation with them." In the course of an able speech Sir John remarked that he felt he only expressed the opinion of all present in saying that some permanent system of guidance to ensure the simultaneous and friendly working of the Local Societies and the Bath and West of England Society in the districts visited by the latter was eminently desirable to supersede the present somewhat strained relations existing in one or two localities. He was not forgetting the cordial and friendly feelings manifested in many counties in the past and notably by the Worcestershire Associations in the present, but he thought that some defined arrangement would materially tend to the advancement, not only of the Societies, but of the farming interests generally. The Council in their annual report in June last, had recognised the principle embodied in the resolution, and he only asked for the appointment of a committee who would carefully consider and report upon the best means of carrying out what all agreed was a desirable end.

The motion was seconded by Mr. GRAY, and carried unanimously, and the following gentlemen were elected on the committee:—

The Earl of Coventry, the Earl of Morley, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Sir J. T. B. Duckworth, bart., Colonel Lennard, Colonel Luttrell, Messrs. C. P. D. Acland, J. H. Arkwright, J. Daw, C. Edwards, J. Gray, J. E. Knollys, with Sir J. W. Walrond, bart., mover of the resolution.

The following new members were elected:—Life member:—Mr. Darrell Stephens, Burton Bradstock, Bridport. Governor:—Mr. Richard Cary, Langdon Court, Wembury, South Devon. Annual members:—Messrs. S. W. Adams, junr., 7, Borringdon Villas, Pympton St. Mary; George Dennis, Croyle House, Collumpton; William Dymond, Exeter; S. L. Gifford, 253, High Street, Exeter; De Burgho Hodge, Sandwell, Harberton, Devon; R. Martin, Ham Court, Worcester; W. C. Sim, Knowle, Clyst St. George, Topsham, Devon; H. B. Smith, Hartington Villa, Wells Road, Bath; John Summers, Milk Street, Bristol; R. C. Wilkino, Fore Street, Exeter; G. Willis, Monkaton Manor, Pinhoe, Exeter.

### CROOK.

The seventeenth annual show of horses, cattle, pigs, poultry, dogs, &c., under the auspices of the Crook Agricultural Society, was held in the Cricket Field, near the railway station on July 30. The weather was all that could be desired, and the ground was in capital condition, with the exception of two or three places in which the rain had lodged the previous evening. The attendance of visitors, was, therefore, very large, and the special trains which were run were, as a rule,

pretty heavily laden. The total number of entries was 657, made up as follows:—Horses and ponies, 133; donkeys, 4; horse-shoeing smiths, 5; cattle, 39; sheep, 25; pigs, 22; dogs, 118; poultry and pigeons, 285; dairy produce, 24; implements 2. Perhaps of all the departments that of poultry received most attention from the visitors, and really some of the birds shown were of most excellent quality. Among the horses were some excellent exhibits. In class 17, for foals by Lord Derby, Lord Stanley, or Lord Dunmore, so equal were the entries in merit that all but the prizetakers were very highly commended. Dogs were not very numerous, and there were not a few empty pens; but what was lacking in quantity was made up in quality. Cattle were a large show, although some of the exhibits were of a very high class.—*Northern Echo.*

### GLAMORGANSHIRE.

The one hundred and seventh annual exhibition in connection with the Glamorganshire General Agricultural Society was opened at Cowbridge, on July 30th. The following is a comparative table, giving the number of exhibits during the years 1875-9:—

	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Cattle.....	67	107	69	114	118
Sheep.....	51	60	57	56	45
Pigs.....	26	40	20	27	22
Horses.....	209	199	164	158	181
Dairy Produce.....	26	25	11	14	20
Implements.....	31	22	63	47	42
Poultry.....	140	117	87	103	72
Sheep Dogs.....	22	16	14	17	24
Industrial Utensils.....	19	—	—	—	—
Total.....	591	586	488	536	521

The *Cambrian* says:—The absence of an increase in the number of exhibits may be attributable to the depression which prevails in agriculture, and under the circumstances it is a source of satisfaction that the show maintains its high position, and in some respects gives evidence of improvement. With regard to quality, the live stock were, on the whole, above the average, and elicited flattering eulogiums from the judges. The Shorthorns and Herefords were both deserving of special mention, being of a superior class; the dairy cows, which formed a new feature in the show, and the pigs, though not very numerous, reflected to the credit of the breeders, and the sheep, whilst on the whole not equal to expectations, included some splendid short wools, notably those exhibited by Mr. D. Thomas, St. Hilary; Earl Cawdor, Stackpole Court, Pembroke; and Lord Moreton, Tatworth Court, Gloucestershire. Of cart horses there was an exceptional fine display; the weight-carrying hunters, the light hunters, the cob ponies over 14 hands 2in. high were very good, whilst the cob ponies under 14 hands 2in. high were only moderate.

### PRIZE LIST.

#### CATTLE.

##### HEREFORD.

- Two cows, above 3 years old, in calf or in milk, and their offspring under 12 months old.—1 and 2, T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Cowbridge.
- Cow, above 3 years old, in calf or in milk.—1, Miss Evans, Llandowlas, Usk; 2, W. Williams, Red House, Ely.
- Bull, above 3 years old.—1, T. Thomas; 2, W. S. Powell, Egrwysnoyd, Taihech.
- Two-year-old bull.—1, T. Morgan, Lisworney Farm, Cowbridge; 2, D. W. Savours, Rhosse, Cowbridge.
- Yearling bull.—1, J. Walters, junr., Llandenny Court, Usk; 2, T. Thomas.
- Two-year-old heifer, in calf or in milk, for breeding purposes.—1, J. Williams, Llansannor Court, Cowbridge; 2, J. Williams, Llansannor Court, Cowbridge.
- Yearling heifer, for breeding purposes.—1, T. Thomas; 2, Rees Keene, Pencraig, Caerleon.
- Bull calf under 12 months old.—1, Miss Evans; 2, J. Williams.

Heifer calf under 12 months old.—1, T. Thomas; 2, J. Williams.

## SHORT HORN.

Two cows, above 3 years old, in calf or in milk, and their offspring under 12 months old.—1, R. Stratton, The Duffryn, Newport, Mon.; 2, J. R. Homfray, Penllyn Castle, Cowbridge.

Cow above 3 years old, in calf or in milk.—1, R. Stratton; 2, J. R. Homfray.

Bull above 3 years old.—1, R. Stratton; 2, J. R. Homfray. Two-year-old bull.—1, J. R. Homfray; 2, W. Jenkins, Llanmihangel, Cowbridge.

Yearling bull.—1, R. Stratton; 2, J. Thomas, Eastfield House, Cowbridge.

Two year old heifer, in calf or in milk, for breeding purposes.—1, G. W. G. Thomas, The Heath, Cardiff; 2, J. Thomas.

Yearling heifer for breeding purposes.—1, R. Stratton; 2, G. W. G. Thomas, The Heath, Cardiff.

Bull calf under 12 months old.—1, R. Stratton, The Duffryn, Newport, Mon.; 2, G. W. G. Thomas, The Heath, Cardiff.

Heifer calf under 12 months old.—1, R. Stratton; 2, J. Thomas, Tallygarn.

## PURE OR CROSS-BRED COWS.

Two milking cows, above 3 years old.—1, J. Thomas; 2, D. J. Jenkins, Llandale.

Milking cow, above 3 years old.—1, J. Thomas; 2, W. Smith, Boverton Place, Cowbridge.

## WELSH BLACK.

Bull, not exceeding 3 years old.—1, J. Griffiths, Penally Court, Tenby; 2, D. Thomas, Tallygarn, Llantrissant.

Heifer, not exceeding 2 years old.—1, J. Griffiths; 2, Mrs. Thomas.

Bull, cow, and offspring, under 12 months old, of any pure breed.—1, Thomas.

## PURE OR CROSS-BRED STEERS.

Pair of two-year-old steers.—1, R. Keene, Penraig; 2, W. Williams.

Pair of yearling steers.—1, R. Keene, Penraig, Caerleon; 2, T. Thomas.

## SPECIAL PRIZES.

Three dairy cows, of any breed.—Mr. Stratton, The Duffryn, Newport, Mon.

## SHEEP.

## LONGWOOL.

Yearling ram.—1 and 2, G. W. G. Thomas, The Heath, Cardiff.

Ram lamb.—1 and 2, T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Cowbridge.

Four ewe lambs for breeding purposes.—1, T. Thomas; 2, G. W. G. Thomas.

Four ewes, exceeding two years old, that have bred.—1, T. Thomas; 2, G. W. G. Thomas.

## SHORT WOOL.

Cross-breeds and Oxford Downs to be excluded from this class. Yearling ram.—1, Earl Cawdor and Lord Moreton (prizes divided).

Ram lamb.—1 and 2, E. Rees, Swansea.

Four ewe lambs for breeding purposes.—E. Rees.

Four ewes, exceeding 2 years old, that have bred the preceding season.—1 and 2, E. Rees.

Aged ram of any pure breed.—1, Lord Moreton; 2, J. Thomas.

Four yearling ewes of any pure breed.—1, Lord Moreton; 2, T. Thomas.

Four wether lambs.—1, T. Thomas; 2, G. W. G. Thomas.

Pen of 4 breeding ewes and one ram of Welsh mountain breed.—1 and 2, D. Thomas, Tallygarn, Llantrissant.

Pen of five Welsh mountain wethers.—1 and 2, W. Williams, Splott House, Cardiff.

## PIGS.

Sow with pigs of any large breed.—1 and 2, J. Williams.

Sow, with pigs of any small breed.—1, Lord Moreton.

Boar of any large breed.—1, J. Williams; 2, Lord Moreton.

Boar of any small breed.—1, Lord Moreton; 2, J. Williams.

Boar under a year old.—1, Lord Moreton; 2, Colonel the Hon. F. C. Morgan, M.P.

Pair of sows under a year old.—1, Lord Moreton; 2, Colonel the Hon. F. C. Morgan, M.P.

## HORSES.

## HUSBANDRY.

Cart Stallion which shall have covered in the county during the season of 1879.—1, M. Lewis, Cardiff; 2, J. Braddick, Cowbridge.

Cart mare in foal, or with foal at foot.—1, J. Williams, Merthyr-mawr; 2, H. Williams, Stormy Pyle.

Three-year-old cart gelding or mare.—1, R. Williams, Newton Nottsge; 2, D. Spencer, Flemingstone.

Two-year-old cart gelding or mare.—1, W. Williams, St. Bride's; 2, J. Williams, Merthyr-mawr.

Yearling cart colt or filly.—1, R. Thomas, Margam; 2, W. Williams, St. Bride's.

SPECIAL PRIZE.—Pair of cart horses, for the general purposes of husbandry.—1, G. H. Davies, Cowbridge; 2, R. Williams, Newton Nottsge.

## HUNTERS.

Thorough-bred stallion, calculated to produce weight-carrying hunters.—1, Colonel J. S. Ballard, The Verlauds, Cowbridge; 2, D. Earl, Cross Inn, Cardiff.

Brood mare, calculated to produce weight-carrying hunters, in foal, or with foal at foot.—1, Colonel J. S. Ballard; 2, R. T. Bassett, Crossways, Cowbridge.

Three-year-old gelding or mare, for a weight-carrying hunter.—1, J. R. Homfray, Penllyn Castle, Cowbridge; 2, W. V. Huntley, Welsh St. Donnat's.

Two-year-old gelding or mare, for a weight-carrying hunter.—1, E. Thomas; 2, G. Williams, Miskin Manor, Llantrissant.

Yearling colt or filly, for a weight-carrying hunter.—1, T. Thomas, Bear Hotel, Cowbridge; 2, T. David, St. Athan.

SPECIAL PRIZES.—Weight-carrying hunter, up to at least 14 stone, with hounds.—1, J. Goodwin, Priory Court, Cheltenham; 2, J. M. J. Harris, Treferig, Llantrissant.

Four year old hunter, up to at least 12 stone, with hounds.—1, W. V. Huntley; 2, W. S. Powell, Eglwysunyd, Tai-bach.

Light-weight hunter.—1, Colonel the Hon. F. C. Morgan, M.P.; 2, G. Williams, Miskin Manor, Llantrissant; 3, Colonel J. S. Ballard.

Misc or gelding, under 6 years old, adapted for harness or riding purposes, the property of a tenant farmer.—1, J. Thomas, Boverton Court, Cowbridge; 2, E. R. Lewis, The Park, Llanilltern; 3, J. Williams.

Hackney gelding or mare, not under 14 hands 2 inches high.—1, G. W. G. Thomas, The Heath, Cardiff; 2, W. Smith, Boverton-place, Cowbridge; 3, B. Williams, Aberskiau Court, Brecon.

Cob, above 13 hands 2 inches, and not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches high.—1, F. E. Stacey, Llandough Castle, Cowbridge; 2, W. Hopkin, Ship Inn, Bridgend; 3, G. W. G. Thomas.

Cob stallion, not exceeding 15 hands high.—1, J. Spencer, Picketstone House, Cowbridge; 2, Llewellyn Jones, Pentyre.

Pure-bred Welsh mountain pony, not exceeding 13 hands 2 inches high.—1, R. Forrest, The Greenwood, St. Fagan's; 2, J. Williams, Llanannor Court, Cowbridge; 3, W. Lowrie, Arcade, Wine Vaults, Cardiff.

Prizes were also given for Implements, Dairy Produce, and Poultry.

## HIGHLAND.

## MEETING AT PERTH.

This Show was held on the South Inch, Perth, last month, opening on July 29 and closing on Aug. 1. The judging took place on the first day. The weather has been very favourable, and the number of visitors large. The yard, which is situated on a beautiful, level, grassy plain, close to the "Fair City," occupies an area of 33 acres, which is the largest yard the Society has had. The weather being dry, and the ground in excellent condition, the same discomforts which characterised the Kilburn Show were not experienced here, a circumstance which, of course, operated to the benefit, not only of the Society, but of the implement makers. Notwithstanding the precision of trade, and the unsatisfactory condition

agriculture, the Show may be regarded as a great success, both in point of the numbers and the quality of the entries. The Show of the Society was first held in Perth in 1829, and the entries then were—cattle 192, horses 53, sheep 199, pigs 13, implements 14, while the amount of premiums offered was £353, and the gate drawings amounted to £163. We will give the entries of this and last year, so that a comparison may be made. Dumfries, 1878—cattle 357, horses 328, sheep 621, pigs 39, poultry 303, dairy produce 235, implements 2,573, the money offered for premiums amounting to £2,763, and the sum collected at the door, including that drawn from the sale of catalogues, was £3,308. Perth, this year—cattle 383, horses 253, sheep 470, pigs 56, poultry 200, dairy produce 49, implements 2,207, premiums offered £2,629. The display of Shorthorns has been surpassed at the previous shows of the Society, still it is sufficient to maintain the reputation of this the Scottish National Show. Clydesdale horses were an excellent show, as they always are here. The polled Angus, or Aberdeen cattle, formed the finest gathering of that breed which has been seen anywhere, Perth being just on the skirts of the land which is recognised as the birth-place of that valuable class of cattle. Of Galloway, Ayrshire, and Highland cattle, there was, though not a large, a very meritorious display. Sheep, especially in the black-faced classes, were well represented. Pigs were small, but good, dairy produce and poultry middling shows.

In the aged Shorthorn classes, Anchor was victorious here as at Kilburn, carrying easy first honours in his class, and the cup, and Tweeddale gold medal for the best animal in the yard. His fine shapes and substance were admired by all, although it must be said that he looked none the better of his journey across the Irish Channel (after the Kilburn event), and then up to Perth. Rear Admiral stood true to him as an excellent second, as he did in London. The class was not a particularly good one; excluding Knickerbocker, from Fochabers, Duke of Chambergh, and Earl of March, which all got honours respectively, there was nothing attractive.

The two-year-old bulls were headed by Lord Polwarth's Warrior Brave, a stylish bull, which carried off honours at Kilburn. Coming second was Prince Alfred, owned by Mr. Charles Drummond Moray, and third was Cossack, belonging to Walter Scott Glendronnoch Huntly, both of which animals were well-bred and shapely.

Mr. Williams's (Keith), first yearling bull, is a stylish animal, although a trifle slack in the rib. Second to him was Harold, the stylish bull belonging to Mr. Nicolson, Berwick, which took the cup at Berwick. Earl of Moray, from Broadland Huntly, made a good third. The Shorthorn cow class was the largest in the yard, and over it the judges spent a considerable time, taking about an hour and a half to decide the awards. The Earl of Tankerville's cow Gaiety 3rd, a handsome, wealthily-fleshed roan, with magnificently developed hind-quarters, was first, the Queen coming second with a stylish, well-bred cow, Cawlina 5th, which has frequently taken honours. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon got third honours for the substantial, shapely cow which got second in the two-year-old classes at Kilburn. In the two-year-old heifers Mr. White, Aldborough, Darlington was first with his handsome Stanwick Rose, Princess Louise, a neat heifer from Haydon Bridge, coming second. The Queen got the third ticket with Cawlina 9th, which is well-bred and shapely. In the yearling heifer class Mr. White again comes to the front with Gaiety 6th, a very level animal, Sweet Pea, from Dochfour, Inverness, getting second, and Jenny Lind 8th securing third.

The polled Angus or Aberdeen cattle were the great feature of the Show in the cattle classes. Monarch from

Aboyne Castle, Sir Maurice from Rothremay House, Huntly, and the Judge from the Castle Ballindalloch were the winners; these three being excellent specimens of their breed. Prince Albert of Bawds, Mr. Anderson's, Tarland, first two-year-old bull was a handsome animal, while the second, Comet, from Drumin, Ballindalloch, and the third, His Excellency, from Skine House, Aberdeen, had many attractive points. In the yearling bulls, Sir George Macpherson Grant was victorious with Justice, a sweet, promising animal; the Earl of Airlie coming second with Pontiff, and Mr. William McCombie third with Gustavius. The aged cows were a large class, Blackbird of Corskie second, from Gavinwood, Banff, a most handsome animal was first easily; to her came second Sunshine 2nd, belonging to Mr. Wm. Skinner, Drumin, with good style and substance. Sybil 2nd, of Tillyfour, made a good third. In the two-year-old heifers, Sir George Macpherson Grant was first with Birthday, a thick compact shapely animal; while Mr. Harnay, Gaveenwood, got second with Cominulsie 2nd; and Mr. William Taylor, Huntly, got third with Kate Darling. Mr. Skinner, Drumin, was winner of first honour with Gaiety 3rd, which was a level, stylish animal; Queen Mary 1st, of Glamis, Glamis Castle, and Pavillion, sent in by the Earl of Airlie, received the other two tickets next in order. The Galloways were a small but excellent class, and in it the chief honour takers were the Duke of Buccleuch, James Cunningham, Tarbreach, James Little, Fauld Longtown; his Grace being by far the most successful winner. In Ayrshires, which formed though not a formidable, a creditable display, the Duke of Buccleuch again took most of the honours; Robert Buchanan, Blairhough, Strathblane, Robert Wilson, Forehouse, Kilbarchan, and James Weir, Lanark also taking several honours. Among the Highland cattle the Duke of Athole, the Earl of Breadalbane, Mr. John Stewart, of Duntalm Portree, Mr. James Duncan, Benmore, Greenock, came conspicuously to the front. In the fat stock sections, the honours were taken principally by Mr. C. S. H. Drummond, Moray; Sir Alex. Muir, Mackenzie; Wm. McCombie, Easter Skene; Mr. Charles Eyle, Montrose; Mr. William Peterkin, Dingwall; Mrs. McWilliam, Huntly, and Mr. Jas. Merson, Huntly. Messrs. Bell and Sons, Glasgow had forward some American Shorthorns; Mr. Pople, of the British Hotel, Perth, some Alderneys; the Earl of Breadalbane some Guernseys; and Sir John Orde, Bart, Lodulphhead, some Indian and white Highland cattle all of which received some mark of commendation.

The Clydesdale horses were an excellent display. Mr. Riddell's handsome aged stallion horse, Lucks All, which received lately the Highland Society's prize of £150 to travel the district in which the show is held, was placed first in a large class. He took the medal as a three-year-old at the Glasgow Agricultural Society's Show, and in the same class was first at the Aberdeen Highland Society's Show. He is a son of the celebrated horse Time O'Day, and has magnificent action, bone, and feather, although some judges are of opinion that he is a trifle short in the back. He is also straightish in the hocks. The Garscaden horse, Druid, which was the winner of the cup at Kilburn, was placed second, and would have given Lucks All a harder run for first honours had he not been put a little out of condition from the effects of a cold. He was moving, too, rather short, and herein his more successful opponent had greatly the better of him. The Bonnie Breast Kuot, belonging to Mr. Riddell, which was placed third, is a substantial well-made horse and has been a frequent prize taker in stiff contests. Boydston, owned by Mr. Millar, Whitehouse, Aberdeen, made a good fourth. In the three-year-old colts Mr. Riddell's Rosebery, which stood next to the winner of the medal at Glasgow this year, is a very stylish

horae, and was an easy first. The Champion of the North, belonging to Mr. McNal, Glenochil, Mensluire, got the second prize; this horse has fine action and a powerful frame, though wanting in style a little as compared with his more successful rival. Royal Prince from Tannoch, Cumbernauld, which got third, is also a powerful, shapely horse, but he was going a little lame, which in a show ring goes much against any animal. Baron Knight (Mr. Ironside's) was a fair fourth. Craichmore Bob, a fine two-year-old bay from Dumgoyack, Strathblane, headed the two-year-old colt class, and was deservedly followed by an animal from Blackhall, Paisley, and by Lord Colin Campbell, a young promising horse from Newton Mearns. Mr. Johnstone, Lochburnie, was first with his yearling colt, which he bought at the recent Merryton sale for 365 guineas; a fine youngster sent in by Mr. Riddell getting second honour. The female Clydesdales have been a better show, although they included some crack specimens. Mr. Picken, Kilmarnock, got the first honour for his aged mare, Young Darling, which has fine style and bone, but unfortunately her foal died. Rosie, from West Farm; Tollcross and Comely, from Leckiebank, Auchtermuchty, were deservedly the winners of the tickets next in order. Mr. Martin's Damsel got the first ticket in her class, the mares in foal, and she got also the silver medal for the best female Clydesdale in the yard. She is a mare of great bone and substance, but she has never yet thrown a foal. Jess, belonging to Mr. Robert Loder, Towcester, the champion mare of last year at Dumfries, was placed second; while Countess, belonging to Mr. Waddell, Bathgate, which got first honours at Kilmarnock, at Paris this year, and at the Royal at Bristol last year, was put third. She has remarkable substance and good shapes, but was moving rather short on Tuesday. In the three-year-old fillies, Effie Deans, from Auchenduman Farm, Balloch, which was first at the Highland Society's Show last year, and has been first every time she has been shown; Adela, forwarded by Mr. Murdoch, Newton, Glasgow, was second; and Jeame, belonging to Mr. Hunter, Coplawhill, Stathbringo, was third. In other filly classes Robert Pollock, Newton Mearns, Andrew McDowall, and Mr. Martin, Balloch, were the prominent prize-takers. In the draught gelding classes the Duke of Buccleuch, John Lethain Stonehouse came to the front. The hunters and roadsters never form a conspicuous display at the Highland Society's Shows, and they certainly did not on Tuesday. Indeed they were on the whole a very middling lot. The animals belonging to John White, Largo; John Henrie, Larbert; and Edward Lawson, Commander Henderson, and James Thorn, Strathneigh, which received first honours, were above average merit. In the pony classes, in which there were one or two fine animals, D. D. McL. Macleod, Inverness; James Menzies, Aberfeldy; David Carnegie, Crieff; Thomas Roy, Bridge of Ewin, were the winners of the principal honours.

The sheep were not a remarkably good display, if we exclude perhaps the blackfaced. In that section the prize animals of Mr. Foyer, Campsie, of Mr. Hawatson, Mauchline, and Mr. Melrose, Eddleston, were stylish and well covered. In the cheviot classes, Mr. Johnstone, of Archbank, Mr. Elliot, of Hindhope, as of yore, carried off, all the prizes among them. In the Border Leicesters, Mr. Tweedie, Forrest, was scarcely so successful as he was at Kilburn, some of the sheep placed first there receiving here a minor ticket, Mr. Nisbet, Greenlaw, Miss Stark, Kelso, Mr. Wallace, Auchrain, Mauchline, and Mr. Drummond, Blackruthven, taking the principal honours. For well-fed Leicesters Mr. Thomas Smith, Powrie, Dundee, and Mr. Sutherland Eric, Burghhead, received honours; as likewise for Cotswolds did Mr. Gibson Wool-

met, and for short-wooled sheep Mr. Crawford, Glencarse, Mr. Buttar, Compar-Angus, and the Earl of Strathmore. Pigs were a small but meritorious show, in which Mr. Duckering carried almost everything before him.

## PRIZE LIST.

## CATTLE.

## SHORTHORN.

Tweeddale gold medal, value £21, for best Shorthorn.— Lord Rathdonnell, for Anchor.  
Bulls calved before 1st January, 1877.—1, Lord Rathdonnell, Lisnavagh, Tullow, County Carlow, Ireland; 2, T. Willis, jun., Manor House, Carperby, Bedale; 3 and 4, J. Bruce, Burnside, Fochabers.  
Bulls calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, Lord Polwarth, Broomhall, Mertoun, St. Boswells; 2, C. Stirling, Home Drummond, Moray of Abercainry; 3, W. Scott, Glendronach, Huntly.  
Bulls calved after 1st January, 1878.—1, J. McWilliam, Stoneytown, Keith; 2, I. Nicholson, Murton, Berwick-upon-Tweed; 3, D. C. Bruce, Broadland, Huntly.  
Cows of any age.—1, Earl of Tankerville; 2, her Majesty the Queen, Windsor 3, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, J. Whyte, Albro, Darlington; 2, T. Lambert, Elrington Hall, Haydon Bridge; 3, her Majesty the Queen.  
Heifers calved after 1st January, 1878.—1, J. Whyte; 2, E. Bailie, of Dochfour, Iverness; 3, J. Bruce.

## POLLED ANGUS OR ABERDEEN.

Bulls, calved before 1st January, 1877.—1, the Marquis of Huntly; 2, W. J. Tayler, Rothiemay House, Huntly; 3, Sir G. M. Grant, Bart.  
Bull, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, R. Anderson, Daugh, Tarland, Aberdeen; 2, W. M. Skinner, Drumlin, Ballingalloch; 3, G. Hamilton, Skene House, Aberdeen.  
Bulls, calved after 1st January, 1878.—1, Sir G. M. Grant, Bart.; 2, the Earl of Airlie, K.T.; 3, W. McCombie, of Easter Skene, Skene Aberdeen.  
Cows of any age.—1, J. Hannay, Gavenwood; 2, W. M. Skinner; 3, H. D. Adamson, Balquharn, Alford, Aberdeen.  
Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, Sir G. M. Grant, Bart.; 2, J. Hannay; 3, W. J. Tayler, Rothiemay House, Huntly.

Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1878.—1, W. M. Skinner; 2, the Earl of Airlie; 3, the Earl of Strathmore.

## GALLOWAY.

Bulls, calved before 1st January, 1877.—1 and 2, J. Little, Fauld, Longtown; 3, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, K.G.  
Bulls, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, J. Cunningham, Tarbrooch, Dalbeattie; 2, J. Graham, Parcellstown, Longtown.  
Bulls, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1 and 2, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry; 3, J. Cunningham.  
Cows of any age.—1, 2, and 3, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.  
Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry; 2 and 3, W. and J. Sheenan, Balig, Kirkcudbright.  
Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1878.—1, W. and J. Sheenan; 2 and 3, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.

## AYRSHIRES.

Bulls, calved before 1st January, 1877.—1, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry; 2, J. Young, Cobblebrah, Falkirk; 3, R. Buchanan, Blairquosh, Strathblane.  
Bulls, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, the Duke of Buccleuch; 2, R. Wilson, Forehouse, Eilbarcan; 3, R. Wardrop, Jarlaff, Old Cumnock.  
Bulls, calved after 1st January, 1878.—1, J. Weir, Sandiland, Lanark; 2, Duke of Buccleuch; 3, A. M'Dowall, Auchtraleure, Stranraer.  
Cows in calf, of any age, or heifers in calf, calved before 1st January, 1877.—1 and 2, Duke of Buccleuch; 3, W. Howie, Finnockbog, Luverkip.  
Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1 and 3, Duke of Buccleuch; 2, J. Scott, Newlands, Uddingston.  
Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1878.—1, Duke of Buccleuch; 2, A. M'Dowall, Auchtraleure, Stranraer; 3, J. Williamson, Greenhead, W. Haw.

## HIGHLAND.

Bulls, calved before 1st January, 1876.—1, the Duke of Athole, K.T.; 2, J. Duncan, Denmore, Greenock; 3, the Earl of Breadalbane.

Bulls calved after 1st January, 1876.—1, J. Stewart, Duntulm; 2, A. McDonald, Nether, Lergie, Kilmartiu; 3, J. McGillivray, Ballachroan, Kingussie.

Bulls, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, J. Stewart, Bochastle, Callandar; 2, Lord Kinnaird; 3, the Duke of Athole.

Cows of any age.—1, J. Duncan; 2, the Earl of Breadalbane; 3, the Earl of Seafield.

Heifers, calved after 1st January, 1876.—1, the Duke of Athole; 2, J. Stewart, Duntulm; 3, J. Stewart, Bochastle.

Heifers calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, J. Stewart, Duntulm; 2, the Earl of Breadalbane; 3, J. Stewart, Bochastle.

## FAT STOCK.

Highland oxen, calved after 1st January, 1875.—1, C. S. H. D. Moray, Blair Drummond, Stirling; 2, Sir A. M. Mackenzie, Bart., Delvine, Dunkeld.

Highland oxen, calved after 1st January, 1876.—1 and 2, C. S. H. D. Moray

Polled oxen, calved after 1st January, 1876.—1 and 2, W. M'Combie, Easter Skene.

Polled oxen, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, C. Lyall, Old Montrose; 2, T. Roy, Ballendrick, Bridge of Earn.

Oxen of any other pure or cross breed, calved after 1st January, 1876.—1, W. Peterkin, Dunglass, Dingwall; 2, J. Wallace, Banbeath, Leven.

Oxen of any other pure or cross breed, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1 and 2, Mrs. M'William, Bucharu, Gartly, Huntly.

Cross-bred heifers, calved after 1st January, 1876.—1, J. Merson, Craigwillie, Huntly; 2, W. Drysdale, Kiltie, Kinghorn.

Cross-bred heifers, calved after 1st January, 1877.—1, W. Drysdale; 2, J. Merson.

## EXTRA HORSES.

Thoroughbred entire colts, mares and geldings.—Very highly commended, Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie, Bart., of Delvine, Dunkeld; commended, F. N. Menzies, Balmacneil, Ballinluig.

## PONIES.

Highland stallions, 14½ hands and under.—1, D. D. M'L. McLeod, Coulmore, Inverness; 2, Duke of Athole, K.T., Blair Castle, Blair-Athole.

Highland mares or geldings, between 13 and 14½ hands high.—1, J. Menzies, Cochieville, Aberfeldy; 2, D. D. M'L. MacLeod.

Mares or geldings, between 12½ and 14 hands high.—1, D. Carnegie, Stronvar, Lochearnhead, Crieff; 2, Sir J. R. G. Maitland, Bart., Craigend House, Stirling; 3, A. Ralston, Glamis House, Glamis.

Mares or geldings under 12½ hands high.—1, T. Roy, Ballendrick, Bridge of Earn; 2, G. Knox, Nether Malletsleugh, Newton Mearns; 3, Mrs. Scrymgeour, Wedderburn of Wedderburn, Birkhill, Cupar, Fife.

## EXTRA PONIES.

Very highly commended, John C. Cameron, of Garrows, Dunkeld; highly commended, J. M'Duff, Newmill, Perth.

## SHEEP.

## BLACKFACED.

Tups, 3 shear and upwards.—1, D. Foyer, Knoehead, Campsie; 2 and highly commended, J. M'Kersie, East Glenbuck, Muirkirk; 3, J. Fleming, Pionghland, Strathaven.

Tups, 2 shear.—1 and 2, C. Howatson; 3, J. Fleming. Shearling tups.—1 and 2, D. Foyer; 3, C. Howatson; highly commended, J. Fleming.

Pens of 5 ewes above one shear.—1, D. Foyer; 2, P. Melrose, West Loch, Eddlestone; 3, J. M'Pherson, Clunas, Nairn.

Pens of 5 gimmers.—1, D. Foyer; 2, R. Buchanan; 3, W. Whyte, Spott, Kirriemuir.

## CHEVIOT.

Tups, 3 shear and upwards.—1, 2 and 3, T. Elliott, Hindhope, Jedburgh.

Tups, 2 shear.—1 and 3, J. A. Johnstone; 2, T. Elliott. Shearling tups.—1, 2 and 3, and very highly commended, J. A. Johnstone.

Pens of 5 ewes, above one shear.—1, T. Elliott; 2, W. Mundell.

Lams.—1, W. Mundell; 2, T. Elliott.

Pens of 5 shearling ewes or gimmers.—1 and 2, T. Elliott; 3, Sir G. G. Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart., M.P., Stobo.

## BORDER LEICESTER.

Tups, 3 shear and upward.—1, Miss A. Stark, Millendean, Kelso; 2, J. Nisbet, of Lambden, Greenlaw; 3, R. Tweedie, 'The Forrest', Caterick.

Tups, 2 shear.—1, R. Wallace, Auchinbrain, Mauchline; 2, and 3, R. Tweedie.

Shearling tups.—1, R. Wallace; 2 and 3, J. Drummond, of Blackruthven, Perth.

Pens of 5 ewes above 1 shear.—1, J. Nisbet; 2, R. Tweedie; 3, J. Edgar.

Pens of 5 gimmers.—1, T. Ferguson; 2, R. Tweedie; 3, C. E. Hay, Bradford House, Belford, Northumberland.

## EXTRA CATTLE.

ALDERNEY—Very highly commended. H. W. Pople, British Hotel, Perth.

GUERNSEY—Very highly commended, the Earl of Breadalbane.

INDIAN—Very highly commended, Sir J. W. P. Orde, o Kilmory, Bart., Lockgilthead.

## HORSES.

## AGRICULTURAL.

Stallions foaled before 1st January, 1876—1 and cup, D. Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley; 2, D. Buchanan, Garscadden, Mains, New Kilpatrick; 3, D. Riddell.

Entire colts, foaled after 1st January, 1876.—1, D. Riddell; 2, J. McNab, Glenochill House, Menstrie; 3, M. Dunlop, Tanloch, Cumbernauld.

Entire colts, foaled after 1st January, 1877.—1, P. Crawford, Dumgoyack, Strathblane; 2, D. Riddell; 3, R. Pollock, Green, Newton Mearns.

Entire colts, foaled after 1st January, 1878.—1, J. Johnstone, Lochburnie, Maryhill; 2, D. Riddell; 3, A. Braclenbridge, Stevenston Mains, Holvton.

Mares (with foals at foot), foaled before 1st January, 1876.—1, J. Picken, Laigh Langside, Craigie, Kilmarnock; 2, J. Gourlie, Westfarm, Tollcross; 3, J. Blyth, Leckiebank, Auchtermuchty.

Mares (in foal), foaled before 1st January, 1876.—1, and cup, J. M. Martin, Auchendennan farm, Balloch; 2, R. Loader, Whittlebury, Towcester; 3, J. Waddell, of Inch, Bathgate.

Fillies, foaled after 1st January, 1876.—1, J. M. Martin; 2, R. Murdoch, Hallside, Newton, Glasgow; 3, J. Hunter, Coplawhill, Strathbungo.

Fillies, foaled after 1st January, 1877.—1, R. Pollock; 2, A. M'Dowall, Auchnalure, Stranraer; 3, D. Riddell.

Fillies, foaled after 1st January, 1878.—1, J. M. Martin; 2, A. M'Vicar, Woodend, Bathgate; 3, D. Cross, of Knockdon, Maybole.

Draught geldings, foaled before 1st January, 1876.—1, J. Letham, East Mains, Stonehouse; 2, the Duke of Buccleugh; 3, J. Waddell.

Draught geldings, foaled after 1st January, 1876.—1, the Duke of Buccleugh; 2, Sir M. R. S. Stewart; 3, D. Butler, South Corston, Coupar Angus.

## HUNTERS AND ROADSTERS.

Brood mares (with foals at foot), suitable for field.—1, J. Whyte, Lundin Mill, Largo; 2, R. Williams, The Green, Wishaw; 3, J. Thom, Leden Urquhart, Strathmiglo.

Mares or Geldings, suitable for field, foaled before 1st January, 1875.—1, J. Heudrie, Lurbert, Stirlingshire; 2, H. V. Haig, Cameronbridge, Windygates; 3, C. A. Murray, Taymount, Stanley, Perth.

Mares or geldings, suitable for field, foaled after 1st January, 1877.—1, E. Lawson, Howrigg, Thursby, Carlisle; 2, A. Crawford, Pitlowie, Glencarse, Perth; 3, D. S. Ireland, Argyle Brewery, St. Andrews.

Mares or geldings, suitable as hackneys or roadsters, between 14 and 15 hands high.—1, Commander G. D. C. Henderson, R.N., Invergowie, Dundee; 2, F. Gibson, Woolmet, Dalkeith; 3, David Stratton, Edinburgh.

Stallions, mares, or geldings, for leaping.—1, J. Thom; 2, J. M'Queen, Perth.

## LEICESTER.

Tups above 1 shear.—1, T. Smith, Powrie, Dundee; 2, E. Sutherland, Rosevally, Burghhead; 3, T. Smith.

Shearling tups.—1 and 2, E. Sutherland; 3, T. Smith.  
Pens of ewes above 1 shear.—1, E. Sutherland; 2 and 3, T. Smith.

Pens of 5 gimmers.—1, E. Sutherland; 2, T. Smith.

## COTSWOLD AND LINCOLN.

Shearling tups.—F. Gibson, Woolmet, Dalkeith.

Pens of 5 ewes above 1 shear.—F. Gibson.

Pens of 5 gimmers.—F. Gibson.

## SHORTWOOLLED.

Tups above 1 shear.—1, A. Crawford, Pitlowie, Glencarse, Perth; 2 and 3, The Earl of Mansfield, K.T., Scone Palace, Perth; very highly commended, A. Crawford.

Shearling tups.—1 and 2, D. Buttart, Corston, Conpar-Angus; 3, A. Crawford.

Pens of 5 ewes above 1 shear.—F. Gibson.

Pens of 5 shearling ewes or gimmers.—1 and very highly commended, the Earl of Strathmore; 2, F. Gibson; 3, A. Crawford.

## EXTRA SECTIONS.

Pens of 5 blackfaced wethers not above 4 shear.—1, T. Roy 2, W. Whyte.

Pens of 5 half-bred wether hoggs not above one shear.—1 and 2, D. Buttart.

Pens of 5 cross-bred wether hoggs not above 1 shear.—1, E. Sutherland; 2, J. M'Dougall, Goodlyburn, Perth.

## EXTRA SHEEP.

Very highly commended, A. Crawford; 2, very highly and highly commended, A. Crawford; commended, the Earl of Mansfield.

## PIGS.

Boars, large breed.—R. E. Duckering, Northorpe, Kirton, Lindsey.

Sows, large breed.—1, R. E. Duckering; 2, W. Macdonald, Woodlands, Perth; 3, R. Wallace.

Pens of 3 pigs not above 8 months old, large breed.—1, Dr. John Batty Tuke, Saughton Hall, Edinburgh; 2, R. Wallace; 3, R. E. Duckering.

Boars, black or Berkshire breed.—1, C. E. Duckering; 2, Sir W. Forbes, Bart., of Crimlevar, Fintray House, Aberdeen; 3, R. T. N. Speir, of Culdees, Muthill, Perthshire.

Sows, black or Berkshire breed.—1 and 2, C. E. Duckering; 3, S. S. Lloyd, M.P., Moor Hall, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham.

Pens of 3 pigs, not above 8 months old, black or Berkshire breed.—1 and 2, C. E. Duckering.

Boars, small breed.—1, R. E. Duckering; 2, Sir T. Gladstone, of Fasque, Bart., Laurencekirk; 3, J. Duncav.

Sows, small breed.—1, R. E. Duckering; 2, Her Majesty the Queen; 3, Sir T. Gladstone.

Pens of 3 pigs, not above 8 months, small breed.—1, the Earl of Tankerville, Chillingham Castle, Alwrick; 2, R. E. Duckering.

The following meetings were held in connection with the above Society:—

## THE GENERAL MEETING.

A largely-attended general meeting was held on Wednesday July 30, in the Committee Room; the Marquis of Lothian, President of the Society, presiding.

The following motion was withdrawn, in consequence of the absence of the proposer through the death of a near relative:—

“That any scheme which is likely to lead the way towards getting increased production by improved systems of farming, combined with the breeding of stocks and general farm management, ought to be encouraged and liberally supported by the funds of the Highland Society.”

Mr. HOFF, Leith, moved to the effect that members have analyses of manures and feeding-stuffs at the same rules as local societies, by subsidising the Society's chemist to that extent.

Mr. G. R. GLENNING seconded.

Mr. SMITH, Stevenson Mains, moved, and Mr. IRVINE, Sheriff of Argyllshire, seconded, that the subject be remitted to the directors for consideration.

On a vote being taken, Mr. Hoff's motion was carried by a large majority.

## MEETING OF POLLED ANGUS BREEDERS.

A meeting of polled Angus breeders was held in the Royal George Hotel on July 30, the Marquis of Huntly in the chair. There was a large attendance of stock owners.

The Marquis of HUNTLY in opening the proceedings stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of forming a society for the preservation of the famous polled Angus breed, and with the view of fostering and improving it in any way which they possibly could.

Sir GEORGE M'PHERSON GRANT stated that eight years ago, when the Highland and Agricultural Society was held at Perth, an arrangement was come to by which Mr. Ramsay purchased the copyright of the polled Angus Herd Book. Since that time Mr. Ramsay had issued four volumes of his Herd Book, and he (the speaker) suggested that the present meeting should form a Society to go on in the same good old lines. Other breeds had similar societies; and it was high time that the polled Angus herd should have one too. He had already had communication with gentlemen on the subject, and he had received the promise of over one hundred guineas from several influential gentlemen who were anxious to become life Governors of the Society, as also several intimations of those desirous to become life members. He suggested that a Committee be formed to consider the whole matter of forming a Society, and that said Committee report to a meeting of breeders to be held on an early date.

On the motion of Mr. TAYLOR, Glenbarry, seconded by Mr. M'COMBIE, Tillyfour, the following committee were unanimously appointed:—

The Marquis of Huntly, the Earl of Airlie, Sir George M'Pherson Grant, Bart., Mr. Taylor, of Glenbarry, Mr. M'Combie, of Tillyfour, Mr. M'Combie, of Easter Skene, Mr. Farquharson, Alford; Mr. Harvie, Gavenwood, Panff; Mr. Robertson, Glamis, Forfar; Mr. Skinner, Drummin; Mr. Grant, Methlick; Mr. Walker, Alyth; Mr. Ferguson, Kinnochtry; Mr. Pearson, Johnston Lodge; Mr. Bowie, Mains of Kelly; Mr. Adamson, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Bruce, and Mr. Strachan.

It was agreed to hold a meeting in Aberdeen at an early date.

## CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was held in the Committee Rooms on July 30. There was a full attendance of members. Lord Cecil was called to the chair. The annual report read by the Secretary, showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition. It appeared that since the last meeting in February, there had been added to the roll of the Society 117 members, making the total strength of the Society at present 403 members; 10 of these annual members form the majority; life governors are second in point of numbers, and life members last. The finances of the Society were also in a very satisfactory condition. On deposit receipt there was at the Society's credit £750, and at 23rd July they had a current account £101 15s. 3d., in all £851 15s. 3d. Several hints were thrown out as to a more uniform system of naming horses to be entered in the Stud Book, and on the motion of Mr. MARTIN, Auchindennan, a resolution to that effect was agreed to.

## LEICESTERSHIRE.

The show of the Leicestershire Agricultural Society was held on July 30 and 31, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The *Leicester Chronicle* says:—The number of horses entered for competition in the different classes was 262, including the draught horses, and a better lot we never saw at a Leicestershire Show. In class 1, Mr. W. P. Hubbersty, of Wirksworth, Derby, an old exhibitor at our local show, carried off the first prize with a splendid animal, well built, and a good mover. The second was also a nice animal, but the third was much plainer. This class was on the whole a very fair one. Class 2 was hardly so good, but Mrs. Barrs' Cornet, which carried off the £10, was by no means a second rate specimen of a gelding. The third class, for four-year-old geldings or fillies, was more up to the mark. The first prize-taker was a grand mare, bred by John Davis, and belonging to Mr. J. E. Bennett, of Theddingworth; it was a hunter all over, but the second was much milder. In the next class, for three-year-old geldings, there were only three entries. The first award was carried off by a good horse of its class, but looking more like a harness horse than a hunter, a good mover, however, notwith-

standing. The second was rather short of bone. Mr. Hardwick, of Ashby, entered an animal which was much commended by the Judges. The three-year-old fillies were a weak lot, being rather common looking. In Class 6, Mr. Crosland, of Hinckley, won an easy victory with a grand chesnut, by Gem of the Peak, bred by Mr. Jackson, of Drayton Park, Tamworth, and full of bone and quality. For the best two-year-old filly, adapted for hunting, the Earl of Loudoun was successful with a nice bay, of good colour, and showing good breeding, but the young classes, as a rule, looked more adapted for racers than weight-carrying hunters. In Class 8, for yearling colts or fillies, this was particularly observable. The first prize animal was in rather low condition, but was better in the legs than the second horse. The hacks were a very useful lot. Here Mr. Jacques, surgeon, of Leicester, showed to advantage, his first prize evidently being a good worker. In Class 10, for cobs not exceeding 14 hands two inches, Mr. A. R. Adcock, of Ecton Manor, Northampton, took the chief award with his brown gelding Jocko, a grand animal, which has carried off many prizes at the Oxford and other provincial meetings. The whole lot were very useful horses, with fine action. The ponies were powerful, and good looking for the most part, but some of them were hardly up to showyard pitch. The mares were not a grand class, although there were some useful animals. The agricultural department was remarkably well filled, and there was not a bad animal in any of the stalls. In Class 21, Mr. German's was undoubtedly the best animal judged, being exceedingly powerful in the limbs. Mr. Audinwood, of Holbrook, Derby, however, has a grander specimen, which would have run away with the prize had it been in the yard at the proper time. Coming late, it was disqualified. In Class 22 the first prize was given to a splendid horse, but its colour was defective, and it was rather low in the back. The second was a very promising animal indeed. In Class 23, for agricultural geldings or mares (three years old), Messrs. E. and A. Stanford, of Steyning, Sussex, showed a mare with which they have been successful at Oxford and Essex, and whose sire won prizes at the Royal Show four years in succession, but she did not come up to the judges' notions this time. The £10 was given to an animal with exceedingly good qualities, but rather plain in the neck and hind quarters, the second being a mare of great power and substance. In Class 24 the winner looked more fit for hard work than the showyard, but no fault could be found with the judgment which placed it first. In the next class the principal prize-taker was Mr. Loder's bay, "Darling 3rd," a grand animal, which was bought by its present owner for a long price. In Class 28, for agricultural mare and foal, Messrs. Stanford carried off the first prize for the mare with the animal which took the first prize in her class at Kilburn, and which was to-day purchased by Colonel Barlow for the Duke of Westminster, for a large sum—nearly £1,000. Her foal took the second prize, the first being given to a larger colt. There were numerous entries in Classes 29 and 30, and the judges had a good deal of difficulty in giving the awards, but there is no doubt that the best foals had the prizes.

The show of cattle was larger than last year, and all things considered, very fair. The first prize fat ox was an elderly animal with massive loins and splendid hind parts, and the second was not far behind. Mr. R. Wright, of Nocton Heath, Lincoln, a well-known breeder and exhibitor, beat a number of competitors, including the Corporation of Wolverhampton and the Duke of Portland, in the class for fat cows or heifers, with a roan cow with good back and sides. The Wolverhampton Corporation had to be satisfied with the £5, but they were victorious over Mr. Loder, of Whittlebury, and Mr.

J. J. Sharpe, of Broughton, Kettering, who are usually so successful. The Shorthorn bull was a very good class. Mr. Elwell, of Timperley, Castle Bromwich, was awarded the first prize of £10, in Class 33, for one of the Royal Windsor stock, a good meaty animal, Mr. Nash, of Featherstone, Staffordshire, being second with his two-year roan Duke of Goldsmith. There were only three entries in Class 34, for the best Shorthorn bull above one and under two years. Col. J. J. Ellis, of Ellistown, ran away with the first award of £10, with a splendid beast, very forward for his age, 1 year 9 months and 2 weeks. Mr. Orme, of Hoon, Derbyshire, took £5 for his roan, Marquis of Lorne, 1 year 10 months and a week, beating the Marquis of Exeter's Telemachus 17th, 1 year 8 months and a day. Class 35, for Shorthorn bulls above one and under two years, the property of a tenant farmer, was a rather weak one. Mr. S. C. Pilgrim was justly awarded first prize for his roan, by Duke of Rothesay, but it was a moderate beast, and slack about the shoulders. In the Shorthorn cow (over three years) class, Mr. St. John Ackers, of Painswick, Gloucestershire, sent his light roan, Lady Carew 2nd, for competition. She has won many prizes at different shows, and was decidedly the best in the lot, although some nice beasts were stabled by the Duke of Portland (who took second prize), Lord Exeter, and Messrs. T. H. Bland, of Dingley Grange, and J. J. Sharpe. Mr. Ackers was again successful in the next class, for shorthorn heifers, this time, with Lady Carew 3rd, which has also taken awards all over the country. In the shorthorn stirks, Mr. J. J. Sharpe's red, one year and four months, by Duke of Darlington, was given the prize of £7. He is a splendid beast, and comes of a first prize family. The dairy cows were a good lot, but the animals entered in the class for four of one family were mild. The entries of long horns were not numerous, but some fine beasts were in the stalls.

We have again to regret a small show of Leicester sheep. There were only five entered, and two of these came from Northamptonshire, Mr. Cresswell, of Ravenstone, entering the other three.

The show of pigs was small, but good, all the classes with the exception of class 60 for boars of the Tamworth breed, being filled with animals better, perhaps, than any ever seen at Leicester.

#### HORSES.

- Hunter (gelding or mare) not less than 5 years old and under 10.—1, W. F. Hubbersty, Wirksworth, Derby; J. Wood Belford, Rugby.
- Hunter, gelding or mare, not less than 4 and not exceeding 6 years, the property of a tenant-farmer.—1, Maria Barrs, Atherstone.
- Gelding or filly, 4 years old, adapted for hunting purposes.—1, J. E. Bennett, Theddingworth; 2, Mallabey and Alkin, Atherstone.
- Gelding, 3 years old.—1, S. Foster, Atherstone W. Sykes, Leicester.
- Filly, 3 years old, adapted for hunting purposes.—1, D. Ward, Hinckley; 2, the Earl of Loudoun.
- Gelding, 2 years old, adapted for hunting purposes.—1, J. S. Crossland, Hinckley; 2, C. J. Mottram, Ellistown.
- Filly, 2 years old, adapted for hunting purposes.—1, Earl of Loudoun; 2, G. Moore, Atherstone.
- Yearling (colt or filly), adapted for hunting purposes.—1, G. S. de W. Shackleton, Husbands Bosworth, Rugby; 2, J. E. Bennett, Theddingworth, Rugby.
- Hack (gelding or mare), not less than 14 hands 2 inches, and not exceeding 15 hands 2 inches.—1, J. T. Jacques, Leicester; 2, Arthur Dabbs, Humberstone-gate, Leicester.
- Cob (gelding or mare), not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches.—1, A. R. Adcock, Ecton Manor, Northampton; 2, G. Moore, Appleby Hall, Atherstone.
- Pony (gelding or mare), not exceeding 13 hands 2 inches.—1, W. Foster, Grove Villa, Pontefract; 2, J. H. Stokes, Great Bowden House.

Mare, the property of a farmer or tradesman, calculated to breed hunters, with foal at heels.—1, S. Robson, Melbourne, Derby; 2, W. Gascoyne, Tamworth-road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

## JUMPING PRIZES.

Gelding or mare, not less than 15 hands, considered the best fencer.—1, E. T. Moore, Sraptoft Hills, Leicester; 2, R. Thirby, Asby Folville, Melton Mowbray.

## DRIVING PRIZES.

Pair of horses or cobs (geldings or mares), shown and driven in double harness, not less than 14 hands high.—1, J. T. Jacques, Leicester; 2, J. Morley, Sysonby, Melton Mowbray.

Gelding or mare, shown and driven in single harness, not less than 15 hands high.—1, A. R. Adcock, Ectod, Northampton; 2, J. T. Jacques; 3, F. Symonds, St. John's, Linchfield.

## AGRICULTURAL HORSES.

Cart stallion best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, W. German, Measham Lodge, Atherstone; 2, F. Tomlinson, Southwood Ticknall, Derby.

Entire cart colt (2 years old).—1, W. Colman, Naseby Grange, Rugby; 2, W. H. Wright, Caldecote, Leicester.

Gelding or mare (3 years old), best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, R. Ratcliff, Newton Park, Burton-on-Trent; 2, B. E. Bennett, Marston Trussell Hall, Market Harborough.

Gelding (2 years old), best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, W. H. Potter, Lockington Grounds, Derby; 2, T. Orme, Hoon, Foston, Derby.

Filly (2 years old), best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, R. Loder, Whitelebury, Towcester; 2, Sir G. Chetwynd, Bart., Grendon Hall Farm.

Gelding (1 year old), best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, E. and A. Stanford, Ashurst, Steyning, Sussex; 2, W. Barber, Congerstone, Atherstone.

For the filly (1 year old), best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, E. J. Foxwell, Hinckley; 2, Sir G. Chetwynd, Bart.

Mare best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture, with foal at heels.—1, E. and A. Stanford; 2, R. Loder, Whitelebury, Towcester.

Foal best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, R. Loder, Towcester; 2, E. and A. Stanford.

Pair of cart horses (geldings or mares) best adapted to the general purposes of agriculture.—1, Earl Spencer; 2, Robert Ratcliff, Newton Park, Burton-on-Trent.

## CATTLE.

Fat ox, R. Loder; 2, Henry Townshend, Caldecote Hall, Nuneaton.

Fat cow or heifer.—1, R. Wright; 2, the Corporation of Wolverhampton.

Shorthorn bull, over two years and under four.—1, John Edwell, Timberley, Castle Bromwich; 2, Thomas Featherstone, Staffordshire.

Shorthorn bull, above one year and under two years of age.—1, Colonel J. J. Ellis, Ellistown Farm, Leicester; 2, T. Orme, Foston, Derby.

Shorthorn bull, above one and under two years, the property of a tenant farmer.—1, S. C. Pilgrim, The Outwoods, Burbage; 2, Mary Ann Grundy, Congerstone.

Shorthorn cow, in calf or in milk, over 3 years of age.—1, B. St. John Ackers, Painswick; 2, Duke of Portland.

Shorthorn heifer, in calf or in milk, above 2 and under 3 years of age.—B. St. John Ackers.

Shorthorn stirk, above 1 and under 2 years of age.—1, T. Nash; 2, J. J. Sharp, Broughton, Kettering.

Pair of dairy cows, in profit, the property of a tenant farmer.—1, S. Robson, Melbourne, Derby; 2, S. Robson.

Four animals of one family, of the Shorthorn breed, including a bull, a cow in calf or in milk, and two of their produce, not less than 6 months old.—1, J. J. Sharp; 2, T. H. Bland, Dingley Grange.

Longhorn bull.—1, R. Hall, Thulston Grove, Derby; 2, R. Hall.

Longhorned cow, in calf or in milk.—R. Hall.

Longhorned heifer, in calf or in milk, above 2 and under 3 years of age.—1, R. Hall; 2, R. Hall.

## SHEEP.

Pure Leicester shearling ram, whether hired or not.—1, G. Turner, jun.; 2, G. Turner, jun.

Lincoln Shearling Ram, whether hired or not.—1, H. Smith, Nottingham; 2, J. Pears Mere, Lincoln.

Leicester or Lincoln ram, of any other age, the property of or hired by the exhibitor.—1 and 2, H. Smith.

Pen of five Leicester or Lincoln ewes, which have suckled lambs to the 1st of June, 1879.—1, W. Roe, North Scarle Field, Newark; 2, Mrs. Perry Herrick, Beaumanor.

Pen of five Leicester or Lincoln theaves, under 18 months old, intended for breeding purposes.—1, No award; 2, Mrs. P. Herrick.

Ten Leicester or Lincoln ewe lambs.—Mrs. P. Herrick.

Shropshire shearling ram, whether hired or not.—1, G. German, Snaresstone; 2, H. Townshend, Caldecote Hall, Nuneaton.

Shropshire ram of any other age, to have been in the possession of the exhibitor six months.—1, R. M. Knowles; 2, S. C. Pilgrim, The Outwoods, Burbage, Hinckley.

Five Shropshire ewes, that have suckled lambs to the 1st June, 1879.—1, G. German, Snaresstone, Atherstone; 2, W. Baker, Moor Barns, Atherstone.

Five Shropshire theaves, under 18 months old, intended for breeding purposes.—1, H. Townshend; 2, W. Baker.

Ten Shropshire shearling wethers.—1, J. A. Barrs, Nailstone, Hinckley; 2, W. German.

Ten Shropshire ewes, that have suckled lambs to the 1st June, 1879, the property of a tenant farmer.—1, J. A. Barrs; 2, W. German.

Ten Shropshire theaves, under 18 months old, intended for breeding purposes, the property of a tenant farmer.—1, J. A. Barrs; 2, J. W. Fowler, Donisthorpe, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Shropshire ewe lambs, the property of a tenant farmer.—1, W. Geaman; 2, J. A. Barrs.

## PIGS.

Boar of the large breed.—1, M. Walker, Chaddesden, Derby; 2, S. Spencer, Holywell.

Born of the small breed.—1, S. Spencer; 2, W. Walker.

Sow of the large breed.—1, M. Walker; 2, S. Spencer.

Breeding Sow of the small breed.—S. Spencer.

Three breeding pigs of any breed, of one litter.—S. Spencer.

## WORCESTERSHIRE.

The annual show of the Worcestershire Agricultural Society was held at Malvern on July 29, 30, and 31.

*Barrow Worcester Journal* says:—The show of cattle, if not numerically equal to that of some past exhibitions, was one of great excellence. Shorthorns were not so well represented as they might have been, perhaps partly owing to exhibitors having sent cattle very recently to other shows, and partly it may be to that much talked-of depression which if it has tangibly affected anything, has affected the Shorthorn market. Herefords, however, were a fine display; and it was only fitting that at a show on the Herefordshire border Hereford cattle should be conspicuous. Some celebrated bulls and cows were exhibited among the Shorthorns. The Marquis of Exeter's bull, Telemachus, which gained the 100 guinea cup at the recent Kilburn show, took the first prize in the class for bulls above two years old, and also Earl Beauchamp's prize of £25 for the best bull in the Shorthorn classes. This fine animal, now 5 years and 7 months old, was much admired for his symmetrical massiveness. Colonel R. Loyd Lindsay took the blue ribbon for Churchill, the winner of the champion prize at Oxford, and a first prize at the Bath and West of England Society's Show this year. In class 2, for the best bull above two years old, the property of a tenant farmer resident in Worcestershire, there were only four entries. Mr. T. M. Hopkias received both prizes. He was placed first with a good well-built bull, which also took the prize of £10, given by Mr. T. E. Walker, M.P., for the best beast in all classes, bred and exhibited by a Worcestershire tenant farmer. This animal, and others in different classes, were very creditable results of enterprise and skill on the part of local breeders. In the next class, for bulls between

one and two years old, five animals were entered. Colonel R. Loyd Lindsay obtained the first prize with Stamboul, a fine beast, which has previously taken several first prizes, and only carried off a prize last week at the Shrewsbury show. Earl Beauchamp was second with Stonegrave, a capital bull for his age, which had not previously been exhibited. Mr. J. B. Workman and Mr. James Russell bore off without any opponents the honours of the tenant farmers' class for the best bull, under two years old. The next class, for the best cow in milk or in calf, contained some superb cattle, including the Marquis of Exeter's Telemacina, which is without rival, and took not only the first prize in the class, but also Earl Beauchamp's special prize of £20 for the best cow or heifer. Earl Beauchamp was deservedly placed second with Madresfield Rose. Another cow, exhibited by Earl Beauchamp, and one shown by Mr. T. M. Hopkins, were both meritorious. Indeed the entire class was one of superlative excellence. In the cow class for tenant farmers there were only two entries; and there was only one in the heifer class for tenant farmers. Earl Beauchamp took the first prize in the yearling heifer class with Mayflower.

The Herefords were extraordinarily good. In the class of bulls above two years old, Mr. W. Taylor, of Ledbury, was the taker of the first prize with Thoughtful, an animal of considerable reputation, which has obtained numerous prizes. Mr. J. B. Ludy was second with an animal which won first prize at Hereford. It was in the class of bulls between one and two years old that the finest display of Herefords was made; and the judges had some difficulty in coming to a decision. Mr. J. H. Arkwright was placed first with Conjuror, a bull of noble shape and development, which has won many prizes. Mrs. Edwards maintains her high reputation for Herefords with Coomassie, a bull little more than a year old, which had already taken prizes at Kilburn, Cheltenham, and Shrewsbury, and which was now awarded a second prize. The cow class was an excellent one. Leonora, which has secured many trophies, and was first at Kilburn and first last week at Shrewsbury, again carried off the red rosette. Two prizes, one of £10 given by Mr. H. Allsopp, M.P., for the best animal, winner of a prize in the cattle classes, and the other a silver cup, value £10, given by the High Sheriff, Mr. E. Bickerton Evans, for the best cow or heifers, were also awarded to Leonora. The Earl of Coventry was placed second with Giantess, which took a prize at the Royal Show last year. The class of two-year-old heifers was a small one. Mr. Taylor was first with Lancashire Lass, a beautiful animal, which has obtained honours at Kilburn and elsewhere. The Earl of Coventry was second. In yearling heifers Mr. Arkwright carried off both the red and blue ribands. The Malvern Local Committee offered prizes of £10 and £5 for the two best milking cows. There were only two competitors. Mr. E. Archer was placed first, 14 and 13 quarts of milk being obtained from his cows; 12 and 11 quarts from those of Mr. Hopkins, who was second. Mr. Archer took the prize of £5, also given by the Local Committee, for the best single cow.

#### CATTLE.

##### SHORTHORNS.

Best bull in Shorthorn classes.—Marquis of Exeter.  
Best cow or heifer in do. do.—Marquis of Exeter.  
Bull above two years old.—1, The Marquis of Exeter, Burghley House, Stamford.  
Bull above two years old, the property of a tenant farmer resident in Worcestershire.—1, T. M. Hopkins.  
Bull above one and under two years old.—1, Col. R. L. Lindsay; 2, Earl Beauchamp.  
Bull under two years old, the property of a tenant farmer resident in Worcestershire.—1, J. B. Workman, Lord Alington; 2, J. Russell, Newland Grange, Malvern.

Cow in milk or in calf.—1, The Marquis of Exeter; 2, Earl Beauchamp.  
Cow in milk, or in calf, the property of a tenant farmer in Worcestershire.—1, T. M. Hopkins, Malvern Wells.  
Heifer two years old, in milk or in calf, the property of a tenant farmer in Worcestershire.—1, H. Tovey, Stoulton, Worcester.  
Yearling heifer.—1, Earl Beauchamp; 2, T. Harris.  
HEREFORDS.  
Bull above two years old.—1, W. Taylor Showle Court, Ledbury.  
Bull above one and under two years old.—1, J. H. Arkwright Hampton Court, Leominster.  
Cow in milk or in calf.—Prize, Mrs. S. Edwards, Wintercott, Leominster.  
Two-year-old heifer in milk or in calf.—Prize, Mr. W. Taylor.  
Yearling heifer.—1 and 2, Mr. J. H. Arkwright.  
Two best cows, in milk, of any breed or age, the property of a tenant farmer.—1, E. Archer, Great Malvern.  
Single cow, exhibited under the same conditions.—1, E. Archer.  
Best animal winner of a prize in the cattle classes.—Prize, Mrs. Edwards.  
Best cow or heifer in the cattle classes.—Prize, Mrs. Edwards.  
Best beast in all classes, bred and exhibited by a Worcestershire tenant farmer.—T. M. Hopkins.

#### SHEEP.

##### SHROPSHIRE.

Five breeding ewes.—1, G. Graham, the Oaklands, near Birmingham; 2, Mrs. H. Smith, New House, Sutton Maddock, Shifnal.  
Five theaves.—1, Mrs. H. Smith; 2, G. Graham.  
Shearling ram.—1, M. Williams, Bishton Hall, Shifnal; 2, G. Graham.  
Ram of any age.—1, Mrs. H. Smith; 2, Mr. M. Williams.  
IRELANDS.  
Five breeding ewes.—1, W. Firkins, Leigh, Worcester; 2, W. Firkins.  
Five theaves.—1, W. Shepherd, Brook Farm, Colwall, near Malvern; 2, A. Hartland, Holling's Hill, Mathon, Malvern.  
Yearling ram.—1, W. Shepherd; also highly commended.

#### PIGS.

Boar pig, of large breed.—1, W. Wheeler, Compton, Shipston-on-Stour; 2, R. Tommas, Winson Green, Birmingham.  
Breeding sow of large breed.—1, R. Tommas; 2, J. Hall, Poolend-street, Malvern.  
Two hiltts of large breed.—1, W. Wheeler; 2, R. Tommas; Reserved, R. Tommas.  
Boar pig of small breed.—1, Lord Moreton, Tortworth Court, Gloucestershire; 2, R. Tommas.  
Breeding sow of small breed.—1, Lord Moreton; 2, W. Wheeler.  
Two hiltts of small breeds.—1, R. Tommas; 2, Lord Moreton.  
Boar pig of Berkshire breed.—1, E. Tombs, Shilton, Bampton, Oxon; 2, R. Swanwick, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.  
Breeding sow of Berkshire breed.—1, A. Stewart; 2, A. Stewart.  
Two hiltts of Berkshire breed.—1, Messrs. Hewer Brothers; 2, A. Stewart.  
Cart Stallion for agricultural purposes (used in the county).—1, S. Davis, Wollashill, Pershore; 2, T. H. Hodges, Long Marston, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Stallion cart colt, for agricultural purposes, under 4 years old.—1, W. Hughes, Leigh, Worcester; 2, B. Bomford, Pitchill, Evesham.  
Cart gelding or mare, 3 years old.—1, W. Coney; 2, J. W. Webb, Ridgeway House, Cradley, Malvern.  
Cart gelding or filly, 2 years old.—1, G. McCann, Court Farm, Malvern; 2, J. Cridlan, Great Malvern.  
Cart or agricultural mare and foal.—1, W. Hilles, Cotheridge, Worcester; 2, J. Gibbs, The Heath, Bromsgrove.  
Thorough-bred Stallion, constitutionally sound (used in the county).—1, E. W. Bridgewater, Hayton, near Ludlow, Egremont; 2, T. E. Walker, M.P.  
Hunter above 5 years old, equal to 14 stone weight.—1, T. Holland, Malvern Link, Kemerton; 2, J. Goodwin, Priory Court, Cheltenham.

Hunter equal to 12 stone weight.—1, Mrs. Walker, Perdiswell Hall, Worcester; 2, C. Haines, Great Oak House, Tydn, Newport.

Hunter, the property of a tenant farmer, resident in Worcestershire, equal to 14 stone weight.—C. Oakley, Church Farm, Mathon, Malvern, Castle-hill.

Lady's horse.—H. J. Baily, Rosedale, Tenbury.

Harness horse.—W. Hiles, Cotheridge, Worcester.

Hunting mare or gelding under 5 years old.—1, J. Goodwin, Gendarme; 2, A. Potter, Bunsford Mills, Worcester.

Gelding or mare, by a thoroughbred horse, 3 years old.—1, H. J. Bailey; 2, C. Beavan, Morton Court, Tewkesbury.

Gelding or filly, by a thoroughbred horse, 2 years old.—1, H. J. Bailey; 2, J. Goodwin.

Two year old colt or filly most likely to become a weight-carrying hunter, the breeder to be a resident in the county of Worcester.—E. J. Onley, Bransford.

Weight-carrying cob, not exceeding 15 hands.—1, £10, G. Carless, Walnut Tree House, Worcester; 2, £5, Mrs. Walker, Perdiswell Hall, Worcester.

Hack, not exceeding 15 hands.—Prize, £5 5s., A. Godfrey, Leigh Sinton, Malvern.

Pony under 14 hands.—1, £5, W. E. Tucker, Malvern-road, Worcester; 2, A. Hickman, Goldthorn Hill, near Wolverhampton.

Blood mare for producing hunters.—1, £10, J. P. Pope Nuttall, Much Marcle, near Dymock; 2, H. J. Bailey.

Mule.—1, £3, Earl of Coventry, Croome, Severn Stoke; 2, £2, S. Bonsor, North Malvern.

Donkey.—1, £3, N. Wade, Malvern Link; 2, £2, W. Burrow, Gurner's Cottage, North Malvern.

### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

A special contributor of the *Norfolk News* writes as follows:—

"They have excluded the reform of the Land Laws from the programme of the Alliance." So says the *Mark Lane Express* of July 14th. Then is their programme equivalent to that of the play of Hamlet with the Prince of Denmark omitted! What is to be understood by this determination on the part of the executive? Does the Alliance intend to convey the impression that it does not consider the condition of the Land Laws to be a factor in the present agricultural crisis? Or is the Alliance afraid to touch such a delicate subject, lest the susceptibilities of landowners should be wounded and their hostility aroused? The *Mark Lane Express* says that sooner or later this question of Land Law Reform will have to be taken up by the Alliance; then why not take it up from the first? What has the Alliance to fear?

Mr. James Howard writes to the *Times* that "the insecurity of tenure incident to a six months' notice to quit, under which three-fourths of the land of England has been held; the want of security for capital embarked; political subserviency; inflexible and irritating restrictions as to management and disposal of crops; over preservation of game; new rates placed upon the shoulders of the tenants, and, in many cases, the condition of semi-vassalage imposed or felt, have exercised a most repelling influence. Capital, which is now so essential, is not forthcoming, nor will it be until the conditions under which it is employed are amended." He goes on to say that, "as we are entering upon a new era in agriculture, it will be well for all concerned if the evils pointed out are remedied at the commencement. The accession of a score of practical agriculturists to Parliament would be of no little advantage to this important branch of our industry, and would, I believe, prove a national benefit." This, it appears, is the Chairman's programme.

No doubt it is in the highest degree desirable to remedy all these evils at the commencement of that new era in Agriculture of which Mr. Howard speaks—upon which, by the bye, we have not yet entered—but to exclude the reform of the Land Laws from the programme of the Alliance is a peculiar way of setting to work to obtain these remedies. The Marquis of Hartington laid particular stress on the necessity of reforming the Laws of Entail and Settlement in his recent speech on Mr. Chaplin's motion in the House of Commons; a speech which the *Mark Lane Express* describes as marking an "epoch" in politics. Mr. John Bright writes that the whole question of

Land Law reform, "primogeniture, entails, settlements, the right of tenants, and the interest of the public," is "moving on rapidly." At a recent meeting of the Cobden Club a vote of strong and unanimous approval was given to Mr. W. E. Baxter's series of resolutions to be brought before Parliament next session "against the present Laws of Entail, Primogeniture, and Settlement," and in favor of a simple and inexpensive mode of conveyancing and registration. And on every hand, from amongst all classes, and emanating from the most diverse schools of thinkers, the idea is found constantly cropping up and being expressed with more or less of freedom, that there is an evil connected with our system of Land Laws, which acts prejudicially to the interests of the community. Yet now is the time chosen by the Alliance to exclude from its programme the reform of the Land Laws! To "rank outsiders" this may not be altogether incomprehensible, but to some of them—at least—it savors of a policy of modification and compromise.

The Hon. Secretary of the Alliance, Mr. W. E. Bear—whose complete knowledge of the subject in all its bearings is beyond question, and the soundness of whose personal views thereon must be well known to most agricultural readers and political economists—complains, in the *Norfolk News* of July 12th, of the writer (of this and a former communication) predicting the failure of the Alliance if it does not aim at the reform of the Laws of Entail and Settlement; and contends that "the Alliance is not at all likely to fail for not going beyond the views of farmers in framing its immediate objects." It is no doubt true that "few English farmers care anything about the reform of the Land Laws so far as these affect ownership;" but if such reform is a *sine qua non*, the Alliance must necessarily go beyond the present views of farmers. English farmers have not as a rule been in the habit of looking on the Land Laws as the root of the evil by which they are oppressed. But if these laws are the root of the evil, there is therefore the more need—nay, the positive necessity—of setting the matter before them in its true light. Whatever the root of the evil may be, the effectiveness and ultimate success of the Alliance must depend on its machinery being constructed to reach and destroy it. The gist of the whole matter lies in the question as to what constitutes the root of the evil.

The position of the tenant farmer at the present time may easily be described. His capital has been reduced by a succession of bad seasons and low prices for the produce of those seasons; by restrictive covenants; by game; by oppressive taxation and other unfair burdens on land; by high rents and dear labour; and by foreign competition in food products with which he is unable to contend. The price of his grain crops is ruled entirely by the available foreign supply; and the price of home-grown meat is even now influenced, and will doubtless ultimately be ruled by an available foreign supply. There is no possibility of the British producer competing successfully with the foreign producer under the present conditions of land tenure. This season, and former unfavorable seasons, have accelerated the ruin of many a farmer; and have brought matters generally to something like a climax; but the seasons have had nothing to do with the broad facts of the case in relation to foreign competition. The causes have been slowly growing and accumulating, until we are face to face with a crisis which has no precedent. A return of favorable seasons would ease the pressure no doubt, but it would not remove the load. What then is to be done? "Where is the improvement to come from?" is the question asked on every side. To enable the British farmer to compete with the foreign producer he must first of all have security for his buried capital, and then have perfect liberty of cropping, and of selling anything the land will produce. He cannot farm in this way without spending a lot of money on the land; and he cannot obtain money to spend on the land unless it is secured by a lease with a compensation clause at the end of it, and unless he has the inalienable and unconditional right to kill the ground game that is upon it. That, as a rule, farmers cannot obtain such conditions of tenure as these, is a patent fact. There must be a reason why they cannot obtain them; and it is as plain and apparent as the sun at noon-day. A large proportion of the land of England is held by limited owners, under strict entail and settlement. These so-called land owners are in reality but life tenants, or rent-charges. After the provisions of the settlement have been fulfilled, their income will not allow of their rendering themselves liable to pay for the unexhausted interest of the tenant (in case a second tenant cannot

be found), or in other words, for the improvement of the land beyond a definite contract. They throw small and medium-sized farms together to save the expense of buildings, repairs, &c.: they are unable to drain the land or execute necessary permanent improvements; and they cling to their game as being the one premier object for which they condescend to live at all on their estates. These are the men who make the laws; and these are the men who will maintain them, and the "privileges" they secure, until a movement on the part of tenant farmers or the general public, or both combined, assumes a proportion which will necessitate a reform. The question at issue is the usages secured by the Land Laws to one class, *versus* the interests of the entire community; the limited owner *versus* the people. Not one single clause of Mr. James Howard's programme, as given in the *Times*, with the exception of the rating question, can be carried out without a battle with landowners, inasmuch as they all form part and parcel of the same system. Platitudes will not move them a hair's breadth; it will have to be real and down-right fighting—in fact, war to the knife, but happily a bloodless conflict. A voting power will have to be organised, and pledged to impose a certain programme on every county candidate for Parliament; and the first exercise of real working power inside the House of Commons should be to hew at the roots of the Laws of Entail and Settlement. Their destruction effected, capital would be attracted to the soil, for ownership would then be in fee simple for lives in being. Liberal covenants could then be granted, ground game destroyed, and the British farmer would be placed in the only position by which he can reasonably hope to compete successfully with foreign food products. "A score of practical agriculturists in Parliament" would be better than one, that is to say, if they were not in favor of laying down land to grass, and not opposed to high farming, as that one appears to be. But the mere fact of a certain number of practical tenant farmers having seats in the House, would not in itself suffice, because they may be all more or less under landlords' influence. What is really required is for the farmers of England to use their immense voting power with one accord for one definite purpose; namely, to impose on all candidates for the representation of counties a set programme. A few resolute men, who are able public speakers, might even in the interval between the present time and the next general election, produce an effect on the minds of tenant farmers, which would materially alter the representation of counties. In the interesting article of the Special Commissioner of the *Norfolk News*, published on July 5, an ominous remark from an agriculturist is recorded, namely, "that farmers are difficult to move; they will put up with a great deal; nothing will rouse them but some dire calamity like that which appears to be coming upon them; and then they will carry everything with a rush, and care nothing for the landlords, just as at the time of the Reform Bill." A stampede of this sort would not be a difficult thing to bring about now. With ruin staring them in the face, what have they to fear from landlords? Not only so, but the constitutionally timid have the ballot-box to shield them from the scrutiny of the parson, the squire, and the land-agent. Nothing is wanting but unity, resolution, and good guidance.

If the position taken up by the writer is a false one, namely, that the Laws of Entail and Settlement are the fundamental basis on which rest all conditions of land tenure, which are inimical to the interest of the community, by preventing the maximum production of the land, then let it be demonstrated to be so in these columns.

*Appropos* to the subject treated above, it may be seen from outside testimony that the Land Laws are likely to be subjected to a thorough scrutiny in various parts of the world. In Ireland the tenants' question differs in kind from the tenants' question in Great Britain, because the tenants' interest in the soil amounts as a rule to as great or even greater money value than the fee simple of the land itself. But outside this, there is Land Law reform needed. At a recent meeting of tenant farmers held near Ballinasloe the following resolutions were passed:—

"The tenant farmers of the districts of Skenagh, Athenry, and Newcastle, assembled in a monster meeting, declare their inability to meet their present high rents owing to the marked reduction in the price of agricultural products, respectfully demand of the landlords a fair reduction in order to be able to tide over their almost unprecedented distress; also, that the

inhabitants of the several parishes assembled express their sense of indignation at the issue of ejectment processes, which at the present time are considered harsh and tyrannical, and offer to those to be ejected their warm sympathy and practical support." A third resolution established a Tenants' Defence Association, "which will carry on by constitutional means the agitation now happily inaugurated, and which, if persevered in, will give them security in the soil, domestic happiness, and comfort."

From the Antipodes comes a forcible statement of farmers' difficulties in the Colony of Victoria, Australia. The *Gippsland Times* remarks "that the farmers of Victoria might, if they chose, influence the return of a sufficient number of representatives to abolish the fiscal burdens placed upon them. At the general election for 1877 there were of this class of voters on the ratepayers' rolls 23,065, of whom no less than 14,097 did not vote. On the general rolls the number of farmers registered was 1,279 of whom 1,031 refrained from voting. Thus, fully three-eighths of the farming interest was voluntarily effaced at the last election. The total number of farmers on the register was 39,473, of whom 15,128 did not vote. In North Gippsland 450 ratepaying farmers voted, 300 did not! On the general roll, out of 673 registered, only 342 went to the ballot-box. These figures, the accuracy of which is beyond dispute, give colour to the assertion that too many farmers of this colony undervalue the franchise. It is to be hoped they will shake off their apathy at the ensuing general election." And then from Portugal a recent telegram states that the *Gazette* "publishes a decree appointing a Commission, under the presidency of Count Casal Ribeiro, for the purpose of inquiring into the cause of the agricultural crisis which afflicts the country, and providing a remedy." Whilst at home we have also a Royal Commission appointed for the same purpose ostensibly, though in reality it is to be feared that it is but a device of landowners to throw dust in the eyes of farmers and the public, and to shelve the whole question as long as possible.

[The writer of this able article had no right to assume that Mr. James Howard included the whole of the reform which he thinks desirable in his letter to the *Times*. People do not always ask for all they want at once.—Ed.]

**SPOILING THE EGYPTIANS.**—To get the better of a professional card-player is a difficult matter. The Heathen Chinese did it (for Bill Nye, and the narrator of the story, were to all intents and purposes professionals), but the Heathen is a marvel of duplicity, and a man is reckless if he thinks he has it all his own way. Ah Sin, however, has some European relations who lately turned up at Aix-les-Bains, where baccarat and roulette are merrily played. The young gentlemen in question went to the best hotel, and, though they were going to start for Turin by the night train, they strolled into a room to see some play. They were asked to take a hand, and didn't mind if they did, just for a little while. They did not know much of the game, but, just for fun, would try a turn or so. Their progress was wonderful, and they soon became so elated that nothing short of taking turns at keeping the bank would suit them. Finally, when they went to catch their train, they took with them all the ready-money in Aix-les-Bains. They caught their train, and disappeared, and then came the exciting part of the story. When the attendant came to pick up the cards from the table and floor, the number of nines, court cards, and other winning numbers, was quite extraordinary, and out of all proportion to the recognised opinion, which says that a pack contains fifty-two cards. Anxious inquiries were made in Turin, but nothing is heard of the lucky players. Perhaps it was not to Turin that they were really going. They said they were, indeed, but then they said they did not understand baccarat. To put vulgarly, Aix-les-Bains was decidedly "had."

**A SLIGHT OMISSION.**—The lady of a Yorkshire baronet solicited her lord for a dairy farm with which to employ and amuse her leisure hours. Her prayer was granted, and, being an intelligent and industrious farmer, her ladyship throve mightily realising handsome profits by her eggs, her butter, and her poultry. "I am sure, sir," said she one day to her indulgent spouse, "I don't know why tenants grumble as they do; I find farming very profitable." "Yes, my dear," he replied, taking her playfully by the ear, "but you pay me no rent." "Ah!" rejoined the lady, after a pause, "I'd forgot the rent."

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE. MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM.

A public meeting to explain the objects of the Farmers' Alliance was held on Aug. 7th, in the Exchange Assembly Rooms; the Mayor (Alderman Collings) presiding. Amongst those present were Messrs. James Howard (chairman of the alliance), A. McNeel Caird, Gerroch, Wigtownshire), T. J. Clarke (Churchover, Rugby), A. McMillan (Berkswell), E. Scriven (Leamington), R. W. Dale, W. Harris, Councillor Powell Williams, Dr. Barratt, D. Perkins, J. Gadbury, J. Sale, F. S. Schnadhorst, F. Y. Foulton, Docwra, Walters, and the Rev. J. Bury.

The Mayor announced that letters of apology had been received from Mr. John Bright, M.P., Mr. P. H. Muntz, M.P., Mr. J. Chamberlain, M.P., and the Earl of Yarmouth, Mr. F. Freeman, of London, and Mr. W. Scotson, of Liverpool, who had been advertised to take part in the proceedings, were also unavoidably absent from the meeting. Mr. Bright, in his letter, expressed himself unable to take up any new work, and he was of opinion that new men should undertake it. He wished the alliance success in the great work which it had before it (Applause). Mr. Muntz, in his letter, said that the farmers had the power in their own hands, and they should insist on such reforms as were essential to their welfare. Let them propose men at the next election pledged to carry out their views. They could do so if they were determined, and they would then take that position in the country to which they were entitled. So long as they were content with grumbling they would make no progress (Hear, hear). The Mayor then said the meeting had been called under the auspices of the Farmers' Alliance—an alliance that was founded in April last with the object of securing certain reforms in the land laws. It intended holding meetings in all the principal market towns in England, to seek the support not only of the farmers, but of everyone interested in agricultural reform. He should like to know who was not interested in agricultural reform? (Hear, hear). He was certainly of opinion that the whole community at the present moment were more deeply interested in this than in any other question now before them. He was glad that the alliance had chosen Birmingham in which to hold its first provincial meeting. He could assure them of a very hearty welcome on the occasion, and he could further guarantee them a great deal of sympathy. The people of Birmingham were fully alive to the importance of the cause which the farmers had in hand, for it was the people's cause also. He could promise the alliance every assistance that Birmingham could give in carrying out their aims (applause). He might say, however, having in his early days been much amongst farmers, that there were several things they needed to have said to them by the towns (Hear, hear). For ages, for generations past, there had been a traditional feeling of opposition, and he might almost say of antagonism, between the farmers and the towns (Hear, hear). There were strong prejudices still existing to a great extent. That, in his opinion, was a very unnatural state of things, and he believed it would be found by the farmers and the towns, on examination, that such feeling was unreasonable, unnecessary, and injurious to all around (Hear, hear). The farmers had too easily taken for granted all that had been said to them by the monopolist class of landowners. They had not looked on every question on its merits; they had not sufficiently judged and acted for themselves. He would say, further, that the farmers, as a class, in times gone by, had not been so politically independent as the townspeople would like to have seen them. They had been—to their misfortune, not their fault—sometimes under the thumb, politically, of the landowners, whose actions, as shown by their legislation, had been opposed to the best interests of the farmers, and of the people generally (Hear, hear). He was pleased to see that the meeting was thoroughly representative. Every man present that afternoon was presumably in attendance because he had a deep interest in the question which was to be brought before them, and from that point he considered the meeting a most important one (Hear, hear). He believed a better state of things would come about, and a better understanding would be arrived at between the country and the towns. There would be a

recognition that there was a unity of interests between the farmers and townspeople. He was quite sure that the true farmers' alliance would be found with the towns, and with the men who had struggled, and succeeded in the throwing off the burden from their own backs which class privilege had placed upon them (Hear, hear). Those men, having done that, he believed, were now ready to assist the farmers to the utmost in applying to the land those principles which, in the words of Mr. Cobden, had wrought such wonders with regard to commerce. His worship pointed out how, in many ways, the commercial classes were suffering in consequence of the unfavourable position of agriculturists. Mr. Howard and Mr. Caird would address them on the land laws, and, therefore, on that point, he would merely remark that in England they had land laws in existence such as did not exist in any other country in Europe. He had no doubt that the farmers had read the utterances of the landlords, and especially the recent speech made by Lord Derby, who, in the course of his remarks, stated that the farmers might emigrate. The people, however, did not want them to emigrate to Australia or to America (Hear, hear). They required the farmers at home, in order to till the land of the country. But they had no particular objection to the landowners emigrating (laughter and applause). Referring to the Agricultural Holdings Act, he remarked if that Act had not opened the eyes of the tenant farmers, there was really no hope for them. That Act had been useful one way; it had opened the eyes of the farmers to the enormous preponderance of landowners in the House of Commons, for surely no other class would have passed such a law as that (applause). The farmers had a Royal Commission granted to them (laughter). He recommended that Commission, without taking the trouble to sit, to draw up a report similar to three celebrated resolutions which their Puritan fathers passed when they went to take possession of America—first, "The earth is the Lord's;" secondly, "He has given it to the people;" and thirdly, "We are his people" (laughter). Farmers, he argued, must put their trust in themselves. Each man had got a vote, and he had the ballot to protect him in recording that vote. If the farmers knew what they wanted they had the power to get what they wanted, and if they were not plucky enough to use that power it was beyond human skill to help them (applause). If they did not take up the land question themselves the people of the big towns, seeing how largely that question affected them, would speedily settle it in a manner that the landed aristocracy of England did not contemplate (loud applause).

Mr. JAMES HOWARD (Chairman of the Farmers' Alliance) said there never was a period in the history of this country when the position of the tenant farmer excited so much interest as at the present time. Not only the two classes directly interested, but the whole nation seemed to be awakening to the fact that the great industrial interest upon which the food of the community depended was one of gigantic importance. (Hear, hear). The vast and ever increasing sums sent abroad for the purchase of foreign food, amounting, last year, to the enormous sum of 100 millions sterling, coupled with the unmistakable and lamentable signs of the decay of our own agriculture, had created a wide-spread alarm as to the future. Thoughtful men foresaw in that depression, and the interest it had awakened throughout the community, the dawn of a brighter future, and the inauguration of a healthier condition. The general public, since the great battle for the abolition of the corn laws, had manifested very little interest in agricultural questions, or what, perhaps, might be more properly described as the politics of agriculture. The general public had been fully alive to the importance of manufacturing, mining, and commercial pursuits, but had remained to a great extent in ignorance of the importance of agriculture, of the enormous sums embarked in the cultivation of the soil, and of the annual value of the produce of our fields and home-steads. Speaking, as he was, in one of the great centres of industry in England, he hoped he might be allowed to dwell particularly upon the importance of the agricultural interest, and to supplement the very wise remarks which had fallen from the Mayor upon that subject (Hear, hear). In order to show the importance of the agricultural interest, he pointed to the fact that the annual produce of our fields and home-steads was estimated at something between 250 and 300 millions sterling, while the agricultural and pastoral value of the land of the United Kingdom was estimated to be

worth at least 2,000 millions sterling. The projectors of the Farmers' Alliance entertained the opinion that the great body of men who occupied the farms of the kingdom, and who were mainly instrumental in producing so much wealth, were entitled to a larger share in the government of the country than they at present possessed (Hear, hear). The members of the Farmers' Alliance rejoiced that in the county of Warwick an association had been started with that object in view (Hear, hear). He sincerely hoped that the example set by Warwickshire would be followed by every county in England, so that they might speedily see a network of such associations covering the whole country (applause). One object of the Farmers' Alliance would be to promote in every way in its power the success of those associations. Great as was the total amount of the present productions of the soil, he believed that, under more favourable laws, under a more perfect system, the productions of the land of England were susceptible of a very large increase—(Hear, hear)—which would be beneficial alike to the landlord and tenant and the whole community. The Farmers' Alliance did not endorse to the full the statement of a certain eminent statesman (Lord Derby), that the produce of England might be doubled; but there was good reason to believe that one-third more produce might properly be raised, of course under more favourable conditions of tenure, and under wiser laws. What would such an additional sum mean? It would mean 100 millions extra wealth, the greater part of which would go to benefit the trade and commerce of the country (applause). If only one-ninth part found its way to Birmingham, its effect would speedily be discovered in extended employment, and the revival of prosperity. The main object of the Farmers' Alliance was to remove all impediments to progress and increased production. They had no object to subvert except the benefit of the tenant farmer class, and through them the whole community. Attempts had been made to discredit the Alliance, and to prejudice the minds of the tenant farmers by describing it as a political association. Some had gone so far as to say that it was a Radical association. To all such statements he gave a most unqualified denial. Their motto was, agriculture first, and politics afterwards. (Applause.) If a greater number of Liberals than Conservatives had joined the Alliance, that was no fault of its promoters, who could not compel people, whether Liberals or Conservatives to join their ranks. They welcomed all. That day, for instance, they had the pleasure of being presided over by the Mayor of the important town of Birmingham (Applause.) The politics of the Mayor of Birmingham were known throughout England—(hear, hear)—to be of a Liberal character (applause.) It might also be said that those politics were of an advanced Liberal character (renewed applause). Next week the Alliance would hold a meeting in the Conservative county of Essex, where they would be presided over by a very consistent Tory farmer—(a laugh)—who was also a very practical agriculturist; and if Mr. Gardner, to whom he alluded, were to displace one of the political nobodies who now represented that important agricultural county, he (Mr. Howard), for one, would very greatly rejoice (applause). He might further say that, if the Mayor of Birmingham should gain a seat at the next election, the farmers of England might count upon having at least one more friend (loud applause). For his own part he did not think the farmers of England had much to thank either of the two great political parties for. Whatever might be the case with the Irish farmer, certainly his English brother had no debt of gratitude either to the Whigs or the Tories (hear, hear). The opinions of the tenant farmers had been systematically unheeded in the great Council of the nation, no matter what Government had been in power. The demands of the tenant farmers had been either rejected, or, what was a still greater insult, they had been evaded. There was no need to bring before such a meeting as the present all the legislative measures affecting the interests of agriculture which had come before Parliament. There were questions of valuation, police-rate, game laws, malt tax, cattle disease, county government, and agricultural holdings. He did not propose to dwell at any length upon those subjects, but he desired to refer very briefly just to one or two of them. With regard to county government, the views of the farmers had been totally ignored in the provisions of the Bill submitted during the present session. In respect to the legislation on

cattle diseases, the Government had certain views pressed upon them which were held by the more intelligent farmers of England, but those views were systematically ignored. The present Government was more obdurate than any Government which had preceded it, for they not only refused to listen to the farmers, but refused to carry out the recommendations of the Select Committee. They never woke up until Mr. Read's retirement from the Government, and the storm which followed had brought the Duke of Richmond to his senses. The main object of the Farmers' Alliance was to put a stop to sliam legislation, to form an association so strong, with a membership so numerous, that any Government that might be in power would be compelled to give respectful attention to them. (Applause.) The tenant farmers of England and Scotland were put down at something like 600,000 in number; throughout the United Kingdom they numbered considerably over a million. They employed a capital in carrying on their business of something like 400 millions; and were a body of men who had only to use the vast power they possessed in order to send men to Parliament pledged to support their views, and if they used that power, then no matter what Government was in power, it would become speedily obedient, and grant every concession to which the farmers were justly entitled. It might be asked, as it had been asked, what need there was for another agricultural association, while so many were already in existence. The answer to that question was twofold. First of all, none of the existing agricultural associations had succeeded in obtaining the changes and reforms which were enumerated in the programme of the Alliance. In the next place, it was a singular but rather an anomalous fact that, notwithstanding the number of existing agricultural associations, not one was charged with the special duty of looking after the interests of the tenant farmer. The Farmers' Alliance was intended to supply that want. Its chief business would be to look after the interests of the tenant-farmer class, both in and out of Parliament. To show how the immediate pecuniary interests of that class had been neglected, he instanced two rather remarkable cases. The Sanitary Acts were very valuable enactments, but one would suppose that the cost of permanent improvements in a village would be placed upon the shoulders of those who had a permanent interest in the parish; yet, as a matter of fact, they were placed upon the shoulders of the tenant farmer, who very often had but an ephemeral and transient interest in the village. Then there was the important question of elementary education; and valuable as the measure having that object undoubtedly was, the fact could not be disguised that, in the rural districts, it had fallen very heavily upon the tenant farmer. It deprived him of a great amount of juvenile labour and imposed financial burdens upon his shoulders which properly should have been placed upon the owners of the land. His was aware that political economists contended that all rates were ultimately borne by the owner of the land. He did not deny that that was so in the long run; but in respect of new rates he did not think the principle had a bearing. Rates, when once imposed upon the shoulders of a class, had a tendency to remain there for a longer or shorter period, and they did so remain. In the case of the property tax there was a legislative enactment enabling the tenant to deduct the tax from his rent, and he maintained that that ought to have been the case in regard to the Sanitary, Education, and other Acts. (Applause.) One of the objects of the Farmers' Alliance would be to watch these matters in the future, and take care that no burdens were improperly placed upon the shoulders of the tenant without raising the note of alarm. He wished it, however, to be understood that the promoters of the alliance had not put forth their programme as a complete panacea for the present depression, or all the evils that afflicted agriculture. They were practical men, who knew that the prosperity of agriculture was very much dependent upon suitable weather and congenial seasons, and also to a great extent upon the prosperity of the manufacturing and trading classes of the country. Apart, however, from the question of seasons and other matters over which farmers had no control, and there were certain chronic diseases in the lamb system which called loudly for rectification. Some of these things were set forth in the programme of the Alliance. The tenant farmers, he went on to say, were the only important class in the country which were not directly represented in Parliament. There were, he believed, 187 members for English counties in Parliament, and only one of that large

number could be said to belong to the tenant-farmer class. In advocating direct representation of the farmer in Parliament, it must not be supposed that the Alliance entertained any feelings of animosity towards the territorial class. It was quite possible to differ from the views of a class without feeling anything like personal antagonism towards the members of that class. Mr. Howard then pointed out why several matters, such as the repeal of the malt tax, the laws of primogeniture and entail and settlement, had not been included in their programme. He believed that the latter law had exercised a most baneful influence on the agriculture of the country. He was very glad that Lord Hartington had had the courage to denounce such a system, and he was not a little amused to notice the manner in which the Premier had attributed to his lordship views that the latter never really gave expression to. (A Voice: "Just like him.") The Alliance had been blamed for not going into the question of protection, which came before them under the guises of *ad valorem* duties, import duties, and reciprocity. If, however, they devoted themselves to that, the effect of it would be to postpone and indefinitely stave-off, so far as they were concerned, much more practical and urgent matters. Before the people would consent to a return to protection, they would demand that the farmer should be put in the best possible position for competing with their rivals. He concluded by urging the farmers to avail themselves of the opportunity for combining for the promotion of their interests, and the securing of their rights. (Loud applause.)

Mr. McNEEL-CARR said:—"I have been asked to address you in regard to the aspect of the land questions more particularly in Scotland; and I must first disclaim the existence in that country of the unhappy jealousy between town and country which the Mayor has stated to exist in this country. The poorest artisan in our towns feels that he is deeply interested in the reform of these laws, and sympathises earnestly with those who seek their amendment (Applause). I will not make that statement without giving evidence in support of it. We have discussed these questions at great length during many years, till such a state of public opinion has been reached that, in this last Session of Parliament, only one of the whole of the town and county members for Scotland would venture to resist the principle of the Bill for abolishing that priority for rent in favour of landlords which we call hypothec, and which is analogous to your law of distress (Applause). We have had in Scotland for more than two centuries a law of entail of unexampled stringency, under which the owner of any parcel of land was enabled, by merely executing and registering a deed, to settle the land inalienably on his own family and connections till the end of time; and though that law has undergone some modification in recent years, the practical effect of these modifications has as yet been very limited. Under that law, there has been an accumulation of lauded property in the hands of a very small number of persons to an extent which is unparalleled in any free country. Sixty-eight persons own among them nearly one half of the whole land of Scotland (Hear, hear). The land area of Scotland is 18 millions and some odd hundreds of thousands of acres; 17½ millions of acres are owned by 1758 persons, a number who might easily find standing room in this hall. That small number of persons might by law depopulate the country (Hear, hear). The great body of the people—3,200,000—do not own a square inch of their native soil amongst them (Hear, hear). The nominal proprietors of the entailed lands are practically an interminable succession of life rent-chargers, without the interest, and often without the means to perform the duties of full owners. You will easily see how this must operate to the prejudice of the occupiers. Laws have been made to enable such landlords to raise money for improvements, and these have given temporary relief, but in the end they inevitably plunge the entailed estates in chronic indebtedness. All this exhibits a state of things which ought to arrest the attention of our higher statesmen, and to bring about a sounder condition of land transfer and ownership. The law-making power has for centuries been entirely in the hands of landowners. They have a preponderating voice also in the appointment of those who administer and interpret the law. I am far from suggesting that they had any deliberate design to establish laws unfavourable to occupiers, but it is the natural outcome of an exclusive possession of power by a single class that there has grown up a code of laws for determining the relations

between landlord and tenant which is unjust to the former, injurious to the country, and even shortsighted and mischievous as regards the true interests of the landlord. (Hear, hear). The first branch of the law to which I wish to direct your attention is that which relates to the tenant farmers' improvements, and his unexhausted manures. You, Mr. Mayor, have pointed out that the law as to trade fixtures is entirely different from the law which is applied to the fixtures on a farm. In trade the tenants' fixtures remain his own, and he can take them away, or dispose of them as he pleases at the close of his tenancy. But the tenant in agriculture, if he puts up a building, or executes drainage, or does any other permanent improvement on the land which he occupies, is by an unreasonable presumption of law assumed to have intended to make a free gift of it to his landlord. (Hear, hear). This difference was brought specially under attention of the Legislature by a special Committee appointed to consider agricultural difficulties nearly 30 years ago. That Committee recommended that the law as to trade fixtures should be applied to agricultural improvements, and a Bill was brought into Parliament for accomplishing that just and beneficial change. You have heard from my esteemed friend who preceded me how the Agricultural Holdings' Bill took away by one clause what it pretended to give by another, and it is instructive to know that exactly the same policy was pursued in regard to the Bill as to agricultural fixtures; for while it professed to apply the law of trade fixtures to the tenant farmer, a condition was added in the Bill that the farm tenant was to have his right of priority in his fixtures preserved, only if he had obtained the *written consent of the landlord*. The Act passed in that form, and still stands on the Statute Book; but in consequence of that condition, it has proved a practical mockery, and many well-informed persons who are conversant with these questions are even ignorant now that such an Act was ever passed, so completely has it gone into oblivion. The great original principles of law are generally founded on reason and common sense, and wherever they have been found to operate so as to produce injustice, you may be sure that in the course of centuries some twist has been introduced in their application contrary to their original spirit. That observation applies very specially to the artificial manures which a farmer employs in cultivating his farm. His manures are necessarily incorporated with the soil, but the original principle of law in regard to such a commixture is that while the ownership remains with the person who has contributed most to its value, it is his subject to this essential condition that he shall compensate the man who has also contributed to the *event to which he profits* (Hear, hear). It is told of Turner, the great painter, that he had such marvellous facility of execution, that he occasionally dipped his thumb in paint, and with a few rapid dashes on the canvas, produced some of those marvellous effects which have made his name immortal. Let us suppose that Turner, while in the studio of a brother artist, had such an inspiration of genius, and using the paint and canvas of another without the leave or the knowledge of him to whom these materials belonged, created one of those wonderful works of art worth hundreds, or it may be thousands of pounds, by the use of materials that probably were not worth half-a-crown, would be reasonable that the law should award that valuable work of art to the man who contributed towards it the materials which Turner's genius worked upon? I speak with reserve of the law of England with which I am less familiar; but I say that, according to the principles of the old Imperial Code of Rome, which have been adopted in my own country and in most of the countries of the civilised world, the law would take a reasonable view of such a case as I am imagining; it would take account of the value communicated to the finished work by the genius and execution of the artist (Hear, hear). It would award the ownership of the picture, not to the man who contributed the half-crown's worth of material. It would give it to the man who had made the picture—what it is, but always with the just condition that he should compensate the other for the utmost value of his materials (Hear, hear). Now observe that in the case which I have supposed, Turner would have been a trespasser. But the farmer when he incorporates his manures with the soil is carrying out the purpose of his business, for which he occupies the farm (Hear, hear). In his case the greater value is with the landowner, and the ownership on the same principles goes to the owner

of the land, but when he appropriates the improvement it ought to be his on the same condition, that he shall give compensation to the farmer (Hear, hear). I do not say to the extent of what it cost the farmer to add his enrichments of the soil, but to the profits derived from the improvement by him who has appropriated it (Loud applause). At the time when a different rule was applied to the case of manures, from that which would be applied in any other case of commixion artificial manures were unknown. A farmer was not expected to apply to the enrichment of his land anything more than the elements of fertility which he had derived from it, and that may in part account for the establishment of such a rule adverse to farmers, and when judges have once settled a rule of law they have no power to go back on it. That is the province of the Legislature. But now when a farmer in manuring and preparing his green crop, if he would keep himself abreast of the times, finds it necessary to expend £6 or £8 an acre in a single year for lime, manures, and work on land whose intrinsic rent value may be 20s., 30s., or 40s. an acre, it is manifest that the rule which was applied under different circumstances is wholly inapplicable now (Loud cheers). Therefore I say that when the farmer claims to have compensation for his unexhausted manures, he is not asking the creation of any new right (Hear, hear). He asks the Legislature to redress a wrong which was done by the courts of law under circumstances wholly different from those which now prevail (Hear, hear). He is entitled to say "The law which respects the property of the landowner ought also to give just respect to the property of the tenant, and should not confiscate it to the landowner without compensation, on the plea which everybody knows to be false in fact and in reason that the tenant must be supposed to have intended to make a free gift of it to his landlords. (Hear, hear.) Then observe the effect of such a baneful law. The tenant is positively punished by confiscation for doing the best he could for the interest of the landlord, the country, and himself. (Applause.) It is a law which is as impolitic as it is unjust. It operates at every turn by deterring men from doing their best to extend the growth of food. (Hear, hear.) Manures are the proper business of the farmer; they are not at all the business of the landlord. I think it is a mistake to lay the compensation for manures on the landowner. I might remove some prejudices and help to the solution of this question if the liability for compensation were laid by law not upon the landlord, but directly on the succeeding occupier to the extent to which he benefits by the unexhausted manures. (Hear, hear.) No doubt if the Agricultural Holdings Act had been really operative it would have worked round to that, though it nominally lays the liability on the landlord, for it is not to be supposed that landlords, if they paid for unexhausted manures, would, in reletting the farms, generally give the benefit of these manures to the new tenant without stipulating that he should recoup the landlord for them. Therefore, it would probably be better in any legislation on the subject that the burden should at once be laid upon the man who truly reaps the benefit of the unexhausted manures,—that is the succeeding occupier, whether the new tenant or whether the landlord himself chooses to be the occupier. There has been a great deal of apprehension expressed by some landlords on an idea that tenants have an interest in establishing rules for excessive compensation. But a tenant farmer, unless he is quitting the business, is generally the entering tenant of a new farm, at the same time that he is the outgoing tenant of another. He would probably suffer as much by rules for excessive compensation in the one case as he could gain in the other. (Applause.) And therefore the real interest of the tenant farmer is that the rules which may be established on the subject of compensation shall be just and reasonable. We have in Scotland some presumptions of law from which you in this country are happily free. There is a rule of law in Scotland, apart from contract, that a tenant under a lease which does not exceed 19 years is not a liberty to transfer his lease. (Oh, oh.) He cannot even leave it to his widow by will, or if he did attempt to do so the landlord, if he choose (most landlords would no doubt scorn to do it,) play off the widow against her eldest son, and the eldest son against the poor widow, and give the farm to the one or other according to the advantages which each was willing to concede to himself (Hear, hear). It is also a presumption of law in Scotland which you have not in England, that the game apart from contract is reserved to the

landlord (Hear, hear). The chairman of the Alliance has complained loudly that in England a tenant farmer has only six months' notice to remove (Hear, hear). I sympathise with him. It is far too short, and the Legislature has extended the time of notice in Ireland to twelve months. But in Scotland the unhappy tenant may be suddenly evicted on a notice of only forty days (Hear, hear). The law was otherwise in my recollection, but about twenty-five years ago a Procedure Bill for the regulation of the local courts of Scotland was passing through Parliament, and some astute landlord got inserted in it an enactment that forty days' notice before the actual term of removal should be sufficient for the eviction of a tenant. The tenant farmers had no representative in Parliament who understood their interests or fully sympathised with them, and the clause passed unchallenged through Parliament before the farmers in Scotland were aware that such an outrage had been proposed. It regulates the notice for eviction to this day (Applause). There is another presumption of law applicable to all the three countries of the United Kingdom—that a tenant in possession of a farm must be assumed to hold for one year only unless he can show written evidence to the contrary. Now all presumptions of law ought to be founded on fact and reason, and it is not a fact nor is it conformable to reason that a tenant farmer enters on a tillage farm with the expectation of holding it for only one year. He necessarily contemplates a course of tillage (Applause). In manuring his green crops he is laying the foundation for that fertility of his pastures which will come into operation at the end of several years (Hear, hear). It appears to me therefore that the natural and legal unit of possession which the law should presume in the absence of direct evidence should be at the least a course of tillage (Applause). I now come to the keystone of the great arch of iniquity which presses on the industry of the tenant farmer. I refer to those legal priorities for rent which exist under the name of distress in England and of hypothec in Scotland. They are founded on the same evil principle, the giving by the State of special securities to landlords for the payment of their rents. Now when such securities are given, somebody must bear the burden of the security (Hear, hear). Who bears this burden under these laws? The traders, the commercial men, the manufacturers, the general public—*al who have dealings with the farmer.* (Hear, hear, and applause.) The State lays that burden upon their backs for the benefit of landlords. It is the same in principle and nearly the same in results as if the guarantee were given on behalf of the people at large by the State itself, or as if the State provided out of the coffers of the country the funds to enable impecunious men to embark in the business of farming. (Applause.) These laws enable landlords without risk to themselves to accept the competition for their farms of men whom they would not deal with as possible tenants but for the artificial security which the State thus provides. (Hear, hear.) Now let me put to you, the mercantile men and manufacturers of Birmingham, what would you say if the same principle were applied to promote competition in your trades? If it were announced to-morrow that the Government were prepared to interpose the guarantee of the State to enable men without adequate capital to enter into competition with you in the businesses which you prosecute with so much advantage to yourselves and to the country, how long could you prosecute these trades and businesses at your own risk against such illegitimate competition? (Hear, hear.) Let us suppose that the Government by State advance, or by State guarantee, or by legislative securities through priorities of the same character as those which it gives to landlords were to encourage speculators without means to embark in your trades to the extent of one million, would not every honest and legitimate trader in Birmingham be up in arms against it? But in the case of agriculture do you think these guarantees at the cost of the country are limited to one million, five millions, ten millions? No sir, they amount to seventy millions a year. (Hear, hear.) A perpetual mortgage on the industry of the country, for the special benefit of landlords—(hear, hear)—to the great disadvantage of the legitimate farmer. For when the legitimate farmer is pressed by this illegitimate competition he is put to his choice either to abandon the business to which he has been brought up or to submit to unfair conditions as to his tenure and rents. (Applause.) Now this is the law which above

everything else weakens the farmer in his dealings with his landlord. (Hear, hear.) He has to contend with the false competition which has been engendered by the outrageous securities given to enable speculators to compete with him in his business. (Applause.) He has also in making his bargain to contend with and try to contract himself out of all those false presumptions of law which have been wrongfully established against him. The thing which he needs above everything is real freedom of contract, for freedom of contract is absolutely destroyed by the law of privilege and priority, and of false presumptions which I have alluded to. (Hear, hear.) I am glad to say that the constitution of this Alliance contains nothing contrary to the freedom of contract. The nature and effects of these land laws have been during many years thoroughly thrashed out in Scotland, and I would not faithfully represent the prevalent opinion of the farmers of Scotland if I did not take this opportunity of saying that they are substantially at one on that great question of free contract. The Scottish Chamber of Agriculture has over and over again affirmed that principle with absolute unanimity. In 1875 they made a representation to the Government that "if all laws of privilege and unequal assumption adverse to the producers of food were effectually taken away, there would be no need to interfere with freedom of contract." In 1876 they reiterated that statement, and by unanimous vote submitted to Parliament "that this chamber earnestly desires that the whole relations of landlord and tenant should be based on true freedom of contract;" and again in an address to the constituencies, which was unanimously adopted by them a few months ago, they once more recorded, "we abide by the principle of free contract, but it is essential to that principle that the law should be just in its enactments and presumptions, and should hold the balance fairly between the enacting parties." I concede that if we were looking for merely temporary palliatives, the gross inequality in the distribution of ownership produced by artificial laws, along with those unjust presumptions against tenants to which I have referred, and the stale encouragement given to artificial competition for farms, might be fairly used in argument as affording reasonable grounds for saying that these special laws so weaken the position of the farmer, and so destroy his freedom of contract that it might not be unfair, whilst such exceptional laws continue to protect him by special conditions, to prevent his being deprived of any relief which the Legislature might think fit to give him. But the course which alone is provided for in the programme of this Alliance is the right course—that we ought to seek the absolute redress of these irregularities instead of suggesting that they should be palliated by temporary expedients. (Applause.) So long as the law holds the balance unfairly between landlord and tenant I cannot condemn those who, as a temporary expedient, would cast a bit of lead into the lighter scale to redress the balance. But that is not the way by which to enlist the sympathies of commercial men, or to obtain the support of responsible statesmen. I do not believe that any responsible statesman of the foremost rank would stand up before the country to propose that a false balance should be redressed by putting a false weight into the opposite scale. I am sure that the wisest and the right course, and the course which will afford the least handle to misrepresentation, is to stand firm by the demand that the law shall hold the scales absolutely even between landlord and tenant—(applause)—and when that is done and all laws of privilege and unjust priority are swept away, I have no apprehension that the farmers of this country will not be as able as any other class of men to hold their own in making their bargains. (Applause.) It is often a matter of observation that in times when all trades are depressed the farmers are more severely affected, and cry out louder than others. The reason is that in the way which I have pointed out they are placed under unfair and exceptional laws, and in times of difficulty, through that cause, they have not the recuperative power which is found to exist where trade is free. (Hear, hear.) They are in the condition of an unhappy patient who has been subjected to a long course of wrong treatment—a slight ailment becomes to him a great source of danger. (Hear and applause.) In the language which has been used by the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture, "we have been set by our countrymen to wrestle with the foreigner with our hands tied." Emancipate the farmer from these evil laws, give full scope to freedom of growth, by recognising the property of the

farmer in his improvements and manures, and you will find, in the course of a very short number of years that free capital which is now driven by fictitious competition out of the business will produce results which will largely increase our native growth of food, and add to the fund for wages. (Applause.) The landlord's rent is neither more nor less than a share of the profit which remains from the produce of the land after the costs of production are paid, and there is no class of men who will sooner participate in the advantages of free and increased production than the great body of landlords who at present are afraid to encounter the changes which the pressure of foreign competition renders imperative. (Applause.)

Mr. McMILLAN proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting, having heard the objects of the Farmers' Alliance explained, approves of the formation of the association, and recommends farmers and others interested in agricultural reform to become members, and so to increase its influence." As one remedy for the farmers' grievance, he said, there must be a reduction of twenty to twenty-five per cent. in the rent of the land of this country (Hear, hear).

A VOICE: Fifty per cent ("Hear, hear," and applause).

Mr. E. SCRIVEN, in seconding the proposition, briefly referred to the formation of the Warwickshire Tenant Farmers' Association. He contended that the agricultural interest had not been represented in the House of Commons (Hear, hear). The landed interest had been well represented there, and it was sufficiently represented in the House of Lords. He considered the remarks lately made by Lord Derby as to farmers emigrating as most unpatriotic (Hear, hear). He advised the farmers of North Warwickshire to select a candidate to represent the agricultural interest in that division of the county. They had decided to start a candidate in South Warwickshire, and he certainly hoped they would find a good man as a candidate for the northern portion of the county (Applause). Mr. CLARKE having expounded the resolution, it was put to the meeting, and unanimously adopted.

Mr. CAIRD, proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, which was seconded by Mr. W. E. Bear, and carried with acclamation.

The proceedings then terminated.

## THE MARQUIS OF RIPON ON AGRICULTURAL REFORM.

At a meeting held at Cleckheaton on August 2nd, the Marquis of Ripon, in criticizing the policy of the Government, said:—"There might be arguments to be used against the extension of the franchise but Her Majesty's Government's mode of dealing with the matter had been simply to ignore it. That was the mode in which they had got rid of the "small worm" to be found in that grievance. There was another question—as he believed, one of the foremost—requiring settlement at the present time. He meant the question of what was called county government, the establishment of county boards. He knew very well that it was a question which had been before Parliament for many years—in fact, during almost the whole of the 25 years he had been in public life. But all questions had their time. There was a period when they were discussed and pressed upon public attention and upon successive Governments by earnest men, and there were times when the circumstances of the moment compelled public attention to be drawn to them, and when they were ripe for settlement. He ventured to say that this question of county Government was one of these questions at the present time. He quite admitted that it was a difficult question, but it was an important one, because the pressure of local rates is very great, and it was most natural that those upon whom they press should claim a right to be represented in the distribution and management of them. He looked upon this question also as of great importance for the political education of the people, because it was certain that very soon—as soon as even they got quit of Lord Beaconsfield's Government—they would have an extension of franchise in counties; and it was very important that they should give to those who dwell in the counties rural municipalities which might train them for the exercise of that franchise, just as they are trained in the great towns by the municipalities and local boards which there existed. The Government had, it was true, brought in bills on the subject; but what had been

the nature of those measures? They brought in a bill last year which was not a good one. Something might, perhaps, have been made of it, but they withdrew it. This year they had brought in a bill so small, so insignificant, and so worthless that it had been laughed out of every Chamber of Agriculture in the kingdom by their own friends and supporters. . . . With respect to agricultural distress, he strongly deprecated the conduct of those persons, whether in or out of Parliament, who, whilst they tried to avoid committing themselves in words to the principle of Protection, used language which had no meaning, unless it was intended to turn the thoughts of the farming classes to Protection as a remedy for the difficulties under which they were suffering. That was merely to delude the farmers for they must know as well as he did that to impose a tax on the food of the people was simply an impossibility. Thank God it was impossible. But it was mischievous to turn aside the thoughts of men from looking to those matters by which landowners and occupiers might set their shoulders to the wheel in order to meet the difficulties of the present time, and to set them running after a Will-o-the-wisp of the nature of a corn duty. He did think, however, that there was something which legislation might do in respect to agricultural distress. What they wanted was that there should be the freest possible means for the application of capital, whether on the part of the owner or the occupier, to the land; and that there should be no artificial restrictions which should prevent such an application. He had read with the greatest satisfaction the able speech of his honourable friend and leader, Lord Hartington, made upon the occasion of Mr. Chaplin's motion, and he (the Marquis) heartily endorsed the sentiments there expressed.

## Agricultural Societies.

### ROYAL OF ENGLAND.

Monthly Council, Wednesday, August 6th, 1879, The Duke of Bedford (President), in the chair. Earl Spencer, K.G., Lord Chesham, Lord Skelmersdale, Lord Vernon, Hon. W. Egerton, M.P., Sir T. D. Acland, Bart., M.P., Mr. Arkwright, Mr. Aveling, Mr. Cantrell, Mr. Davies, Mr. Druce, Mr. Frankish, Mr. James Howard, Colonel Kingscote, M.P., Mr. Leeds, Mr. Marton, Mr. Neville, Mr. Odams, Mr. Randall, Mr. Rawlence, Mr. Russell, Mr. Sanday, Mr. Sheraton, Mr. Torr, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Turbervill, Mr. Wells, Mr. George Wise, and Dr. Voelcker.

A number of new members were elected.

#### FINANCE.

Colonel KINGSCOTE, C.B., M.P., presented the report, from which it appears that the Secretary's receipts during the past month had been duly examined by the Committee, and by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the Society's accountants, and found correct. The balance at the bankers' on July 31st was £15,711 5s. 5d. The quarterly statements of subscriptions and arrears to June 30th, and the quarterly cash account, were laid on the table. The Committee recommended that the Secretary be authorised to sell out £10,000 New Three per Cents. now standing in the name of the Society, to meet the claims arising from the Exhibition at Kilburn. In presenting this report Colonel Kingscote said it had been found impossible to state the exact loss resulting from the exhibition, but as far as could yet be ascertained, it would come to about £10,000. This report was adopted.

#### CHEMICAL.

Mr. WELLS reported that Mr. Christopher had attended the Council, and that, at his suggestion, some slight alterations were ordered in the fittings of the laboratory. The Committee recommended that the balance of Messrs. Laing and Son's account be now paid. Dr. Voelcker visited the experimental field at Woburn on the 31st July, and reported as follows:—

I found the parts of the field on which the experiments on the continuous growth of wheat and barley are tried, clean and better than I anticipated in this trying season,

The mangolds in the rotation experiments are also clean. There is a regular plant, but the want of sunshine and heat has retarded the growth of the roots, which are still very backward.

Nitrate of soda, as in the preceding year, is showing a marked effect upon one of the four rotation acres now in mangolds.

The clover in the rotation experiments has been fed off once by sheep, and a fresh lot of sheep will now be put on the clover.

Both the rotation wheat and barley are remarkably good and promising as far as the present appearance of these corn crops goes. The ear of wheat is well set; and if the weather at harvest time is propitious, there will be a heavy yield of wheat on all four acres under experiments. The barley also is a fine crop, and likely to yield well this harvest.

The Committee had received and approved the report of the Woburn Sub-Committee.

This report was adopted.

#### LONDON EXHIBITION.

Lieut.-Colonel PICTON TURBERVILL reported that several bills connected with the expenses of the late exhibition had been submitted to the Committee, and discussed by them; and they also presented their recommendations in reference to some matters of detail. This report was adopted.

THE SECRETARY then reported that Dean Stanley's sermon to the herdsmen and shepherds, in the Exhibition at Kilburn; was now in course of distribution, as well as the pamphlet on Butter-making, ordered to be prepared at the last meeting of the Council.

#### GENERAL CARLISLE.

Colonel KINGSCOTE, M.P., reported the recommendations of the Committee, that Mr. Christopher Stephenson, of Naworth, be invited to act as Steward of Forage at the Carlisle Meeting; that the offer made by the local committee of prizes for farms be accepted, subject to the usual regulations of the society; and that the Carlisle Show commence on Monday, July 12th, and close on the following Friday evening. The Committee had approved of a circular submitted by the Secretary with reference to an exhibition of damaged machinery to be shown at Carlisle, and ordered it to be sent to the exhibitors of machinery worked by steam power, and to publish it in the agricultural and engineering papers. This report was adopted.

#### SHOW YARD CONTRACTS.

Mr. AVELING presented the recommendations of the Committee with reference to the restoration of the land and certain footpaths at Kilburn, surplus hurdles and sleepers, and the plan of next year's show-yard at Kilburn. This report was adopted.

#### VETERINARY.

The Hon. W. EGERTON, M.P. (chairman), reported that the Committee had received the following report from Professor Simmonds:—

During the past month only two or three applications have been received from members of the Society asking for veterinary advice, and none of these had reference to any serious or extensive outbreaks of disease. The first in order of time was a communication from Mr. C. W. Hamilton, of Hamwood, Clonoe, co. Meath, asking for advice relative to rams affected with suppression of urine produced by an accumulation of calcareous deposits in the urethral canal. In the reply which was sent, the causes of the affection were fully pointed out, with especial reference to the kinds of food and general management which gave rise to urinary deposits, and instructions were given as to the selection of food and system of feeding with a view to the prevention of the malady. The necessity of exhibiting an occasional dose of aperient medicine, to be followed by a diuretic, and allowing the animals daily walking exercise to induce them more frequently to evacuate

the contents of the bladder, was also pointed out. It may be hoped that these instructions were satisfactory, as no other questions have been asked.

The second communication came from Mr. Hoblyn, of St. St. Columb, Cornwall, who telegraphed to the effect that his cows and young stock had become suddenly attacked with swelling of their feet, accompanied with much pain and lameness. It was at first thought the animals were attacked with "foot-and-mouth disease," and instructions for their treatment, and the steps which were to be taken in conformity with regulations of the Cattle Diseases Act, were promptly forwarded. The next day a telegram stating that the animals were all better came to hand, and it subsequently transpired that the affection was simply due to local causes, and chiefly from the animals having been kept on wet pasture ground.

The third application for advice was also by letter from Mr. A. Spurr, West Coker, Yeovil. The case was one of a discharge of blood with the milk, which had shown itself in a heifer which had calved in April last. The cause of hæmorrhage explained, and instructions given as to the means to be adopted to arrest the bleeding. No further communication as to the progress of the case has been received.

Mention may also be made of an experiment which was had recourse to for the purpose of determining whether some sheep imported from America were the subjects of "foot-and-mouth disease." The Government Inspectors had rightly determined that they were so; but through the kindness of Professor Brown, I was allowed an opportunity of testing the opinion by direct experiment. A lamb was selected for this purpose, and inoculated with a few scratches made with the lancet in the front part of each fore foot, immediately between the digits, where the skin is thinly covered with hair. On the third day of the inoculation a large vesicle, perfectly characteristic of "mouth-and-foot disease," was developed in one foot; but no effects were produced in the other. The progress of this vesicle was regular, and in two or three days it had declined. The inoculating material was obtained from the foot of one of the American sheep, in which broken vesicles were found to exist.

In concluding this report I have to inform the committee that progress is being made in experiments relating to the production of trichinosis in different animals from its original source of introduction into this country from America.

The Committee had authorised the Secretary to communicate with the Royal Veterinary College to see if arrangements could be made for the examination of students competing for the Society's veterinary medals and prizes from the Scotch Veterinary Schools, similar to those made in the case of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's prize. This report was adopted.

ON THE motion of Colonel KINGSCOTE, seconded by the Hon. W. EGERTON, votes of thanks were passed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for allowing the Society to obtain the use of their land at Kilburn for the purposes of the International Agricultural Exhibition; to the Kilburn Volunteer Fire Brigade; to Mr. T. Bate (Local Agent); to the District Superintendent of the Post Office; to the London and Westminster Bank; to Mr. O. Claude Robson, Surveyor of the Willesden Local Board; to Mr. Salter and Mr. Benister, tenants of the land; and to the clergymen who officiated at the Divine services in the show yard (viz., Dean Stanley, Canon Duckworth, the Rev. A. H. Lutman, M.A., Chaplain to the Lord Mayor, the Rev. Dr. Williams, rector of Broudesbury, and the Rev. J. C. Wharton, Vicar of Willesden), for their efficient assistance during the Exhibition. Certificates were also ordered to be prepared and sent to the dairymaids in recognition of their services in the International Dairy.

The SECRETARY reported that he had received from Mr. Carruthers the following report on the locusts sent by Her Majesty's High Commissioner from Cyprus, which was ordered to be published in the proceedings of the Council; and a copy transmitted to the Foreign Office:—

The specimens forwarded to me consisted of several specimens of *Coloptenus italicus*, and two specimens of *Tramnotrigon Lodereri*.

The *Coloptenus italicus* is a migratory locust, which is very destructive to vegetation in the north of Africa and in Asia. The specimens first sent from Cyprus no doubt represent early stages of this insect, which, in its perfect state, has large wings, capable of long sustained flight. The *Tramnotrigon*, on the other hand, has undeveloped wings that are incapable of flight.

It is stated that the locusts "at Paphos and Limassol are of different species from the ordinary locust of the island." Perhaps the unexpected differences in the movement of the locusts may be due to the presence of different species, having very different habits. It would be desirable to obtain specimens of all these insects in their perfect state, so that we may discover what are the enemies that have to be dealt with.

Major Bowlby proposes to take steps for collecting the eggs between the 1st July and the 1st December, when they are dormant in the ground. This is certainly the stage in the insect's life when it can be most efficiently attacked. The female deposits a mass of eggs cemented together with a mucous substance, in a slightly curved hole which she makes in the ground within an inch of the surface. This operation is probably repeated until several egg-clusters are deposited. Major Bowlby estimates the number of eggs laid by each female at 90.

The efficient prosecution of Major Bowlby's plans for collecting the eggs must help greatly to ameliorate the plague. I would, however, venture to submit that, as the eggs are destroyed by exposure to the sun, the surface of the ground should be broken up, wherever it is practicable, by harrowing or shallow ploughing. The eggs will thus be exposed to the birds that feed on them, and those that escape being consumed will have their vitality destroyed by being completely desiccated. Unless some systematic method of turning up the whole surface of the earth is adopted by the collectors, this would be a more effective way of securing the complete destruction of a season's eggs.

When the eggs are hatched, which from Major Bowlby's report appears to be early in March, steps must be taken to trap the young insects. The method invented by Mr. Mattei, and adopted by Major Bowlby, appears unnecessarily complicated. If, instead of digging the pits or trenches for catching the locusts, in the direction of the line of their progress, they were dug at right angles to it, there would be no need to erect the oil-cloth traps to arrest their progress, and drive them into pits. The young locusts in their progress would fall into the pits, and perish at the bottom. The pits or ditches should be two feet wide and two feet deep, with perpendicular sides. No zinc covering is employed for such ditches in America. The use of the oil-cloth screen and the zinc cover may be necessary where the ditches cannot be dug to a suitable depth.

Great benefit has been secured in America by drawing light metal pans over the fields, in which the wingless insects are caught. "A good and cheap pan is made of ordinary sheet-iron, eight feet long, eleven inches wide at the bottom, and turned up a foot high at the back and an inch high at the front. A runner at each end, extending some distance behind, and a cord attached to each front corner, complete the pan, at a small cost. It is easily pulled by two boys; and by running several together in a row, one boy to each outer rope, and one to each contiguous pair, the best work is performed with the least labour." The bottom of the pan is covered with kerosene, or some kerosene is floated on the surface of a little water placed in the bottom. The kerosene is speedily fatal to the locust.

Much has been done in the Western United States to cope with the locust, where it is often very destructive to the crops. Dr. Riley, in the "Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Missouri Entomological Reports," and in his separate work on the "Locust Plague in the United States" (1877), has recorded the experiences of the locust, and the various efforts which have been made to destroy it. Copies of these publications should be in the hands of Major Bowlby; he might find some of the plans described by Dr. Riley fitted for the special conditions which exist in Cyprus.

The services of the natural enemies of the locust should not be under-valued; and especially should the increase of insectivorous birds be encouraged. Amongst the indigenous birds of Cyprus, there are a considerable number that should be serviceable in this direction, and some of them, like *Glareola pratincola*, the locust is the favourite food. Pigeons, common fowls, and pigs greedily devour the locust.

WILLIAM CARRUTHERS

The following letter from the Shorthorn Society was read, and on the motion of Lord VERNON, seconded by Mr. DAVIES, the thanks of the Council were ordered to be forwarded for the grant:—

SIR,—By direction of the Council of this Society, I beg to inform you that, on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, the following resolution was unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Council held yesterday, viz. :—

“That £25 be paid to the Royal Agricultural Society, for prizes awarded at the show at Kilburn, under the resolution of the Council of July 11th, 1875. At the same time the Committee suggest that the Council should make a grant to the Royal Agricultural Society of the sum of £100, towards the expenses incurred by that Society in the arrangements for carrying out the giving of the prizes.”

I have the pleasure of enclosing you a cheque for the above amounts. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. J. HINE, Secretary.

H. M. Jenkins, Esq., Secretary Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Several other letters were read, and the Secretary was instructed to return suitable replies in each case.

The SECRETARY, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Seeds and Plant Diseases Committee, was authorised to make arrangements for the trial of the samples of wheat which may be offered to compete for the Society's prizes for new varieties of seed-corn.

The Council then adjourned over the recess, until Wednesday, November 5th, the usual holidays having been granted to the Secretary and clerks.

### BRITISH DAIRY FARMERS'.

The monthly meeting of the Council took place on the 5th Aug., at the Offices, 446, Strand. Present: Dr. Voelcker, in the chair, Messrs. E. C. Tisdall, T. Nuttall, H. Tait, W. Freeman, Garrett Taylor, H. Simmons, A. Tisdall, H. S. Holmes Pegler (Hon. Sec.), and F. Morrison (Assistant Sec.).

The following new members were elected:—

Mr. Hugh C. Smith, Mount Clare, Roehampton, Surrey.

Mr. E. A. Hambro, Roehampton.

Mr. Arthur E. Woodbridge, Woodcote, Chichester.

The Rev. J. G. S. Nichol, Lichfield Rectory, Micheldever, Hants.

Mr. G. H. Hill, Powis Street, Woolwich.

#### GENERAL MEETING.

It was decided that the annual general meeting of the Society should take place at the Dairy Show, on the 13th October, at two o'clock.

#### DAIRY SHOW.

Preliminary arrangements were made for the election of a Show Committee, also of stewards and judges. With reference to the last-named, a letter was read from Mr. Richard Good, of Aberlow, County Cork, proposing that the judges of Kerry's should be specially selected from breeders of that class of cattle. It was considered, however, that the entries of these animals had hitherto been much too few to permit of special judges being appointed in these classes.

#### DEPUTATION FROM A COMMITTEE OF EXHIBITORS OF THE PLANS OF FARM BUILDINGS AT THE KILBURN SHOW.

A letter was read from Mr. Thomas Porter, of the Grange, Airedale, a member of the Association, referring to the action of the Royal Agricultural Society in withholding the awards in the class for plans and models at the late Agricultural Show, and requesting to know whether the Council would allow the same designs to be re-exhibited at the Dairy Show. Subsequently to the reading of the letter, a deputation from a Committee of exhibitors had an interview with the Council upon the subject. After a short discussion, the Chairman, addressing the deputation, stated that it would be impossible for the Council to carry out the request, as the schedule was published, and there was no class wherein the Drawings referred to could be entered, the Plans and Models class being solely for designs of dairy homesteads.

#### JOURNAL COMMITTEE.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the new code of Bye-laws which were in course of preparation by the Journal Com-

mittee were not in a sufficiently complete state to be submitted to the Council that day as anticipated. It was proposed that Professor J. Wortley Axe be added to this Committee.

The discussion of Mr. Gilbert Murray's motion on the establishment of a Dairy School, and of Professor Axe's motion on the appointment of a Scientific Committee, were deferred on account of the absence of the movers.

After taking some preliminary steps towards the election of a President for the coming year, and transacting certain matters of detail with reference to the immediate registration of the Society, the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, Sept. 2nd.

### DENBIGHSHIRE AND FLINTSHIRE.

The thirty-eighth annual show of this Society was held at Ruthin on Tuesday, August 5. The *Oswestry Advertiser* says:—“Early in the morning there was a steady down-pour of rain, which continued without any intermission until late in the afternoon. The showyard in these circumstances presented anything but an animated appearance, and visitors sinking ankle deep in mud found their visit a somewhat questionable pleasure. The show was decidedly smaller than has been seen for the last nine years. There were about 782 entries, which showed a considerable decrease had taken place. The meeting was attended, taking into consideration the unsettled state of the weather, exceedingly well, but financially it is feared the meeting will be a serious loss to the Society. The weather apparently created a panic amongst the officials as well as the public, as the judgings could not be proceeded with very quickly on account of difficulties arising partly from the weather and other causes, and consequently anything like a complete list of the successful competitors could not be obtained until after the show had terminated.

“The Shropshire Down sheep were hardly equal to the average. The Leicester sheep were an unusually good class, and there had never been better rams exhibited. The same could be said of the ewes and lambs, both Shropshire and Leicester. The show of Welsh sheep was not as good as at previous shows, and some exhibitors were disqualified by showing Cheviot for Welsh. The cattle were of inferior order, and the day was such that they could not be seen to advantage; there were, however, one or two fine bulls. The agricultural horses possessed no special feature of interest. There was a very large show of a superior class of cobs, which made it a difficult matter for the judges to make equitable awards. The implements, in which there was no competition, were rather poor. The butter, especially fresh, was of excellent quality; tub was hardly as good as might have been expected. The root crops were a poorer class, and of rather inferior quality.”

#### CATTLE.

##### SHORTHORNS.

Bull, above 2 and not exceeding 4 years old, being an approved stock getter.—1, W. Kellett, Plas Newydd, Llanfair Ruthin; 2, Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., Wynnstay.

Bull, above 1 and under 2 years old.—1 and 2, R. Blezard, Pool Park, Ruthin.

Cow, in calf or milk.—1 and 2, J. Roberts, Well House Farm, Saltney, Chester.

Heifer, above 2 and under 3 years old, in calf or milk.—1, W. Kellett; 2, O. J. Williams, Cefn, St. Asaph.

Heifer, above 1 and under 2 years old.—1, J. Roberts; 2, Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., M.P.

##### WELSH.

Bull, above 2 and under 3 years old, being an approved stock getter.—1, G. Jones, Pen-y-bont, Mold; 2, R. Jones, Fifynnon Wen, Cerrigydrudion, Corwen.

Bull, above 1 and under 2 years old.—1, T. Jones, Toi Uchaf, Hafod Elwy, Cerrigydrudion, Corwen; 2, J. Roberts, Clasmor, Nantglyn, Denbigh.

Cow or heifer, in calf or milk.—1, G. Jones; 2, J. Jones, Caeon, Corwen.

Heifer, above 2 and under 3 years old, in calf or milk.—1 and 2, G. Jones.  
 Heifer, above 1 and under 2 years old.—1 and 2, G. Jones.

## CROSS BREED.

Half or cross-bred cow, in calf or milk.—1 and 2, J. Roberts.  
 Half or cross-bred heifer, above 2 and under 3 years old, in calf or milk.—1, W. Edwards, The Brewery, Ruthin; 2, J. S. Bankes, Soughton Hall, Northop.  
 Half or cross-bred heifer, above 1 and under 2 years old.—1, W. Edwards; 2, R. G. Evans, Leyland Arms, Llanclidan, Ruthin.

## ANY BREED.

Four dairy cows of any breed, the same not having competed in any other class.—1, J. Kerfoot, Faeol bach, St. Asaph; 2, R. Blezard, Pool Park, Ruthin.  
 Pair of dairy cows, of any breed, the property of a tenant farmer, the same not having competed in any other class.—1, W. Edwards, The Brewery, Ruthin; 2, E. Lloyd, Castle Farm, Ruthin.  
 Bull calf, calved in the year of the Show.—1, J. Roberts, Well-house Farm, Salfrey; 2, J. Kerfoot, Faeol Bach, St. Asaph.

## HORSES.

Brood mare, and foal at her foot, for general purposes of agriculture.—1, S. Denison, Pwllhalog, Cwm, Rhyl; 2, T. H. Jackson, Gyrn Castle, Llanasa, Holywell.  
 Pair of horses, for agricultural purposes.—1, T. Foulkes, Kilford, Denbigh; 2, J. T. King, Bodynharad, Ruthin.  
 Cart gelding or filly, above 2 and under 3 years old, for general purposes of agriculture.—1 and 2, W. Davies, Llysfas, Ruthin.  
 Cart colt or filly, above 1 and under 2 years old.—J. Taylor, Plas Captain, Denbigh; 2, S. Denison, Pwllhalog, Cwm, Rhyl.  
 Tenant farmer's brood mare and foal at her foot, for the general purposes of agriculture.—1, R. Hughes, Llandewi, Llanrwst; 2, W. Jones, Pwllglas, Ruthin.  
 Tenant farmer's pair of horses, for the general purposes of agriculture.—1, R. Hughes, Parc-y-twl, Denbigh; W. Edwards, The Brewery, Ruthin.  
 Cob, mare, or gelding, not exceeding 14 hands 2 inches high.—1, T. Roberts, Higher Berse, Wrexham; 2, T. R. Parry, Holt-lodge, Wrexham.  
 Welsh brood mare pony, not exceeding 13 hands high, with foal at foot.—1, J. Davies, Llandegla, Mold; 2, W. Jones, Cerrig-y-druidion, Corwen.  
 Roadster mare, with foal at foot.—1, T. L. Roberts, Garthgynan, Ruthin; 2, O. J. Williams, St. Asaph.

## HUNTERS.

Hunter, mare, or gelding, which shall be considered the best performer over hurdles, rails, and water.—1, H. Lees, Pickhill Hall, Wrexham; 2, Major Walwyn, Gresford, Wrexham; 3, W. W. Shand, Gweysanay Hall, Mold.

## STALLIONS.

Roadster stallion, which shall travel through the Society's district.—1, W. Edwards; 2, J. Morris, Llanfair, Ruthin.

## SHEEP.

Border Leicester, or other long-wooled ram, not more than 3 shear.—1, P. B. Davies-Cooke, Shifna hir, Mold; 2, D. White, Queen's Ferry, Flint.  
 Shropshire-down ram, not more than 3 shear.—1, T. W. Bowdage, Tyddyn-y-gwynt, Mold.  
 Welsh mountain ram, not more than 3 shear.—1, T. Jones, 2, E. Thomas, Trefnant, Rhyl.  
 Shearling long-wooled ram.—1, A. Belfour, Mount Alyn, Rossett, Wrexham; 2, J. Read, Northop Hall, Northop, Flint.  
 Shearling Shropshire-down ram.—1, Major C. R. Conwy, Bodrhyddan, Rhyl; 2, T. W. Bowdage.  
 Pen of 3 long-wooled ewes, which have reared lambs this season.—1, J. Read; 2, P. B. Davies-Cooke.  
 Pen of 3 Shropshire-down ewes, which have reared lambs this season.—1 and 2, T. W. Bowdage.  
 Pen of 3 Welsh mountain ewes, which have reared lambs this season.—1 and 2, E. Thomas, Penis'r Waen, Trefnant, Rhyl.  
 Pen of 3 ewes, of any mountain breed, excluding Cheviot, and not restricted to Welsh, which have reared lambs this season.—1 and 2, E. Thomas.

Three shearling long-wooled ewes.—1, D. White, Shotton Farm, Queen's Ferry, Flint; 2, P. B. Davies Cooke, Shifna hir, Mold.

Three shearling Shropshire Down ewes.—1, T. W. Bowdage, Tyddyn-y-gwynt, Mold; 2, Major C. R. Conwy, Bodrhyddan, Rhyl.

Pair of long-wooled ram lambs.—1 and 2, J. Read, Northop Hall, Northop, Flint.

Pair of short-wooled ewe lambs.—1, J. Scott Bankes, Soughton Hall, Northop, Flint; 2, T. W. Bowdage.

Three long-wooled ewe lambs.—1 and 2, J. Read.

Three short-wooled ewe lambs.—1 and 2, T. W. Bowdage.

## PIGS.

Boar of the large breed, not more than 4 years.—1, W. Kellett, Plas Newydd, Llanfair, Ruthin; 2, Lieut.-Col. B. G. D. Cooke, Cholomendy, Mold.

Boar of the small breed, not more than 4 years.—1 and 2, Lieut.-Col. B. G. D. Cooke.

Sow (in-pig or milk) of the large breed.—1, T. R. Parry, Holt Lodge, Wrexham; 2, Lieut.-Col. B. G. D. Cooke.

Sow (in-pig or milk) of the small breed.—1 and 2, Lieut.-Col. B. G. D. Cooke.

## ROYAL OF IRELAND.

The annual summer show of this Society was held at Newry, on August 6th, 7th, and 8th. The *Freeman's Journal* says:—Agriculture has been defined as "the foundation of manufactures, since the productions of nature are the materials of art;" but Ireland, an essentially agricultural country, has not yet realised to its full extent the truth of Gibbon's definition. Of late years, indeed, the implements and machinery have become a more important element of the annual shows, and the prizes given for flax and cereals are doing something towards stimulating native enterprise in those directions. Much has been said and written on the subject of the aid given by Government and by large societies, like the Agricultural Society, towards the development of Ireland's resources and the promotion of her industries. It is interesting in this connection to turn to a prize list issued by the Dublin Society in 1771 for the encouragement of Irish agriculture and manufactures, and contrast the sums there offered with the aid that the Imperial Exchequer is so grudgingly giving to the Irish Fisheries and other native enterprises. In 1771 the Dublin Society offered £960 for the reclamation of bog, £800 for the reclamation of mountain, £320 for the reclamation of moor, various money prizes for the cultivation of wheat, turnips, cabbages, burnett, lucerne, sainfoin, &c.; a gold medal for the sowing of the greatest quantity of acorns, £50 for every rape mill erected, £20 for the cultivation of hops, and £200 for madder, making altogether a sum of £3,981 for agriculture. Then, for the promotion of manufactures, £3,831 13s. 4d. was given, of which £650 was for the silk manufacture, and £600 for the woollen trade. The linen trade, which is now the staple of Ulster, is not mentioned in the schedule. Some £200 was offered in prizes for the encouragement of the fine arts, and £500 to be given in premiums of 2s. a ton "for every ton of Irish coals which shall first be brought to and sold in the city of Dublin between the 1st of July, 1771, inclusive, and the 1st of July, 1772." However, the *laudator temporis acti* finds little sympathy in "the living present," and, instead of moralising on the past, it may be more profitable to consider the progress of the Royal Agricultural Society by contrasting the entries at some recent shows. The totals of cattle, sheep, swine, horses, poultry, flax, and dairy exhibits at the last five shows were:—1875, Londonderry, 357; 1876, Cork, 674; 1877, Galway, 493; 1878, Dublin, 1,200; 1879, Newry, 460. And these totals divided into classes show as follows: Cattle—Londonderry, 99; Cork, 118; Galway, 106; Dublin, 115; Newry, 93.

Sheep—Derry, 55; Cork, 157; Galway, 122; Dublin, 188; Newry, 74. Swine—Derry, 60; Cork, 86; Galway, 45; Dublin, 58; Newry, 50. Horses—Derry, 44; Cork, 139; Galway, 121; Dublin, 599; Newry, 99. It will thus be seen that, as might be expected, the Newry show surpasses the Derry, but does not come up to the other shows, which were more conveniently situated for the purposes of exhibitors. There is a fair display in cattle and horses, while in sheep there is a falling off.

In the Shorthorn class there are 31 exhibits, the first prize being carried off by Lord Rathdonnell's splendid Shorthorn roan bull Anchor, which was bred by Mr. T. K. McClinton Bunbury, and has carried off first prizes at most recent competitions. Mr. Vance's Chief of Lothian was second. The class for best bull calved in 1878 brought out ten good animals, and the first prize went to Mr. Richard Chaloner's Royal Gipsev, Lord Clermont's red bull Matchem being second. In Herefords there were only two exhibits, both the property of Mr. G. A. Stephen's, St. Doulogh's Dublin, and both deemed worthy of first prize in their classes. Mr. Owens, of Blessington, stood unopposed in the Polled Angus class, in which he showed a very fine pure bred black bull, Black Knight, which took first prize last year, and takes another this year. The Ayrshires numbered 20, and the principal prizes were carried off by Mrs. Hope, Castleblayney, with the bull Prince, and the heifer Beauty, and by Lord Clermont, with a bull bred by Mr. Robert Paton, Ayrshire, and an Ayrshire cow. In the Kerry class, Mr. Robertson's famous bemedalled bull Busaco was missing. That gentleman, however, vindicated his claim as the most successful breeder of Kerries in the country by a beautiful animal, Border Chief, which gained first prize. A Kerry bull, aged one year, named Isaac Butt, whose sire was Dr. Keenaly and grand sire Sir Roger Tichborne, was unnoticed by the judges. The Kerrics numbered fifteen, and the Channel Islanders ten. In the Tenant Farmers' class for best cow in calf or milk, and the best heifer, there were eleven entries; Leicester and Border Leicesters numbered 31, and in these classes Mr. W. Owen, Mr. George Turner, an English exhibitor from Northamptonshire, Viscount de Vesci, and Mr. Franks, Mountrath, were well represented. Only five sheep were shown in the Roscommon class, all from the celebrated stock of Mr. Hannan, Killucan. The Shropshire class brought 22 competitors, the Naper Challenge Cup being won by Mr. R. J. Nash, the well-known sheep breeder of Park House, Glanmore, Cork. Among the sheep were also shown some Lincoln, five two-shear pure Cheviot ewes, and a three-shear Cheviot ram, bred by Mr. William Calvert, of Rostrevor. The 105th Light Infantry exhibited the regimental pet, a shearing fell ram, bred by Mr. Middleton Moore, Grimes hill, Westmoreland. In swine the principal exhibitors are—Lord Clermont, Newry; Mr. David Glenn, Londonderry; the Earl of Erne, Mr. John Molloy, 72, Mountjoy Street, Dublin, who won the first and three second prizes, and Mr. Thomas Byrne, 39, Lower Buckingham Street, Dublin. In poultry, Messrs. Mulligan, Belfast; Herdman, Strabane; M. Mahony, Baldoyle; Alfred Field, Blackrock; C. Graham, Baldoyle; and H. M. Charley, Hollywood. The show of dairy produce is good, but it is noticeable that the tenant farmers' class is without a single entry, and the same is the case with flax, there not being a single exhibit. Among the thoroughbred stallions, eight in number, is included that splendid animal, Mr. Lindsay's Massanissa, bred by Count Lagrange, which won the Croker Challenge Cup this year for the second time; and Mr. Patrick O'Connor, 49, Queen Street, Dublin, takes second place with his thoroughbred Multum in Parvo. There are nine agricultural stallions. The agricultural brood mares are only three, and Mr. Paul's

Clydesdale mare Fanny, which won the Scotch Rath Challenge Cup last year, takes it again. The hunter class has 27 entries, and several well known exhibitors from the West of Ireland are missing. The filly section has 25 entries; the weight-carrying cobs are eight, and there are seven ponies in the show. Generally speaking, the arrangements made by the local committee have been very good, and will in a large measure contribute to the success of the show. The Lord Lieutenant, who has been the guest of Mr. Maxwell Close, M.P., of Drum-banagher Castle, arrived after three o'clock. He was received by several gentlemen on behalf of the Council, and was also presented with an address by the Newry Town Commissioners, to which he replied. The competition for the jumping prizes commenced at four o'clock, and by six the show was over for the day. The show of implements is a very large and very good one.

## PRIZE LIST.

## HORSES.

## THOROUGH-BRED STALLIONS.

The thoroughbred sire in the English Stud Book which in the opinion of the judges is best calculated to improve and perpetuate the breed of sound and stout thoroughbred horses, weight carrying hunters, and horses for general stud purposes.—1 and challenge cup, T. Lindsay, Derryboy House, Killyleagh, county Down; 2, P. O'Connor, 49, Queen street, Dublin; 3, J. McWilliam, Ballydown, Banbridge.

## AGRICULTURAL STALLIONS.

Agricultural stallion of any breed.—Prize, H. McCutcheon, Edenvale, Newtownards.

Agricultural brood mares in foal, or having produced a foal in 1878 or 1879.—1 and challenge cup, J. D. Paul, Ellenfield, Drumcondra; 2, R. Douglas, Portballantras, Coleraine.

Mares calculated to produce weight carrying hunters, in foal, or having produced foals in 1878 or 1879.—1 and 2, T. D'Arcy Hoey, Dromalam House, Newry; 3, J. M. Williams, Banbridge.

Agricultural geldings or fillies foaled in 1876.—1, J. D. Paul.

## HUNTERS.

Weight carrying hunter not less than five years old, able to carry 15 stone and upwards.—1, R. W. B. Ker, Montalto, Ballynahinch; 2, H. Thompson, Altnaveigh House, Newry. Hunter not less than five years old able to carry from 12st. 7lb. to 15st.—1, M. B. Murray, 5, Roden place, Dundalk; 2, J. Brady, Redaverns, Armagh.

Four-year-old colt or filly calculated to make a weight-carrying hunter.—1, H. Tate, Mount Stewart, Newtownards; 2, J. Markey, Grange, Naui.

Geldings or fillies foaled in 1876, calculated to make hunters, to be shown in cavassons.—1, J. Clarke, Port Hall, Strabane; 2, J. Hobson, Greenfield, Kilmore, Richhill.

Two-year-old colt or filly calculated to make a weight-carrying hunter, to be shown in cavassons.—1, E. M. Archdale, Crocknacrieve; 2, S. C. Temple, Gowran House, Newry; 3, J. Dickson, Elmfield, Gilford.

Weight-carrying cobs not exceeding 15 hands.—1, J. C. Lindsay, Tyrone House, Belfast; 2, J. J. Quinn, Barkston House, Newry.

Ponies not over 13 hands, any age, trained.—1, W. Pentland, Oxford-street, Belfast; 2, K. Bullisk, Mountain View, Portadown.

## CATTLE.

## SHORTHORNS.

Bull, calved on or after the 1st of January, 1874.—1, Lord Rathdonnell, Lisnavagh, Tullow, county Carlow; 2, J. Vance, Springfield, Maratin.

Bull, calved in the year 1877.—1, R. D. Harrison, Hollywood House, Hollywood; 2, John Moody, Lisraw, Foyntzpass; 3, The Earl of Dartrey, Dartrey House, county Monaghan.

Bull, calved in 1878.—1, R. Chalmer, Kingsfort, Moynalty; 2, Lord Clermont, Clermont Park, Dundalk; 3, J. and W. Birch, Seaforth, near Liverpool.

Cow, in calf or in milk.—John Alexander Mainly Cops, Drumilly, Loughall; 2, Lord Clermont.

Heifer, calved in 1878.—1, S. J. Perry, Coolcronan House, Ballina; 2, H. Smith, Mountmellick.

HEREFORDS.

Cow, in calf or in milk.—G. A. Stephens, Greenwood St. Dolough's.

Heifer, of any age.—G. A. Stephens.

POLLED ANGUS.

Bull, of any age.—W. Owen, Blessington.

Cow, in calf or in milk.—W. Owen.

Heifer, of any age.—W. Owen.

AYRSHIRE.

Ayrshire bull of any age.—1, Mrs. A. A. Hope, the Castle, Castleblaney; 2, Lord Clermont, Ravensdale-park, Newry.

Ayrshire cow, in calf or in milk.—1, Lord Clermont; 2, Mrs. A. A. Hope, the Castle, Castleblaney; 3, D. Patton Trynanny-cottage, Glasslough.

Ayrshire heifer calved in 1877.—1, Mrs. A. A. Hope; 2, Lord Clermont.

Ayrshire heifer calved in 1878.—1, H. Greer, Bridge-street Newry; 2, Mrs. A. A. Hope.

KERRY.

Kerry bull of any age.—1, J. Robertson, La Mancha, Malahide.

Kerry cow, in calf or in milk.—1, the Earl of Clonmell, Bishops-court, Straffan, Kerry cow; 2, Rev. W. Richmond, Baronstown Rectory, Dundalk.

Kerry heifer, any age.—1, the Earl of Clonmell; 2, J. Robertson.

CHANNEL ISLAND.

Bull of any age.—1, Major Hall, Narrow Water, Warrenpoint.

Cow in calf or milk.—1, C. K. Corder, Holywood House, Holywood; 2, Lord Clermont.

Heifer of any age.—1, Lord Clermont.

Limited for competition to Tenant Farmers only.

Cow in calf or milk.—1, R. Bowden, Cortober House, Coote-hill; 2, D. Glenn, Kiltennan, Waterside.

Heifer, calved in 1877.—1, J. Vance, Springfield, Maralin; 2, R. Bowden.

Heifer, calved in 1878.—1, S. J. Marshall, Fourtowns, Loughbrickland; 2, J. Wylie, Fourtown, Poyntzpass.

S H E E P .

LEICESTERS.

Shearling ram.—1, 2, and 3, G. Turner, jun., Thorpeldans.

Ram, of any other age.—1, G. Turner, jun.

Five Shearling ewes.—1, G. Turner, jun.

Pen of pure shearling Leicester ewes.—2, H. Tait, Mountstewart, Newtownards, county Down.

BORDER LEICESTERS.

Shearling ram —1 and 2, Viscount de Vesci, Abbeyleix.

Ram of any other age.—1, Viscount de Vesci; 2, T. Montgomery, Ballydrain, Dunmurry.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—1, T. Montgomery.

LONGWOOLED OTHER THAN LEICESTERS OR BORDER

LEICESTERS.

Shearling ram.—1 and 2, G. Shannon, Mountmellick.

Ram of any other age.—G. Shannon, Mountmellick.

ROSCOMMON.

Shearling ram.—1 and 2, B. Hannan, Riverstown, Killucan.

Ram of any other age.—1 and 2, B. Hannan.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—B. Hannan.

SHROPSHIRE.

Shearling ram.—1 and Challenge Cup, R. J. Nash, Park house, Glanmire, Cork; 2, C. W. Hamilton, Hamwood, Cloune.

Ram of any other age.—1, S. Gordon, Mount Kearney, Newry; 2, C. W. Hamilton.

Pen of five shearling ewes.—1, J. Nash, Lake Lodge, Glanmire, Cork; 2, Miss Rose, Mullaghmore, Monaghan.

BLACK-FACED.

Ram of any age.—1 and 2, W. Beattie, Crocknacunnio Pettigo.

Pen of five ewes of any age.—1 and 2, W. Beattie.

Limited for Competition to Tenant Farmers only.

Pen of five ewes of any age.—1, J. Nash, Lake Lodge, Glanmire, Cork; 2, J. Wylie.

PIGS.

COLOURED BREED.

Boar under 18 months old.—1 and 2, Lord Clermont.

Boar over 18 months and under 36 months old.—1, R. H. Metge, Athlumney House, Navan; 2, Lord Clermont.

Breeding sows under 18 months old.—1 and 2, Lord Clermont.

Breeding sow over 18 months old.—1 and 2, Lord Clermont.

Sow and litter of not less than six pigs under 3 months old.—1 and 2, David Glenn, Kilfinnan, Waterside.

Three breeding pigs of the same litter, above 3 and not exceeding 8 months old.—1, David Glenn; 2, Lord Clermont.

WHITE BREED.

Boar, under 18 months old.—1, J. L. Naper, Lougherew, Oldcastle; 2, David Glenn.

Boar, over 18 and under 36 months old.—1, G. Thompson, Cainoly, Newtownhamilton; 2, T. Butler, Priestown House, Priestown.

Breeding sow, under 18 months old.—1 and 2, J. Molloy, 72, Mountjoy Street, Dublin.

Breeding sow, over 18 months old.—1 and 2, J. Molloy.

Sow and litter of not less than six pigs under 3 months old.—1, J. Molloy; 2, T. Byrne, 39, Lower Buckingham Street, Dublin.

Three breeding pigs of the same litter, above 3 and not exceeding 8 months old.—1, the Earl of Clonmell, Bishops-court; 2, T. Byrne.

Limited for competition to Tenant Farmers only.

Breeding sow over 6 and under 18 months old.—1 and 2, D. Glenn, Kiltennan.

Breeding sow, over 18 months, in pig or with a litter under three months old.—1 and 2, D. Glenn.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

Firkin of butter of not less than 65lbs weight, independent of the firkin, made on the farm of the exhibitor during the season of 1879.—1, H. Scott, Drummadd, Armagh; 2 and 3, D. Patton, Trynanny Cottage, Glaslough.

Cool of butter not less than 30lbs weight, independent of the cool, and made on the farm of the exhibitor during the year 1879.—1, D. Patton; 2, H. Stevenson, Drummiller, Jerritpass.

Three rolls or prints of fresh butter.—T. Valentine, The Moat, Strandtown, Belfast.

YORKSHIRE .

MEETING AT LEEDS.

August has come at last, but we saw very little sign of harvest on our way to the forty-second annual show of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, held on the 5th, 6th and 7th at Leeds, which everybody, whose genius has a topographical bent, knows perfectly well is one of the busiest of the many manufacturing towns of Yorkshire, and that its inhabitants do not consume their own smoke, but are zealous advocates for an equal distribution of rights and privileges, so much so that we heard some of them backed Isonomy for the Goodwood cup. It is isonomy too, alias fair play, that is wanted, not only on the farm between landlord and tenant, but in the show ground among the horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs; for many exhibitors and showgoers freely admit that our agricultural exhibitions as now conducted, encourage the forcing and pampering of stock intended for breeding purposes, which is as injurious to them as forced yearling sales and two-year-old racing are to the thoroughbred horse, or as the atmosphere of Leeds must be to the hundreds of ghastly pale-faced young women and girls which thronged the road to the show ground; for it is common in a show yard to see horses as puffy in the wind and with corporations, and no doubt livers, like Sir Tumbelly Guzzle's bulls so laden with flesh that they hobble along like dear old, gouty Gambado, cows made up to rival the famous Hottentot Venus, and, to please those with wisdom at their finger ends, rams and ewes panting for breath, and boars and sows in a state of obesity that they cannot stand on their legs for any length of time, so that it puzzles me how they are going to propagate their good

qualities. Agricultural distress! we exclaim, as nothing but overfed animals meet the eye. Agricultural extravagance and heinous waste that no other country could support year after year as we have done, and we firmly believe that it would have paid nineteen out of every twenty exhibitors better in the long run if they had gone in for rearing horses for use, and what old Cobbet called plain, wholesome, patriotic beef, mutton, bacon, milk and butter. How many of these made-up animals have died of over-feeding? How many promising young things have gone all to pieces before they have half reached the year of maturity? Heifers patchy and uneven at two, and fine grown two-year-old colts that never get any bigger, and that cause nothing but disappointment to the purchaser; grand looking hunters that have made their exit roaring like bulls—and how many exhibitors do we miss that have cast up the balance sheet and cut it. Conduct shows properly choose men for judges that will set their faces against such waste and its injurious effects, men that will go for health and vigour; then we shall not hear an owner say of a horse, "I have not had time to fatten him," or at noon on a show day the leader of a bull, that had walked a couple of miles on the previous night, "He ha'nt got his wind yet, sir," nor have fat cattle shows all the year round.

Yorkshire was not much more fortunate as to weather than Alexandra Park, Bath and West of England, or the Royal; yet, though we were often over our boots in a sloppy, soaking mud, still we were thankful that it was no worse, as we saw that many fields were entirely under water on our way down, and at Sandy a railway bridge gave way where the flood was very bad. The yard, as usual, was nicely arranged, but there were one or two intruders other than the judges in both the horse-rings, a thing we do not recollect to have seen at a Yorkshire Show for some years. As a Show, when compared with previous ones, it was small, many of the classes being remarkable for the smallness of the entry; but those that were entered were good, and included most of the principal prize-winners at previous shows in the horse, shorthorn, sheep and pig classes. There were three hundred and thirty-two horses entered and of these only sixty-eight were agricultural. The first on the list of agricultural stallions, three years old and upwards, was the Worsley Hull nag. British Wonder, a handsome, massive, symmetrical four-year-old chestnut by Masters' England's Wonder, and a horse which as a two year old was first at the Royal, Liverpool, and at York, put second to a very moderate Clydesdale, but he is not only first in his class here as at the Royal, Kilburn, but awarded the Champion cup as the best agricultural or dray horse in the yard, beating his stable companion, the good looking and active Young Prince of the Isle, a winner at several of the principal shows, as well as a champion cup horse at Kilburn, and which has now to take third place to Modern Type by Topsman, a horse that we said in our Kilburn report, like Messrs. E. and A. Stanford's Baronet, was worthy of a commendation when shown as a Clydesdale; but we do not say that he is better than Young Prince of the Isle, nor do we say that he may not be overlooked again at the next show. We prophesy nothing as to what judges might do. The Stand Stud Company's Young Champion, 12 years, looking very fresh, and Master of Arts, a big-topped horse were highly commended, while the reserve and highly commended at Kilburn, the handsome Sir John Falstaff from Diss, was banished—"banish Fat Jack and banish all the world." The others were the narrow but active Carleton Tom, the leggy, flat-ribbed King of the Valley, King o' Clyde, a fair three year old of the Stand Stud Company, and Brown Stout, which, if good for anything, is a very deceiving horse. Samson 2nd, Scotland Yet, Renown,

and Just It were absentees. Samson 4th by Samson; a nice-topped horse with good action, and a champion cup horse at Kilburn, headed the entire colts foaled in 1877, with another good mover of Lord Ellesmere's, King of the Shires, second, the others being J. White's Pointsmen, J. Crowther's Champion Tom, and a chestnut with white legs of the Stand Stud Company. The six agricultural mares were a good class. Mr. Loder's Maggie, a Clydesdale by Lord Fergus, and a second mare at Kilburn, came in here for first honours. She is a capital stamp of mare with depth on a short leg and merry action, and Jess, a clever mare from the same stable was third; while Lord Ellesmere's Honest Lass, a good-looking mare that formerly belonged to Mr. Parser, of Bedford, was second, and Honest Lady and Beauty from the same stable, which were second and third at Kilburn, came in for a commendation between them. The others were Mr. Pulliane's Patti and Mr. Tunc's Dosey. The Stand Stud Company's Royal Duchess, and E. and A. Stanford's Poppet, which won at the Royal, were absentees; the latter we hear is now the property of the Duke of Westminster. Lord Ellesmere with two entries was first in the yearling agricultural colts or fillies, and Donald, a very poor looking thing of Mr. Pease's, was placed before Mr. Miller's neat bay by Honest Tom, which lookers-on thought a palpable mistake. In a good class of agricultural geldings Mr. Loder came in first with Jeanie Sproat, a nice-headed, long, deep, powerful Clydesdale filly on a short leg, and the Stand Stud Company with Beauty, a handsome, lengthy filly, which stepped like a Cleveland—a Cleveland that can step. The three year old agricultural geldings and fillies were very good indeed, Mr. Cronshaw taking first honours with the fine grown, thick-set Cyprus, a second at Kilburn, The Rogue, a very fair looking gelding being second, and Mr. H. Miller's Thunderer, a neat nag on a short leg third, Lord Ellesmere's chestnut by Grand Prince being the reserve number and highly commended as at the Royal. Tho commended were Mr. Loder's Lovely 2nd, Earl Ellesmere's Jewess, and Mr. Dunnington's Tom, all nice looking. Lord Ellesmere's Ploughboy, a well made, stout, active six year old gelding was proclaimed the best horse for dray purposes, and at Kilburn the best agricultural gelding, Princess Dagmar, a fine powerful mare being second, and the Earl of Ellesmere third, with Sultan, another weighty, good-looking horse which was also the third agricultural gelding at Kilburn. The commended were R. Loder's Jess, a bay with a nice head, good form, and short limbs, and Brock a useful one of J. Jackson's, Captain Bett's Mrs. Jones is of nice form, with springy action, Lord Ellesmere's Beauty a useful one, and so is T. Simson's powerful Captain, who carries his own head, a coffin one. Seventy-five pounds only brought the following thoroughbred stallions into the ring, the short, deep-topped, one-eyed Cedric by Voltigeur, out of Carry by Kind Caradoc, The Duc de Beaufort by Ventr St. Gris, out of Dame d'Honneur by the Baron that we described last year when second at Northallerton, and again when first at Kilburn, Muleteer by Mogador, out of Roma by Oxford, a compactly built chestnut horse with loaded shoulders, Bourbaki by Adventurer, out of Prudence by Voltigeur, a small, black wiry horse, and a third at Northallerton, but not pleasing to look upon as he reminds one of the undertaker, while the other was the varmint hackish-looking Raby, by Arthur Wellesley, out of Remnant by Neville, and which was placed before the Duc de Beaufort at Northallerton, but now plays third to him, and the Muleteer second. The £100 for thoroughbred stallions for getting hunters and carriage horses, with conditions as to serving mares in the neighbourhood of Leeds, only brought five into the ring, the only good one being Bondsman, by Bondholder,

out of Maid of the Wolds, by Sir Tatton Sykes, a very useful good-limbed hunting-like horse; the commended Glenfallan by Pretender out of Maid of the Glen, is of fair form, while Dannerberg by Prime Minister out of Mystra by Epirus, and Prince of Prussia by Red Cross Knight out of Miss Garforth by Plantaganet, had nothing to commend them, and the owner of Young Hastings must have had but a few loose ideas of what a thorough-bred horse is to send such an animal into the ring as one. The hunting mares and foals with eight out of an entry of twelve in the ring was not a grand class for Yorkshire, as the first, Zebebel by King Caradoc out of Canute by Highthorn, we did not think right in her shoulders; the second, a black mare by King Caradoc pleasing us better, as she was full of old hunting character with high wither and deep shoulders; while the third, a chestnut five-year-old by Grand Master, dam by General Williams, horses well-known in Yorkshire rings, had not a hunting forehead; and old Goahead, a winner of many a prize as a hunting brood mare, was passed over, as she is beginning to look like a seedy swell, nothing but a beggarly lot of remnants. W. Smyth's grey Snowflake is a fine old mare, but is not the Snowflake which won at Kilburn, and in Yorkshire for years; and Mr. Mason's Baroness was a neat mare with a nice foal by The Duc de Beaufort. Thirteen yearling hunter colts or fillies made a very good class, as many were remarkable for breed and symmetry, the winner being by The Duc de Beaufort; and the five two-year-old hunting geldings were also good with Sportsman by Baron Cavendish, and Cyprian by Highthorn, which is a curious name for a gelding second. There were four out of five good two-year-old fillies, Bondmaid, the winner, being by Bondsman, the winner of £190 for thorough-bred stallions; and the second's, Signora, shoulders did not please us. Eleven three-year-old hunting geldings made a good class, the fight being between a chestnut by Highthorn, Prime Minister by Vulcan, and First Flight by Argyle out of Goahead, three very nice horses. Three out of four of the hunting fillies were very promising, and the four-year-old geldings very good, the first being the second at Islington as Othello, which was described as a very useful, hardy-looking, hunting-like horse when the property of Mr. Nelson, he then became the property of Mr. Harvey Bayly, and won the first money at Alexandra Park and Lincoln. The second, Katerfelto, is a hunting-like horse, but a slug, and was second at the Royal and Manchester and first at Doncaster. The third, Cigarette, is a nag of quality. Golden Plover, the first Islington four-year-old, which beat Othello *alias* Black Jack, has been sinking lower and lower in the show world, and only came in for a commendation. Princess, a blood-like, wiry mare, was the best of the four-year-old hunting mares, with a thorough-bred, Coromandel, for her second, the property of Messrs. Cholmley, who had several nice thorough-bred youngsters on the ground, and mostly chestnuts. Blacklock, the second to Tavistock at Northallerton, first at Alexandra Park, and second at Kilburn, is a gentleman all over, and grand goer, and headed a good class of nine up to fifteen stone, with Nobleman, a round goer and consequently slow, as his second, which we have described before, and the third, Gambler, of Manchester, Islington, Alexandra Park and Kilburn renown, from the same stable. The reserve number was the Primate, a rather slow horse from Barton Hill House. Among the others were J. Akenhead's Scoteman, J. Booth's Bacey Box, and Dunhill's Newstead. Golden Drop, by East Coast, the crack four year old of last year, was first of the twelve stone hunters, Cockney, first at Islington, third at Alexandra, and first at Kilburn, being second, and His Majesty, whose forehead we do not like, third; the reserve number being a very neat grey, Birchrod. W. Ruse's Cornet,

F. Thompson's Ivanhoe, A. Brown's Huntsman, and J. Lett's Criterion were in the class, and four or five others. The coaching classes were very fairly represented, fifteen stallions coming into the ring out of an entry of twenty, and many of the lookers on were surprised to see Lord Penzanec, a horse of very nice form and quality and a good mover, a first at York, Northallerton, and Kilburn, put on one side for a couple of two year olds, Liberal, the first prize, being a rather nice colt and Conservative a fair one. This is a bad wind up for his lordship, as the colt is sold to go to Paris. R. Nelson's Sultan, R. Reynold's Climax, F. Leake's Count, and some other good looking ones were in the class. Three out of the four coaching mares and foals were very good, with a beautiful Princess first, and a fine Princess second, while the third was the neat, short legged Flora, a first at the Royal this year in a class of three. The yearlings, two-year-old geldings, and three year old fillies were a moderate lot; the two year old filly was a fair one, and the three year old geldings a very good class indeed, headed by a very stylish nag Hark Forward. Twenty-four roadster stallions were entered, and seventeen made their appearance in the ring, the famous Star of the East being in his usual place, with Prime Minister, a beautiful stamp of roadster with quality and fine action, second; King Walter was highly commended, and Sir Charles commended for his loaded shoulders, while Sir George Wombwell, Young Perfection, Englands Pride, Sir Alfred, and Telegraph were nice nags. Mr. Miller's Belle, of the four brood mares and foals, was a long way the best looking, though Lady Mary is a very clever cobby mare. There were two clever three-year-old hackneys out of four, and the celebrated Lady Watton and King Charles 3rd beat one that did not move well with her hind legs in the gelding or mare class up to 15 stone. Then Sunbeam, wonderfully improved, and about the nicest horses we see in the show rings, headed a good class up to not less than 12 stone, his second being Silvertail, also well-known in the ring, and very nice made clever stepper, E. Matthew's Zephyr, J. Ellis's bay, R. Gledhill's Snowflake, and W. Storey's Colleen Bawn were the best looking of the others. There were some few clever ponies. The prizes for horses in harness were given by the local committee, the Stand Stud Company winning the prize for pairs with a handsome pair of Cleveland carriage horses which, we were told, win wherever they go, and in single harness with Extravagance, a very grand goer, while their mare, Countess, had to play second to Erl King, a very neat grey stylish stepping gig horse.

The Shorthorns were a small collection, but very good, and as most of them have been noticed over and over again in the *Mark Lane Express* by the Shorthorn critic, we shall say which were there. The families were Lord Exeter's Sea Gull, and offspring Telemachus 6th, Telemachus 9th, Sea Bird and Great Northern Diver.

F. J. Savile's Poljambes Sweetheart 28th, and offspring Sweetmeat, Sweetheart 33rd, and Sweetheart 34th.

W. H. Wodehouse's Countess, and offspring Corosande, Countess of Woolmers, Countess Mary, and Countess Amy.

H. Fawcett's Branhope Darling, and offspring Branhope Darling 2nd, and Royal Lancaster.

Stand Stud Company Rosa, and offspring Rosalina and calf.

The Shorthorn bulls of any age above three were Attractive Lord, Rear Admiral, Pioneers, and Count Townley, and placed as we have put them. Rosacruz, Sir Arthur Ingram, and Royal Windsor were entered but not on the ground. The Shorthorn bulls above two were Vice Admiral, Peter the Great, Petrucio, Baron Haws-worth, and Valentine Duke of Clare. Rothschild was entered, but not on the ground.

The Shorthorn bulls above one year old were Arthur Benedict, Master Harbinger, Lord Arthur, and Northern Hero. The Shorthorn bull calves above five and not exceeding twelve months old were Oxford Rose, and Paul 2nd, four others were in the catalogue but not in the flesh. The Shorthorn cows of any age above three, were Telemacina, Gaiety, Grateful, Innocence, Maggie Mildred, Lady Carew, Blooming Bridesmaid, and Rugeri Niblett. Shorthorn heifers, not exceeding three years old, were Lady Carew, Azucena, May Bell, and Flirt. The Shorthorn heifers not exceeding two, were Kirklevington Empress 3rd, Gainful, and Cleveland Lass, Snowdrop, Titania, Rosea, Deborah, Julia 17th, and Lady Brougham. The Shorthorn heifer calves, above five and not exceeding twelve months old, were Lady Wild Eyes 15th, Dowager 2nd, Crome, Wild Winsome 4th, Serenity, Ccountess, and Laura 18th.

Mr. Berryman's Dairymaid which, when first at Northallerton, he said gave her pedigree in the pail night and morning, was only second here in a good class of dairy cows, but we could not see a grander, and think it was a mistake in not putting her first.

The show of sheep was good throughout, the Leicesters being well represented by selections from the flocks of Messrs. Hutchinson, Borton, Jordan, Brown, Creswell, Kendall, Dobson, and Key. The Catterick flock took four prizes, Barton-le-Street two, and the Eastburn and Holme-on-Spalding one each. The aged rams were considered the best class. There is never a large gathering of Lincolns so far from home, but generally a little and good one, which this time was furnished by Messrs. Smith, Dudding, Pears, Byron, and Wright. There were only four shearing rams, and Lord Beaconsfield, a grand Lincoln, was premier in the aged class. The Shropshire downs made a capital show, the selections being very even. They were sent by the following breeders—Duke of Portland, Earl Zetland, S. C. Pilgrim, H. Townsend, C. U. Cottrell, T. Holford, T. H. Miller, H. Lovatt, F. Platt, W. Baker, R. Loder, and R. M. Knowles. The Southdowns in the sheep classes of any other down breed beat the Oxfordshire Downss in every instance. The exhibitors were H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and Lord Walsingham of South Downs, and Messrs. Treadwell, Fletbher, and Fawcett of Oxford Downs. There were a few very pretty Lonks, and some good specimens of the black faced mountain sheep, while the Wensleydale made a better show than at Northallerton, Mr. Willis having the best of it with some capital sheep of the sort.

As might be expected in a pig country, and so near a town like Leeds, there was a grand show of the white, large, middle, and small breeds; a few small blacks, and some very fair Berkshires. There were pigs with straight hair, pigs with wavy hair, and silky hair, and pigs with no hair, pigs with spots, and pigs with all kinds of noses—pug, Roman, and Grecian; and pigs with heads like bull dogs, and we ponder and wonder how they get such heads and snouts, whether it is natural or the poor brutes' snouts are clapped into some machine, as the Chinese ladies confine their feet to make them hideous. Lord Ellesmere, Messrs. Duckering, Eden, Wheeler, Walker, Sedgwick, Mangles, Mollett, and Oldroyd were the chief exhibitors. Mr. Sanders Spencer had several entered, but they were not on the ground, and we are sorry to hear that he has lost several since the Royal Show. All judges of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs were supplied with catalogues, and which we have often said is not fair to little men. The show is to be held next year at Rotherham. The entries were; Cattle, 75; Sheep, 170; Pigs, 119; Horses, 332.

## HORSES.

- Stallions, thoroughbred, for getting hunters, which shall have served half-bred mares in the County of York during the season of 1879, at a fee not exceeding five guineas, or which shall serve half-bred mares in the County of York during the season 1880, at a similar fee.—1, H. F. C. Vyner, Newby Hall, Ripon (Duc de Beaufort); 2, N. F. Fleming, Normanby Hall, Middlesborough-on-Tees (The Muleteer); 3, P. Post and Sons, Keighley (Raby).
- Stallions, thoroughbred, suitable for getting hunters or coaches, to serve half-bred mares in the borough of Leeds, during the season 1880, at a fee not exceeding two guineas.—J. Jackson, Northallerton (Bondsmen).
- Coaching stallions.—1, W. Kirby, Stamford Bridge (Liberal), and 2 (Conservative).
- Roadster stallions.—1, Stand Stud Company, Whitefield, Manchester (Star of the East); 2, P. Triffitt, Huggate, Pocklington (Prime Minister).
- Agricultural stallions, 3 years old and upwards.—1, The Earl of Ellesmere, Worsley Hall, Lancashire (British Wonder); 2, F. Crowther, Knowl Grove, Mirfield, York (Modern Type); 3, Earl of Ellesmere (Young Prince of the Isle).
- Entire agricultural colts, foaled in 1877.—1, Earl of Ellesmere (Samson 4th), and 2 (King of the Shires).
- Hunting brood mares and foals.—1, J. Naiton, Copmanthorpe (Jezebel); 2, F. Rouse, Baildon, Shipley (Black Mare); 3, W. Hudson, Brigham, Hull (Chesnut Mare).
- Coaching brood mares and foals.—1, G. Wadsworth, Howden (Princess); 2, G. Robinson, Ilkxwulf, Bedale (Princess).
- Roadster brood mares and foals.—1, T. H. Miller, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire (Belle); 2, R. Martin, Flaxton, York (Lady Mary); 3, W. W. Brayshaw, Leeds (Fanny).
- Agricultural brood mares and foals.—1, R. Loder, Whittlebury, Towcester (Maggie); 2, The Earl of Ellesmere (Honest Lass); 3, R. Loder (Jean).
- Yearling agricultural colts or fillies.—1, Earl of Ellesmere (bay by Royal Albert); 2, J. W. Pease, Gisborough (Donald).
- 2 year agricultural geldings or fillies.—1, R. Loder (Jeannie Sprout); 2, Stand Stud Company (Beauty).
- 3 year old agricultural geldings.—1, J. Cronshaw, Gatley, Cheadle (Cyprus); 2, H. Shaw, Whittingham, Preston (Rogue); 3, The Earl of Ellesmere (Chesnut).
- Dray horses, geldings or mares of any age.—1, Earl of Ellesmere (Ploughboy); 2, T. H. Miller (Princess Dagmar); 3, Earl of Ellesmere (Sultan).
- Champion prize for the best agricultural or dray horse in the yard.—Earl of Ellesmere (British Wonder).
- Yearling coach horses, colts and fillies.—1, G. Burton, Thorpe Willoughby, Selby (Miss Wyndham); 2, Stand Stud Company.
- Two year old colts.—1, F. Cattle, Slingsby, York (bay); 2, J. White, Tadcaster (Brandsby).
- Two year old fillies.—J. White (Lilly).
- Three year old geldings.—1, J. Johnson, Brigham, Hull (Hark Forward); 2, J. Kirby (Yorkshireman); 3, R. Cowell, Middlestoe (Sir Tatton).
- Three year old fillies.—1, W. Strickland, Pickering (Julia); 2, Mrs. H. Thompson, Horsforth, Leeds (Jessie).

## HARNESS HORSES.

- Pairs of geldings or mares not less than 15½ hands high.—1, Stand Stud Company (Extravagance); 2, J. Stevenson Leeds (Major).
- Geldings or mares not less than 13 and not exceeding 15 hands high.—1, R. Gledhill, Bradford (Erl King); 2, The Stand Stud Company (Countess).
- Geldings or mares not exceeding 13 hands high.—1 and 2, W. Foster, Pontefract (Little Wonder and Novelty).
- Brougham horses, mares or geldings.—1, Stand Stud Company (High Sheriff).

## ROADSTERS AND HACKNEYS.

- Three year old hackney or roadsters, geldings or fillies.—1, J. P. Compton, Burton Agnes, Hull (Barrister); 2, R. Exley, Horsforth, Leeds (Colonel).
- Mares or geldings from 4 to 7 years old up to 15 stone.—1, and 2, C. W. Wilson, Kendal, Westmoreland (Lady Watson and King Charles 3rd).
- Mares or geldings from 4 to 7 years old up to 12 stone.—1, C. W. Wilson (Sunbeam); 2, J. Robinson, Hull (Silvertail).

## FONIES.

Fonies of any age or sex not less than 12½ hands and not exceeding 14½ hands high.—1, F. P. Matthews, Duffield (Heepicity); 2, T. Wells, Hull (Baron).  
Not exceeding 12½ hands high, suitable for children to be ridden in the ring by boys under 15 years old.—1, T. Pape, Leeds (Prince); 2, A. E. Butler, Kirkstall, Leeds (Blue Boy).

## HUNTERS.

Yearling colts or fillies.—1, R. Hawkrigge, Ripon (Newby); 2, A. Denison, Ripon (Magnet).  
Two year old geldings.—1, T. H. Foden (Sportsman); 2, T. Robson, Boroughbridge (Cyprian).  
Two year old fillies.—1, R. Colling, Marske-by-the-Sea (Boudmaid); 2, W. Scott, Boroughbridge (Country Lass).  
Three year old geldings.—1, P. L. Lane, Thirsh (Chesnut); 2, G. Wright, Doncaster (Prime Minister); 3, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick (First Flight).  
Three year old fillies.—1, R. Machin, York (Rosa); 2, R. W. Sever, Bedale (Maid of the Mill); 3, H. J. Bailey, Tenbury (Crow).  
Four year old geldings.—1, T. H. D. Byley, Edwinstowe House, Newark (Black Jack); 2, J. Brown, Pontefract (Katerfelto); 3, T. Cattle, South Holme (Cigarette).  
Four year old mares.—1, T. H. Foden (Princess); 2, A. J. Cholmeley, Rillington (Coromandel); 3, Dr. Keighley, Leeds (Lady Salt).  
Geldings or mares, five, six, or seven years old, qualified to carry 15 stones with hounds, and which have been regularly hunted during the season 1878-79.—1, C. Legard, Bridlington (Blacklock); 2 and 3, A. J. Brown (Nobleman and Gambler).  
Mares or geldings, five, six, or seven years old, qualified to carry 12 stones with hounds, and which have been regularly hunted during the season, 1878-79.—1, F. E. Thompson, Park-street, Hull (Golden Drop); 2, A. J. Brown (Cockney); 3, C. Rose, Malton (His Majesty).

## CATTLE.

## SHORTHORNS.

Families of Shorthorns, to consist of cow of any age, and two or more of her descendants.—1, The Marquis of Exeter Stamford (Sea Gull and four others); 2, W. H. Wodehouse, Woolmers Park, Hertford (Countess and four others); 3, H. Fawcett, Otley (Bramhope Darling and two others).  
Bulls of any age above three years old.—1, Earl Ellesmere (Attractive Lord); 2, T. Willis, Manor House, Bedale (Rear Admiral); 3, A. H. Browne, Alnwick, Northumberland (Pioneer).  
Bulls above two and not exceeding three years old.—1, T. Willis (Vice Admiral); 2, H. Fawcett (Peter the Great); 3, A. H. Brown (Patricio).  
Bulls above one and not exceeding two years old.—1, W. Linton, Sheriff Hutton, York (Arthur Benedict); 2, W. Handley, Milnthorpe, Westmoreland (Master Harbinger); 3, J. Rowley (Lord Arthur).  
Bull calves above five and not exceeding twelve months old.—Prize, J. J. Sharp Kettering (Oxford Rose).  
Cows of any age above three years old, in calf, or having produced a fully matured calf since the first day of August, 1878.—1, The Marquis of Exeter (Telemacina); 2, The Earl of Tankerville (Gaiety 3rd); 3, T. H. Hutchinson (Grateful).  
Heifers, not exceeding 3 years, in-calf or milk.—1, B. St. J. Ackers, Painswick, Gloucestershire (Lady Carew 3rd); 2 and 3, F. J. Savile, Foljambe (Azucena and May Bell).  
Heifers, not exceeding 2 years.—1, Lord Fitzhardinge (Kirklevington Empress 3rd); 2, T. H. Hutchinson (Gainful); 3, Earl Feversham (Cleveland Lass 3rd).  
Heifer calves, above 6 and not exceeding 12 months.—1, and 2, Lord Fitzhardinge (Lady Wild Eyes 15th and Dowager 2nd); 3, J. Peel, Clitheroe (Cromo).  
Cows for dairy purposes.—1, T. R. Lynas, Coatham, Redcar (Primrose); 2, D. Berryman, Brompton, York (Dairy-maid); 3, F. J. Savile Foljambe (Eugene).

## SHEEP.

## LEICESTERS.

Shearling rams.—1, H. Borton, Borton-le-Street, Malton; 2 and 3, T. H. Hutchinson, Catterick.  
Aged rams.—1, T. H. Hutchinson; 2, H. Borton.

Shearling gimmers.—1, Executors of Francis Jordan, Driffield; 2, W. Brown, Home on Spalding Moor.

## LINCOLNS.

Shearling rams.—1, J. Pears, Mere, Lincoln; 2 and 3, J. Byron, Kirkby Green.  
Aged rams.—1 and 2, H. Smith.  
Five shearling gimmers.—1, J. Pears; 2, R. Wright, Nocton Heath, Lincoln.

## SHROPSHIRE DOWNS.

Shearling rams.—1, H. Townsend, Nuneston, Warwickshire; 2, C. U. C. Dormer, Banbury; 3, H. Townsend.  
Aged rams.—1, Duke of Portland, Clipstone, Mansfield; 2, T. H. Miller.  
Five shearling gimmers.—1, W. Baker, Atherstone, Warwick; 2, H. Townsend.

## DOWN BREED.

Short-woolled shearling rams.—1 and 2, Lord Walsingham, Merton, Thetford; 3, H. R. H. Prince of Wales.  
Aged rams.—1 and 2, Lord Walsingham.  
Five short-wool shearling gimmers.—1, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales; 2, J. Treadwell, Aylesbury, Bucks.  
Lank shearling rams.—1, J. Green and Sons, Selsden, Leeds; 2, C. Smith, Keighley.  
Aged rams.—1, J. Green and Son; 2, F. Harrison and Son, Keighley.  
Five Lank shearling gimmers.—1, J. Green and Sons; 2, F. Harrison and Sons.

## WENSLEYDALE LONG WOOLLED.

Shearling rams.—1 and 2, T. Willis, jun., Carperby, Bedale.  
Long-woolled aged rams.—1 and 2, T. Willis, jun.  
Five long-woolled shearling gimmers.—1 and 2, T. Willis, jun.

## BLACK FACED MOUNTAIN SHEEP.

Shearling rams.—1, T. Young, Skipton; 2, S. Hudson, Skipton.  
Aged rams.—1 and 2, W. L. Whitaker, Skipton.

## PIGS.

## TWELVE MONTHS OLD AND UPWARDS.

Boars of large white breed.—1 and 2, Earl Ellesmere.  
Sows of large white breed, in pig or milk.—1 and 2, Earl of Ellesmere.  
Boars of small white breed.—1, Earl Ellesmere; 2, R. E. Duckering.  
Sows: small white breed in pig or milk.—1, R. E. Duckering; 2, M. Walker, Chaddesden, Derby.  
Boars of small black breed.—1, M. Walker; 2, W. Wheeler, Long Compton, Shipston-on-Stour.  
Boars of Berkshire breed.—1, C. E. Duckering; 2, M. Walker.  
Sows of Berkshire breed, in pig or milk.—1 and 2, C. E. Duckering.  
Boars of any breed not qualified to compete in the previous classes.—1, Earl Ellesmere; 2, Peter Eden, Cross-lane, Salford.  
Sows of any breed in pig or milk, not qualified to compete in the previous classes.—1, Earl Ellesmere; 2, P. Eden.

## NOT EXCEEDING TWELVE MONTHS OLD.

Boars of large white breed.—1, W. Wheeler; 2, Earl Ellesmere.  
Sows of large white breed.—1, Earl Ellesmere; 2, P. Eden.  
Boars small white breed.—1, Earl Ellesmere; 2, R. E. Duckering.  
Sows small white breed.—1, R. E. Duckering; 2, W. Oldroyd, Woodlesford, Leeds.  
Boars of small black breed.—1, C. E. Duckering; 2, M. Walker.  
Sows of small black breed.—1, C. E. Duckering; 2, J. Mollett.  
Boars of Berkshire breed.—1, W. Wheeler; 2, R. E. Duckering.  
Sows not qualified to compete in the previous classes.—1, G. Sedgwick; 2, W. Oldroyd.

“LINGUA EAST-ANGLIA.”—Sympathising Friend:  
“Tarr’ble Weather, Mr. Wutts! No killing these Weeds down!” Suffolk Farmer: “Kill ‘em! Blam ‘em! Yeow can’t even Dawzle ‘em!”—Punch.

THE RECTOR OF HALF A CENTURY AGO.—I am contented that my father was a country parson, born much about the same time as Scott and Wordsworth; notwithstanding certain qualms I have felt at the fact that the property on which I am living was saved out of tithe before the period of commutation, and without the provisional transfiguration into a modus. It has sometimes occurred to me when I have been taking a slice of excellent ham that, from a too tenable point of view, I was breakfasting on a small squealing black pig which, more than half a century ago, was the unwilling representative of spiritual advantages not otherwise acknowledged by the grudging farmer or dairyman who parted with him. One enters on a fearful labyrinth in tracing compound interest backward, and such complications of thought have reduced the flavour of the ham; but since I have nevertheless eaten it, the chief effect has been to moderate the severity of my Radicalism (which was not part of my paternal inheritance), and to raise the assuaging reflection, that if the pig and the parishioner had been intelligent enough to anticipate my historical point of view, they would have seen themselves and the rector in a light that would have made tithe voluntary. Notwithstanding such drawbacks I am rather fond of the mental furniture I got by having a father who was well acquainted with all ranks of his neighbours, and am thankful that he was not one of those aristocratic clergymen who could not have sat down to a meal with any family in the parish except my Lord's—still more that he was not an Earl or a Marquis. . . . "A clergyman, lad," he used to say to me, "should feel in himself a bit of every class;" and this theory had a felicitous agreement with his inclination and practice, which certainly answered in making him beloved by his parishioners. They grumbled at their obligations towards him; but what then? It was natural to grumble at any demand for payment, tithe included, but also natural for a rector to desire his tithe and look well after the levying. A Christian pastor who did not mind about his money was not an ideal prevalent among the rural minds of fat Central England, and might have seemed to introduce a dangerous laxity of supposition about Christian laymen who happened to be creditors. My father was none the less beloved because he was understood to be of a saving disposition, and how could he save without getting his tithe? The sight of him was not unwelcome at any door, and he was remarkable among the clergy of this district for having no lasting feud with rich or poor in his parish. I profited by his popularity, and for months after my mother's death, when I was a little fellow of nine, I was taken care of first at one homestead and then at another—a variety which I enjoyed much more than my stay at the Hall, where there was a tutor. Afterwards for several years I was my father's constant companion in his outdoor business, riding by his side on my little pony and listening to the lengthy dialogues he held with Darby or Joan, the one on the road or in the fields, the other outside or inside her door. In my earliest remembrance of him his hair was already grey, for I was his youngest as well as his only surviving child; and it seemed to me that advanced age was appropriate to a father, as indeed in all respects I considered him a parent so much to my honour, that the mention of my relationship to him was likely to secure me regard among those to whom I was otherwise a stranger—my father's stories from his life including so many names of distant persons that my imagination placed no limit to his acquaintanceship. He was a pitiful talker, and his sermons bore marks of his own composition. It is true they must have been already old when I began to listen to them, and they were no more than a year's supply, so that they recurred as regularly as the Collects. But though this system has been much ridiculed, I am prepared to defend it as equally sound with that of a liturgy; and even if my researches had shown me that some of my father's yearly sermons had been copied out from the works of elder divines, this would only have been another proof of his good judgment. One may prefer fresh eggs though laid by a fowl of the meanest understanding, but why fresh sermons?—From "Theophrastus Such," by George Eliot.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.—"Why does Brooks snub Snooks?"—"Because Snooks toadies Brooks." "Why does Snooks toady Brooks?"—"Because Brooks snubs Snooks."—*Punch*.

## COMMON MEN.

We're nobody particular,  
We're just the men you meet  
At harvest with the sickle, or  
At seed-time dropping wheat;  
From Mondays until Saturdays  
We work from morn till night  
And only in these latter days  
We've learnt to read and write.

Our little place is poor enough,  
Tho' clean as any pin;  
Who'er you are, you're sure enough  
Of welcome when you're in:  
The rich man has his valets and  
His locks to guard his store,  
But we have empty wallets, and  
We only latch the door.

Besides perhaps a pair or two  
Of blankets, and a bed,  
An oaken chest, a chair or two—  
All bought when we were wed—  
There's little you would lend upon;  
We've neither horse nor lands,  
We only do depend upon  
The labour of our hands.

When these begin to fail you, and  
You're thrown upon yourself,  
Or anything should ail you, and  
There's nothing on the shelf,  
Though anxious looks the mother, and  
Our own is almost bare,  
We feel for one another, and  
We find a bit to spare.

You ask me what we think about  
In rainy weather, when  
We sit and pass the drink about,  
And speak but now and then:  
Sure, all may spend their leisure in  
The manner that they will,  
And poor men find a pleasure in  
Just simply sitting still.

We're up to tend the cattle, when  
The Londoner's in bed;  
We hear the thunder rattle, when  
There's nothing overhead  
To shield us in the racket, and  
When down doth pour the rain,  
We only shake our jacket, and  
We go to work again.

To every man his station, and  
His work is set, I ween;  
The Queen doth rule the nation, and  
The soldier guards the Queen  
From foeman that would harm her, and  
Their number is not small;  
We labour for the farmer, and  
The farmer keeps them all.

Then do you judge us blindly, as  
You'd hear some people do;  
Think only of us kindly, as  
You'd have us think of you.  
To other folk than we belong  
The pulpit and the pen,  
Yet England were not England long  
Without her Common Men,

—R. CRAWLEY, In the *Poll Mall Gazette*.

A MALICIOUS TRICK.—A mischievous rustic, owing his neighbour a grudge, mixed a quantity of Anti-rat with his pig's barley-meal.—*Punch*.

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE IN ESSEX.

A meeting of the Farmers' Alliance was held on Aug. 16 in the Shire Hall, Chelmsford. Mr. J. S. GARDINER, president, and there were also present Mr. James Howard, Chairman of the Farmers' Alliance; Mr. W. E. Bear, Secretary; Mr. G. Courtauld, M.P.; Captain Delf; Messrs. Chas. Page Wood, P. O. Papillon, T. M. Gepp, Joseph Smith, Geo. Docwra, E. Catchpool, Joseph Beaumont (Coggeshall), Gray, Thomas Marriage, W. Impey, W. Bot, Joseph Smith, jun., J. Watson, F. H. Meggy, F. Pertwee, C. T. Hicks, W. Brown, Stannard J. Christy, D. Christy, Kershaw Francis, G. Thompson, G. B. Hillard, J. Wiseman, A. G. Smith, C. Harvey, C. Barnard, T. Kemble, G. Harvey, R.-v. S. G. Gibson, &c. There was a full attendance of influential farmers from various parts of Essex, and the speaker received a very cordial reception.

In opening the proceedings, the CHAIRMAN said he was very pleased at having the opportunity to preside there on the present occasion. He only wished for their interests that some other gentleman of a more influential character had been selected to occupy this position, but so far as his own private feelings were concerned, he was always willing and desirous to promote the interests of that class of which he happened to be a humble member—or, he might say, to promote the interests of any class upon any public question which happened to be the subject of discussion at the time. It was hardly necessary for him to make any remarks upon the subject they were met to discuss, but he would ask them in discussing these questions to discuss them in a friendly and kind manner so far as they were individually concerned. They were all anxious to promote the interest of the agriculturist in this part of the kingdom—or, he might say, in every part of the kingdom—and therefore when they wished to combine for the common good of that class they must sink some of their private feelings for the sake of unanimity. Therefore, whatever differences of opinion they might have upon some of the proposals to be made, he was quite sure they would all agree to differ—or, he might say, differ to agree. With these few remarks he would call upon the Secretary to read letters of apology for non-attendance received from several gentlemen in this county.

The SECRETARY (Mr. W. E. Bear) read some letters of apology.

Mr. JAMES HOWARD then addressed the meeting at some length. He said that he appeared upon this platform to justify the formation of a Farmers' Alliance, and to advocate, if necessary, its programme. He was aware that in this and other counties, but perhaps more particularly in this county of Essex, very assiduous efforts had been made to prejudice the Farmers' Alliance in the minds of the tenant farmers. He would ask gentlemen around him to dismiss from their minds anything which they might have heard from their opponents calculated to prejudice their minds, and to rely upon their own judgment—and upon their own judgment solely—as to whether the objects of the Farmers' Alliance were not such as to command their support. There was a time, and that not very remote, when agriculture was estimated in this country at a very much lower rate than it was at the present time. The people in the North, and about their great manufacturing centres, entertained the opinion that if the manufactures and the commerce of the country prospered it mattered very little what became of the agricultural interest. The course of events had changed all this, however, and he believed that never at any former period of their history had the position of the tenant farmer excited so lively an interest as at the present day. And it was not only by the two classes immediately concerned, but the whole public opinion seemed to be awakening up to the great importance of the agricultural interest. The projectors of the Farmers' Alliance entertained the opinion that the time had come when that important class who occupied the farms of the United Kingdom, and were mainly instrumental in raising the wealth of the soil, should have a greater share of the Government of the country than they already possessed. They rejoiced that there appeared to be a desire springing up in the Counties of England—and, he might say, a growing desire—on the part of the farmers to be represented by men of their own class. One object—and the prominent one, he might add—of the Alliance was to promote this feeling. Some years ago the farmers of the neighbouring county of Norfolk set an example in returning to Parliament a man of their own class to repre-

sent them, and he thought that every man in the room could not but come to the conclusion that his actions had shown the value of having an intelligent tenant farmer in the Commons House of Parliament. The present depression, which existed throughout the length and breadth of the land, had brought this question of direct representation more prominently forward, and, as most of them were aware, the county of Warwick had already taken action in the Southern Division, and a candidate had been decided upon to contest the seat, and it was anticipated the Northern Division would take a similar step. They hoped that that would apply to the great and important agricultural county of Essex, so that in the next Parliament tenant farmers from one or more of the Divisions of Essex would be found amongst its members. In saying this, he wished it to be understood that there was no desire on the part of the Farmers' Alliance to oust the squirearchy or the youngest members of the aristocracy from the House of Commons; all they desired was that the tenant farming class should have a fair share in the representation of the counties. This, he thought, was still more essential, seeing that the other branch of the Legislature—the House of Lords—was composed entirely of landowners. He would remark that the tenant farmers were the only important class in the country which was not directly represented in Parliament. They had 187 members of English counties, and only one of that great number could be said to belong to the tenant farmer class, and that was the gentleman he had already mentioned—Mr. Read. In Parliament, then, all the great interests and trades were directly represented; there were the shipping and the railway interests, which had numerous representatives. Then as to the principal trades of the country—they had the iron masters, coal masters and coal owners, cotton spinners, woollen manufacturers and almost every important trade in the country represented. Then there was the brewing interest, as Mr. Bruce found to his cost—that interest was very numerous and powerfully represented in Parliament; then came the miners of the United Kingdom; they had sent two of their own order, and with very considerable advantage he might say to that body. Well, during the past few years he had really thought that agricultural labourers would be represented in Parliament before tenant farmers; but other signs of the times appear to point to a very different result. The tenant farmers in this county numbered 600,000, and throughout the United Kingdom they represented considerably more than 1,000,000. The capital owned by the tenant farmers represented about £400,000,000 sterling and were such a body of men only to exercise the power they possessed in sending men to Parliament pledged in support their views, no matter what Government might be in power, they might speedily obtain the measures to which they were justly entitled, or any legitimate claim. It might be asked, as it was asked in one of the letters which had been read, what need for more agricultural associations, seeing so many already existed? The answer was two-fold. The first one was that the existing associations had not obtained the reforms set forth as desirable in the programme of the Farmers' Alliance. The fact was—and it was a very anomalous fact—that not one of the existing associations was charged with looking after the special Parliamentary interest of the tenant farmers. The Farmer's Alliance was started to supply this want; its chief object would be to look after the interest of the tenant farmers both in and out of Parliament. After explaining in detail the object of the Alliance, Mr. Howard continued:—Allusion was made in one of the letters read, to the appointment of a Royal Commission. He sincerely desired that that Commission would be able to show to the country where the real impediments to the progress and prosperity of agriculture lay, and what changes were necessary, and thus put the tenant farmer in a position to hold his own against the foreigner. For his part, he had very little faith in the Commission. His brother had had the honour of being appointed on the Royal Commission, but he believed they would not be able to throw any additional light upon the question of distress or its remedy. He was very much struck with the remark of that astute man—Cardinal Manning—when speaking upon the Water Supply of the Metropolis. He said he for 30 or 40 years had taken a great interest in public questions, and that he had always observed that when the Government wanted to stave off a question they referred it to a Select Committee, and that when they wanted to bury a question they referred it to a Royal

Commission. The Government knew perfectly well that their best measure, the Agricultural Holdings Act, was a dead failure. They knew, without referring it to a Royal Commission, what was the reason of that failure, and when the Government understood the reason of that failure they must have known what the remedy should be. The Royal Commission might do some good in bringing the landowners to consent to changes which they had hitherto objected to, and probably some good might come of it. But the Government knew the tenant farmer had not sufficient security for his capital; they knew likewise the antiquated customs and absurd restrictions which were imposed upon him. They also knew that rents had been increased, and additional burdens had been put upon the shoulders of the tenant farmers which ought to have been put upon the shoulders of the landowners. The tenant farmers had never been put into a position to compete fairly with their foreign rivals. For his (the speaker's) own part he had faith in the future of farming in England. It might be a startling assertion, but there was no other country which possessed such a climate as England. If they took grass growing, corn growing, and root growing, he said it unhesitatingly, that England possessed the best climate in the world, and with improved laws, and a better system of land tenure, he believed the British farmer would be able to compete with any one in the world.

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH moved—

“That this meeting, having heard the objects of the Farmers' Alliance explained, approves of the formation of the Alliance, and recommends farmers and others interested in Agricultural Reform to become members, and so increase its influence.”

He (Mr. Smith) had been pretty much since its formation a member of the Alliance, and he was glad of this opportunity of explaining his reasons for acting with this body of people. He thought he could show them where the tenant farmer had never yet had justice done to him. If they went back to the time of the Repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, they would find that the whole cost of that measure was thrown on the tenant farmer. For the first four years after Free Trade was adopted, every man farming 400 acres of land fell short in his income to something like £500 a-year, as compared with what it had been in the four years just previous to Free Trade. He did not say that because he was a Protectionist for he was in favour of Free Trade, which he believed was the right thing for the country. But the promises that were made at that time to the farmers by Sir Robert Peel, Cobden, Lord John Russell, and others, ought to have been carried out; but they never had been. Sir Robert Peel said it was impossible to keep on the Malt-Tax if the Corn Laws were repealed, and Russell and Cobden said the same; but from that time to this there had never been shown, either on the part of either Conservatives or Liberals when in power, the slightest desire to have that tax repealed. He felt he must say a word or two on Protection. There were a class of people in this country who thought they could get a duty fixed on the importation of foreign corn. Now, his opinion was, that such an idea was utterly futile and useless. When we recollect that the population of this country was something like ten millions ten years ago, and that at this day it was 124 millions, and that was increasing at the rate of something like a thousand a-day, it must be felt that it was impossible to suppose that this vast and increasing population would submit to anything, like an import duty on foreign corn, or that it would be just to attempt to impose it on them. What they did, therefore, to remedy the present distress, they must do in another direction. Five years ago Sir Massey Lopes was a great man on the subject of local taxation. He was the chairman of the Local Taxation Committee, and he brought forward a motion on the subject in a great speech in Parliament, and carried his motion by a majority of something like a hundred. He (Mr. Smith) believed that the whole and sole outcome of that meeting had been the Agricultural Holdings Act. Only a few weeks ago he (Mr. Smith) said in the room above to the face of Colonel Brise what he had to say about that Act, and therefore he need not go into it again here. Within the last few years they had had Sanitary Acts and Education Acts passed which would be for the benefit of the whole people, but which had been the means of creating a most unfair additional burden on the land. He thought the owners of property were much more interested in these matters than the tenants. The tenants were here to-day and

gone to-morrow; while the owners had a permanent interest in the land they had bought or succeeded to. If one of their county Members had been there he should have asked him if he ever got up in his place in Parliament, and so much as hinted or suggested that the cost of these Sanitary and Education Acts should be equally shared by the landlord and tenant. Well then, three years ago there came the School Boards. He passed, in coming here to-day, a farm, which a young man, whom many of them knew, hired five years ago at a fair and fell rent. Well, there came the School Board—and a School Board was a right thing in itself, but let the right people pay for it. That young man was at this day paying for the School Board and the Sanitary Board £50 in addition to the rent of his farm, and there was no law to compel the landlord to share it equally, or two-thirds of it with him. That this was an unfair state of things he thought they must all allow. Then there was the County Boards Bill. A Bill was brought forward last year. It formed part of Sir Massey Lopes' motion. The Bill of 1878 was a goodish sort of Bill, and some of them were inclined to support it. His friend Mr. Gardiner was hardly contented with it, but some of them who were more moderate, were better satisfied with it. However, somehow it got slipped out of sight. This Session another Bill had been introduced, which was a very faint imitation of it, and the best thing that could have been done with it was to withdraw it. All these things wanted re-reading, and this the Alliance would try to do.

Mr. GOODCHILD seconded the resolution, and urged that the farmers should put aside all Party, and unite in getting their grievances redressed. They found the money, and should have some voice in spending it. They should be represented in the House, and if they united and sent a sufficient number of representatives they should be heard.

Mr. JOS. BEAUMONT, as a Conservative, said there was not a landlord or a tenant farmer, or any ratepayer, who would not hail with satisfaction any movement which would tend to alleviate the present agricultural distress, and if any remedy could be suggested he should not say it was not good because it originated with the Liberal Party. In the programme of the Alliance, as expounded by Mr. Howard, there were many things which all men must accept; but, he regretted, there were one or two points in it upon which he felt it necessary to ask for further explanation. They knew that from the middle of May to the middle of August was the land-selling and land-letting period of the year. If they wanted to know the present state of agriculture in Essex, they had only to follow him in his reflections as to what had taken place in the county. There had been a most extraordinary depreciation in the land capital and in the tenant interest, to which their attention had not been sufficiently directed. But, strange to say, although they heard that the land was tied up and there was none to be had, he believed Essex had this year been exceptionally prolific in land offering—he wished he could say in land sales—but within the last eight years the land of the county had depreciated in capital something like 33 or 35 per cent. He had carefully watched what had been done throughout the county in the last three months. At Dedham, the Ewen estates were offered, and withdrawn because there were no bidders; round the Tendring Hundred, land, which at one time would have been jumped at by landlords or investors at £45 to £50 an acre, had found slow purchasers at £35; at Chappel, he had himself seen land sold where the abstracts of title showed a depreciation in fee simple value of something like 38 per cent.; and if they came up to Chelmsford, they would remember that the Tyrell estates were offered by auction, and Messrs. Beadel could not get a bid for any lot, except for Wakering Hall, which, to the astonishment of everybody, fetched the abnormal price of £75 an acre. When they remembered this, and what Mr. Howard had told them, that two thousand millions of landlords' capital was invested in the soil they would see what this country had lost, what the families of England had lost, and what had been taken from the inheritances of the people of this country. Therefore every one must agree that a remedy was needed. Mr. Beaumont proceeded to criticise the programme of the Alliance. As to securing tenant farmer representatives, he urged them not to make this a party matter. As to stimulating improved cultivation, especially by obtaining security for capital invested, Mr. Beaumont urged that this resolved itself into a simple law of contract. He did not think they needed any act to rule them as to how they should

hire their land—Englishmen would rather be allowed to make their own bargain with their landlords. As to greater freedom of cultivation, that was a mere question of covenants, and if they compared present with old leases, it would be found they had, or could have, all the modifications that right demanded. He disliked the abolition of the law of distress and hypothec, and remarked that if a landlord committed himself by excessive or illegal distress he was liable for damages. As to alteration of all legal presumptions against tenant farmers, he did not know what that meant. In his article in the June number of the *Nineteenth Century*, Mr. Bear promised to give more definitely in his next paper the direction which agricultural reform should take and reasons for confidence in the result of each proposed alteration of existing conditions; but July and August had come without this paper. Then as to the ratepayers securing their share in county government. This was one of the greatest measures they should organise themselves for; he was a guardian of the poor, and he was sure everyone would agree with him that they wanted greater power vested in the ratepayers than had yet been conceded to them. In conclusion Mr. Beaumont argued that there was no great necessity for this Alliance; but said that if they did not get redress from their present members he would go with the promoters of this Alliance and say to those members, "You are unprofitable servants; I cast you out into utter darkness."

Mr. W. BROWN thought Mr. Beaumont's speech was an argument in favour of more tenant farmers' representatives in Parliament. Farmers had hitherto voted as they had been told—according to the politics of their landlords—but in many parts, and in Essex, they were awakening to the fact that they had not been fully represented hitherto, and they meant to exercise their influence at the next election. The labourers, the miners, the publicans, and other interests sent their representatives, and why should not the tenant farmers; but if they did, they must not object to contribute towards the expenses of their representative. Mr. C. S. READ was a fair tenant farmers' representative, but he was sometimes too squeezable. They had been neglected by both political parties, and questions which it was promised should be reviewed when the Corn Laws were abolished had never been looked into. He advocated the repeal of the malt-tax and spoke in support of the Alliance, whose motto was "Defence, not Defence," and deprecated the introduction of Party feeling, or the creation of any ill-feeling between landlords and tenants.

Mr. THOS. KEMBLE said there was one way in which the farmers had not hitherto helped themselves, although they could do so if they pleased, and that was in obtaining a return of their Income-tax in years when they made no money.

Mr. CHARLES PAGE WOOD said he had had the great advantage of attending there to-day and of hearing the different speakers who had preceded him, and he must pay his hearty tribute to the lucid way in which Mr. James Howard had explained the objects of the Farmers' Alliance. Looking at the broad programme of the Association, he had been in a little doubt as to how he could interpret the whole eight points, and he was unable to satisfy himself that there might not be in them or might not be supposed to be some sign or emblem of hostility towards the landlords as a class. That made him hesitate for some time as to whether he could consistently join the Alliance, but, adopting the interpretation of Mr. Howard, who had disclaimed everything like hostility towards the landlords, he was quite prepared to accept *in toto* all that had been said, and to go heart and soul with the Alliance.

He did not know whether it was Mr. Smith or some previous speaker who said that the object of sending tenant farmers to Parliament would be first agriculture then politics. There he was heartily with them. His (Mr. Wood's) strong impression was that a tenant farmer, let him belong to whatever party he might, should make prosperity and advantage of agriculture his first study. He (Mr. Wood) accepted fully the interpretation Mr. Howard had given of the objects of the Farmers' Alliance, and said he was very pleased to become a subscriber.

Mr. E. CATCHPOOL spoke of the law of distress as a great injury to the tenant farmer, and as encouraging the landlords to accept as tenants men of straw, who would agree to pay high rents and left the farms in a dreadful state.

Mr. BEAR, replying to Mr. Beaumont, said he had expected that gentleman to curse them more than he had done, but he had really blessed them, for he agreed with them in desiring a better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament and in

one or two other points, although he disapproved of any interference with freedom of contract, and could not understand the meaning of the sixth paragraph of the Alliance programme. As to his second article not appearing in the *Nineteenth Century*, as soon as the Royal Commission was appointed the Editor said the Conservatives had utterly dished the Liberals—Agricultural Reform was no longer an urgent matter, and his article might stand over and give place to something more urgent. As to the manner in which agriculturists were represented in Parliament, it had all through been landlord first, party second, and tenant farmer last.

Mr. G. COURTAULD, M.P., and Mr. T. M. GEPF having spoken,

The CHAIRMAN said it appeared to him that the programme of the Alliance was one that every reasonable man could support, and he said it without hesitation that it was a programme that every Conservative in the country could support. He did not care whether the members of the Association were Liberals or Conservatives; if gentlemen came forward and proposed anything likely to benefit the class interest to which he belonged, and he saw it was deserving of his support, he should be ashamed of himself if he did not support it. It was not a question of colour. The logical conclusion was that if the Conservative party could not accept and support such a resolution as this they would have to give place to gentlemen who would. He was inclined to take an independent view of this question, entirely separated from political parties, and if the result should be the establishment of an independent party in this country, so much the better for the agricultural interest. They were not represented in the House of Commons—rather they were misrepresented. If they wanted their interests served, the House of Commons was the place where the battle must be fought, and they could not expect their interests to be served unless they sent men there to fight their battles—men of their own class who knew their wants and requirements were the best to represent them.

The motion was eventually agreed to *nem. dis.*

On the motion of Mr. HOWARD, seconded by Mr. BEAUMONT, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Gardiner for presiding, and the meeting closed.

## THE PRESS AND THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The *Suffolk Chronicle* says:—

The Conservatives feel very uncomfortable, both as to the Farmers' Alliance and the Royal Commission upon Agriculture. Respecting the former most preposterous things are said. So strange are some of them that it might be supposed farmers existed for the lone sake of the Conservative party; that their interests as men working capital, and their energies as tillers of the soil, were to be sacrificed and expended, simply for the better consolidation of a system of political cliqueism; that their position as tenants was one of dependence throughout; that they are not only expected to pay rent, which is right, but to sacrifice the manhood, which is wrong. Feudal waters are being disturbed and the effect is not pleasant. Selfish claims are being rudely treated, and the shock is disagreeable. Farmers have been so long coddled that anything like a free, independent movement from homestead to homestead, for the amelioration of their condition, for freer cultivation, and for the development and security of capital, comes like a rude awakening. It is, perhaps, not surprising that Conservative journals are astounded as well as annoyed. The movement amounts to a confession that farmers have been bamboozled long enough, and that with all due respect to those who have so tutored them, they may as well speak for themselves. The alarm which the movement has created further suggests the thought that a consciousness exists that the farmer has been deceived, and that the system of agricultural tenure is susceptible of improvement. No one would dread the result of a movement if evils to be remedied existed only in the imagination. The keenness of the jealousy evinced bespeaks the intensity of the fear which underlies the surface of smoothly written platitudes of Conservative journals. The present attitude of the farmers is sufficient to alarm those who have been instrumental in deceiving them. If in stress of weather you have to look out for new pilots or search for better moorings, you tell the world that hitherto you have not

see prepared for exigencies—that, if you have not been imposed upon, you look with distrust upon what you have hitherto been content with; and that as the waters have become turbulent, you will exercise your own discretion and make “assurance doubly sure” by preparations which will reduce risks to a *minimum*. Whatever may be the result the present action of the farmers is likely to involve a revolution not only in agriculture but in agricultural politics.

### THE CHEESE FACTORY AND THE DAIRY FARMER.

At a recent meeting of the Swindon Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. John Oliver, of West Harptree, Bristol, read a paper on ‘The Cheese Factory and the Dairy Farmer.’ After tracing the history of the cheese factory system, he proceeded to speak of its advantages as compared with those of the private dairy system. He said:—A really well built dairy for 50 cows will cost £350. I do not mean a building with one room for making and another above it for storing, for while all the work can be done in these, it is useless to expect great improvements in the goods there produced. We have made careful calculations on this point, and find that while a sufficiently large dairy for a 50 cow farm will cost as we have said £350, a cheese factory for 500 cows may be built for £1,200, which is less than four times the cost for ten times as much material manufactured, or a factory for 1,000 cows’ milk may be erected for £1,700, or less than five times the cost for 20 times as much material dealt with. Supposing that 20 farms stocked with 50 cows each were to be provided with proper dairy accommodation at a cost in each case of, say £250, the total cost would be £5,000, as compared with £1,700, the cost of a factory to deal with the milk from the same number of cows; while if the farm dairy accommodation was to be of the best class, at a cost of £350 each—the total for the 20 farms would be £7,000. In fitting a factory the same economy may be carried out. In purchasing steam vats alone £60 may be saved in fitting a 500 cow factory as compared with the smaller vats for as many as 50 cow dairies. Whilst a 1,000 cow factory may be well fitted for £800 or less, the furnishing of a 50 cow dairy will require an outlay of £100. Let me here again remind you that in these comparisons my ideal farm dairy is not a cheaply built and cheaply fitted affair, but one which will be almost as convenient and quite as roomy according to its requirements as a first-class factory. It may be added that whatever is necessary to the proper performance of the work in the factory is as needed for the same purpose, though on a smaller scale, in the dairy. The economy extends to the manufacture. As has already been pointed out, in speaking of the origin of the system, one person in the factory can do the work of several dairies. Mr. Joseph Aston, of Tarpurley, writing in the *Dairy Farmers’ Association Journal*, of 1877, states that the factory system does not help large farmers, at the same time admitting that he keeps 50 cows and that his dairy maid’s salary is £30, and the additional help required costs him £24, a total of £54 per annum. Now at the same rate the labour of ten 50 cow dairies would cost £540, or of 20 such dairies £1,080, and comparing the former with the cost of the labour in a 500 cow factory, not more than £350 at the outside, or the latter with a 1,000 cow factory the labour bill of which would not be more than £650 per annum. The materials required in the manufacture, such as rennet, salt, bandage cloth, coal, brushes, &c., &c., may be bought at a cheaper rate in large quantities than in small, and the cost of repairs in a factory is small in proportion as the original cost of the plant itself, so that we have two more sources of economy. And all that is saved by the factory system helps the farmer, Mr. Aston, the gentleman before referred to, states that the expense of manufacturing milk of his 50 cows into cheese is 6s. 9d. per cwt., and comparing this with 7s. 1½d. per cwt., the cost of working two of the earlier factories, shows that he can make it at 4½d. per cwt. less than these factories. But one of these two factories was located in Derby, and paid board of health, gas and water rates, and both were doubtless worked at a much higher rate of expense than need now be incurred. The Windley factory, near Derby, supplied with the milk of 300 cows, was worked during the season of 1876 at 5s. 2½d. per cwt., and we may safely say that 5s. 6d. per cwt. will cover all expenses in a country fac-

tory. The latter price is 1s. 3d. per cwt. below Mr. Aston’s figure, while the Windley factory made at 1s. 6½d. less than the cost per cwt. of making his cheese. The comparison of the cost of cheesemaking in the factory and farm dairy gives the advantage to the former to a greater degree when we learn from Mr. Aston that five highly respectable tenant farmers, whose herds average 40 cows each, made their cheese at an average cost of nearly 8s. per cwt. We may then consider it proved that dairy produce may be made at a cheaper rate in the factory than at the farmer’s home. An advantage of the factory system we have yet to speak of is that of the better sale of the produce than can be obtained by the farmer for his home-made goods. The uniform good quality of the factory produce when well made breeds confidence in the buyers, who are willing to give higher figures on that account. On the American cheese markets at Utica and Little Falls I found that the factory managers who had obtained a reputation for fine goods, sold them with very little bargain-making, at the highest figures and often to the same dealer week after week. And the best makes were bought by agents who were commissioned to give a certain price per lb. about the first competition price. The same confidence would be reposed in English factories if deserved. Further, it would pay a factory manager to seek out and take his cheese to the best markets, as for instance the metropolis, or to export if any opening of advantage appeared, but a farmer to do so would entail more expense in proportion to the gain than would be profitable. But it may be asked, ‘If by the factory system better goods would be made at a less proportionate cost than in a farm dairy, and these goods may be sold to the greater advantage, how does it happen that the factories in England have so far failed to help the dairy farmers? It is very well known that they have disappointed their best friends, what is the cause? In reply to this we say “one cause is the adoption of the American system of making.” It has been stated by some who have written on the question that the Cheddar system is usually followed in the factories. I emphatically deny this. At the present time there is not a single establishment among them where Cheddar cheese is made. The American system is not a modification of the Cheddar method in any sense of the word. The cheese produced by the former has never at any time, either in America or in England, produced goods equal to the best Cheddars, and cannot do so because there are differences in principle which prevent any such result. I am intimately acquainted with the theory and practice of both systems, and can say that there is a wide gulf between them. Now the American system will not pay in England. A friend of mine who has managed factories in Derbyshire on that method admitted that the Americans can send us as good cheese as he could make, and that to sell, after paying freight, at a lower figure than would pay a factory to sell at. If this be true, and we have no reason to doubt it, our statement is confirmed. The *Agricultural Gazette* of last week reported the best American cheese at 48s. per cwt. at Liverpool. Now it is evident that buyers will not give 70s. per cwt. for cheese which is not better than that brought from America at 48s. per cwt., even though it is made in England. To make the factories pay we must make in them the finest grades of our English cheeses, such as the Cheddar and Stilton, which will sell at such figures as will yield a fair price per gallon for the milk. Another cause is the committee system of management. In this country the factories have usually been built by the landowners, who have let it to a committee elected by the patrons. This committee engages a manager under some kind of contract, either to receive a certain price per cwt. for the cheese made and find materials, or a fixed salary. Need we say this system of management has been a decided failure. During the summer months when the factory wants the attention of the committee most, they are busy with their harvesting, and at all times it is difficult to count upon them for business at the time it should be done. Further, as the patrons do not understand the management of the factory their interference is often harmful, and again so many persons holding so many different opinions seldom work pleasantly with each other or with their managers. I stated in a paper in the *Agricultural Gazette* in 1876 that under the management of committees the factories would never work profitably, and so far that prediction has been fulfilled. In some cases of failure the managers were chiefly to blame. The committee were victimised by men who either lacked the knowledge of the

business—or the fact—to manage it to advantage, and under such circumstances the work has only partially fulfilled the hopes of the patrons. There is a cure for this, and one which justifies the old proverb that the simplest remedy is often the best. One factory well built and well managed can be a school for embryo managers, where they may learn the theory and practice of their art perfectly. When we have learnt that—and we have much to learn—there is hope of improvement, and we know—the best of us—but little about dairy work compared with what we may know. There is doubtless a feeling of carelessness also on the part of the manager who is working under a committee which is certainly inexcusable, but it is a generally recognised fact that a business fails completely being trusted to a person who is paid according to the quantity, and not the quality of his work. The arrangements of the buildings have also had their share in the failure of the factories of England. There is one fact apparently forgotten that a factory well arranged, and constructed and fitted upon scientific principles, will cost no more than one in which those principles are neglected. I have seen one factory where the steam boiler was out of doors. This must have affected the coal bill. Another where the whey vats were outside the main building, where the winds could blow in the odours from them into the making room. Nothing was saved by such awkward arrangements, and certainly much was lost. And here let me remark that there is not an architect in England who can safely undertake the preparation of plans for a factory, simply because the necessities of the manufacture of dairy goods are not understood by them. The work can only be entrusted with safety to well educated dairymen, who combine with their knowledge of cheese and butter making a personal acquaintance with the scientific principles involved in that work with the laws of architecture. And now, having shown that the factory system should be a success if properly carried out, and why, so far, it has not so succeeded in this country, I come to the last section of my paper, in which I propose to show

How the factory may help the dairy farmer and how the farmer may help the factory.—Now, we recognise one truism at the foundation of the whole question—that unless the factory can do better for the farmer than he can do for himself, it is of no advantage to him. But we demand a much higher standard than this by which to judge the system of associated dairying. The factory must do more than yield the patron a small increase of profit. It must send out such produce as shall, when sold, pay the expense of making, and leave to the farmer a sum for the milk supplied considerably greater than he could obtain by making it into cheese at home; and this it can do. To produce such a happy result the good will and assistance of the landowner are required in most instances at the outset, for it is generally left to him to erect the factory, and sometimes to furnish it. And here I may speak of the cost of such buildings. Factories can be erected and fully furnished at from £3 to £4 per cow, according to their making capacity—this, including the manager's residence. A factory for the milk of £1,000 cows can be built and equipped for £3,000, which would be at a cost of £3 per cow, while one for 500 cows could not be built and furnished for much less than £2,000, or £4 per cow. In these calculations I am not making allowance for any unnecessary expense. The question of management now comes before us. I have before stated my belief that the old system of committees will not work satisfactorily. I have a scheme of management which has none of the disadvantages of the committee system, which I will now describe. Some maker who brings testimonials or references of the highest character concerning his skill and business abilities makes a contract with each farmer who expresses intention to supply the factory with milk, by which the farmer binds himself to give a certain price per gallon of 10lbs. for the milk, and the latter agrees to supply that milk under certain regulations as to time, and manner of delivery and condition. The following points of agreement may be included in such a contract. That, the patron on his part agrees to supply the manager with the whole, sweet, clean and unadulterated milk from a certain number of cows and send the same daily to the factory during the season, the supply to be governed by the following conditions and provisions, viz., that the patron shall not send the milk of any cow which is affected with any disease that may injure the quality of the milk, and that he shall be released from his agreement to send the milk of the full number of cows contracted for when any of these have died from disease or accident,

but only in respect of such cows as have died from such causes, and this release shall extend to fourteen days only, during which time the patron shall fill up the vacancies in his herd. That if the patron shall lose one-third or more of his cows by disease or accident during the season he shall be completely released from his contract in respect of the cows which have died from such causes. That the patron shall not send the milk from any cow which has not calved four full days. That the patron shall deliver his milk twice daily at the factory not later than eight o'clock a.m., during the months of March, October and November, and not later than half past seven during the months of April, May, June, July, August, and September for the morning delivery, and not later than seven p.m., during the whole season for the evening delivery, and that the manager shall be empowered to return to the patron any milk supplied by him at a time later than either of those mentioned. That the manager shall be empowered to refuse any milk which may have been drawn from diseased animals or injured by the addition of any solid or liquid, or by removal of cream, or by being sour; and if the peculiar condition of the milk be not discovered until it is mixed with other milk, the patron shall allow the manager a sum representing the loss accruing to him by and in the receiving, manufacturing, and selling the produce of that milk, the extent of the mischief being decided by the proofs scientific and practical usually applied to such cases. And that the manager does on his part agree to pay to the patron a certain sum for every 10lbs. weight of milk entered in his pass book under the following conditions and provisions, viz.: That the manager shall pay for the milk supplied by the patron during the month of March in the first week of July following.—April to August, May to September, June to October, July to November, August to December, September to January, October to February, November to March. That if the manager fails to pay for the milk at the time specified the patron is released from his contract, and any sum then owing shall be recoverable by law. That the manager shall be required to admit the patron to the factory at all reasonable hours, for the purpose of informing himself as to the management and the quality of the goods produced. That from the sums due to the patron for milk shall be deducted the sums due from him to the manager for whey, &c., supplied during the month in which the payment was made. This then is the contract in rough. The maker who has made such an agreement with each patron now takes the factory of the landowner at a fixed rent, and commences operations. As he is entirely independent of his patrons as concerns the management of the business he will feel at liberty to do his best, fearing no interference on the part of anybody, while remembering the great responsibility which he has undertaken, he will leave no effort untried to obtain the most satisfactory results, and so be enabled to meet his payments for milk at the proper times and without difficulty. But it may be said "What security can be given to the patrons by the manager, entrusted as he is with material worth hundreds of pounds, for his honesty?" This question need not alarm the man whose integrity is well known, and whose intentions are honourable. There is, however, a necessity for some security, and that may be easily given. The most satisfactory method of doing this would be by making some banking house the receiver of all moneys and the auditors of all accounts. It would not be necessary nor desirable that the firm so trusted should make known to any patron the condition of the manager's account with them, but the patron who entertained the least suspicion that there was a probability of the maker being unable to meet his account at the proper times of payment might learn from them if sufficient funds were deposited with them to pay for the milk supplied. And the manager should be willing to admit any patron at any reasonable hour of the day to inspect the factory, and the goods made in it, so that he may be satisfied as to the management of the one and the quality of the other. The maker should also prove his connection with some business agency, so that the milk supplier may be sure that he is not selling his goods to men who may defraud him and—indirectly—themselves. But no proof of his good intentions would be likely to satisfy his creditors more than an honourable bearing in all his business transactions with them and a lack of that secretiveness which breeds suspicion. Let me, however, remind you that the securities of which I have spoken of are more than any usually given in trade, and

I recommend them simply because the purchase on credit system as applied to the factories in England is a new thing, and without some source of confidence for the patron there would appear to exist a risk the fear of which a few years of experience would remove. The patron can take a broken contract to the courts of justice and compel the manager to pay him the sum due to him or suffer the penalty of the law. And when we further remember that the maker who fails in his business once will not again enjoy the confidence of his patrons, or enter on the management of another factory, it may be seen that the system of independent milk purchase gives the fairest security if carried out in the way I propose. And now I may be asked What price per gallon can be fairly paid by a maker for milk after the expenses of manufacture have been met, and a sufficient remuneration obtained for his labour? At the present low condition of the markets a high price cannot be realised for cheese, and I feel certain that more than 6½d. per 10lb.—which is the weight of a factory gallon—cannot be offered on contract with safety. But a farmer who receives 56s. per cwt., or about 6d. per lb., for his cheese—and a large proportion of cheese dairymen are glad to get that to-day, after paying ¾d. per lb. for manufacture—cannot net more than 5½d. per gallon for his milk. This gives the factory the advantage, at 6½d. per gallon, of 1½d. per gallon; which, to a patron supplying 50 gallons per day, would mean something like 165 during a season of about 35 weeks, which is the usual length in factories. When the factory had established a reputation for fine goods higher figures could be obtained, and I believe it possible to pay 7½d. and 8d. per gallon within a few years hence, whether the markets alter for the better or not.

How are such results to be brought about? Not, I may say, by the American system of making. They may follow the Cheddar method of manufacture if followed in its integrity. At the present time fine Cheddar cheese—I mean the best goods—is selling in London and other large towns at prices ranging from 70s. to 80s. per cwt. And if a factory obtained the former figure it could net the patron's 6½d. per gallon. And here it is that the factory has the advantage in selling. It would pay a manager to run up to our great metropolis and make an arrangement to supply one of the West-end firms, who are now glad to get the finest English cheese at any figure. I am personally acquainted with a gentleman of Leicestershire, to whom, as a juror, I with my colleagues awarded the gold medal of our British Dairy Farmers' Association, for a splendid show of 1,000 Stiltons at the October dairy show of 1877, who sold them all to a West-end house at a price which he could not possibly have realised from the local buyers, and the firm undertook to purchase the whole of his cheese made in a dairy supplied with the milk of, I believe, 300 cows. I could give other facts with which I have come in contact during several years past to show that a reputation for fine goods will be a mine of wealth to the possessor, and the dairy farmers of England can get the advantage of the profit arising from the manufacture of the finest goods by the Cheddar method in the cheese factory. It may not be also known that whey butter may also be sold at prices that pay well for making it. I know a factory working on the Cheddar system which has sold for a considerable period at 10d. per lb. of 18 ozs., or about 8d. per lb. of the ordinary standard.

The disposal of the whey. This is a question which deserves consideration, for diverse opinions exist upon it. I hold that the erection of piggeries in the neighbourhood of the factory a great evil to be avoided, if possible. If tainted milk is a desirable thing, and something to be sought after, then, certainly, feed pigs on the whey somewhere within a quarter of a mile of the factory, and you may realise your wish. There is an objection which should also be taken into consideration which is raised, and rightly too, by the landowner. If pigs are fattened on the farm, the land gets the benefit of the manure, but, if the whey is sold to some person who feeds swine on a large scale, the farm loses that benefit. It is obviously best to remove it from the factory tank in barrels, and feed it at home. It is often sold for removal at ½d. per imperial gallon, and I have been informed that it pays the farmer to obtain it at that price, but it would be better sold out at ¼d. per gallon for removal than fed in the neighbourhood of the factory at any price. Now, I think, it has been

shown the factory can help the farmer. How can the farmer help the factory? In one way, by sending as much and as good milk as possible. No amount of trouble is too much when taken in the management of milk sent to the factory. The cows should be supplied with good water, and it is worth while placing a lump of rock salt in some convenient place for the cow to lick. This custom is, perhaps, more common in America than in England, but it is a good and paying practice. The udder and teats of the animals should be washed before milking, lest any dirt or foul matter, such as manure splashes, should be dried upon them, and the milker's hands should be clean. I am aware that this would be considered too much trouble, but it pays for taking, and would help to raise the reputation of the factory. If the milk can be strained and cooled before sending to the factory, it may be profitably done. Much milk turned sour begins to do so before it comes to the delivery platform, and thorough cooling will lessen the danger considerably. The cans should be thoroughly cleansed as soon as they return to the farm, and this work should not be trusted to servants without careful subsequent examination. Much mischief may be done by sending milk in half-cleansed cans. I would also say that the London or goose neck churn should never be used for the purpose. They may be very foul in the corners, and such a condition could not be known, because the whole of the can cannot easily be seen. The best vessel for the purpose is a simple cylindrical-shaped can, with a cover fitting over the top so as to carry off all rain water and splashes. The milk should be delivered in good time both morning and evening, otherwise considerable delays occur in the progress of the work, especially if the morning milk is delivered late. Concerning skimmed or water milk, I can only say that such should never be heard of. I was once under the impression that no man could possibly be so dishonest as to wish to defraud a factory by sending either, but I was one day startled by a question, put to me by a man whom I had just been introduced to by a friend. He asked me if we could detect milk that had been skimmed or adulterated with water. I replied that it was a comparatively easy matter, when he assured me that he intended to sell his milk to a factory, and would in some way or other defraud the owner. Now that man was his own enemy, and proposed to do that which would presently bring disgrace upon him. The factory managers who know the methods of detection usually practised, can not only determine the fact that cream has been removed from or water added to the milk but also the extent of the tampering. Diseased milk should never be sent to the factory. That from animals suffering from the foot-and-mouth disease, and others which we might name, is unfit for the manufacture of cheese and butter. It may seem unnecessary to say this, but I have met with people who did not believe such to be the case, though such are not, I expect, to be found here this afternoon. I have known a farmer send a large quantity of milk from cows affected with the foot-and-mouth disease daily to a factory for a week, during which time the milk with which it was mixed was spoilt, and when, after repeated warnings, it was refused, he was offended and for a time refused to supply the factory with his milk.

I have endeavoured to show that the factory may if properly built, well managed by a skilful maker, and supplied with good milk, be a means of raising the name of the dairy farmer, and improving the cheese and butter of the locality in which it is situated, and I believe if properly treated the system will save us from being driven out of our own dairy produce markets by our friends on the other side of the Atlantic. Of the two nations, the English need the factory system, with its economy and advantages, most. If we are to hold our own in the race we must turn everything to account, and even at making the best goods in the cheapest manner. The time will never come when certain classes will lose their taste for our own peculiar kinds of cheese, and until then there will be a market for such goods at figures which will make it profitable to manufacture them. The milk trade now assuming such an aspect of importance cannot possibly require all that raised on the pastures of England for consumption. I therefore recommend to your favourable notice the system which has been described in this paper, and shall be well repaid for any trouble I have taken to-day, if it is introduced in your neighbourhood, and so operates as to give the dairy farmers in this neighbourhood the advantages which belong to it.

## THE PRESENT AGRICULTURAL POSITION.

A general meeting of the members of the Devon and Cornwall Chamber was held in the Municipal Buildings of the Plymouth Guildhall recently, when "The Present Agricultural Position" was introduced for discussion by Mr. H. Clark. Mr. Digby Collins presided, and there was a good attendance.

Mr. CLARKE remarked that at the present time the question of tenant right was not confined to farmers. It was being taken up, and would spread throughout England as the agricultural depression was more severely felt. He would not enter into minor details such as the law of entail, of land transfer, of primogeniture, of settlement, and of distress. The law ought to be repealed, certainly with regard to distress, which inflicted a great hardship not only upon the farmers, but upon the community at large, by giving the landowner an undue preference over other creditors. The depression in the agricultural world was admitted, and he believed they were at the present time passing through the severest period of depression that this country had ever gone through. They had had bad harvests, low prices, and foreign competition. On behalf of the consumer he did not complain of low prices. It was impossible to control the harvests, and he did not complain of foreign competition. But all these matters were pressing very heavily on the tenant farmers. The cultivation of the land, they were told, was no longer profitable. The old sets-off for bad seasons were no longer to be depended upon; the price of agricultural produce was regulated by the foreign supply, and the result was that corn was imported into this country at rates which the English farmer could not contend with. He believed the supply would continue, and that the English farmer would not be able to compete with the foreign producer. It was the same with cattle as with corn—the producer of cattle had to contend with the competition of America, and he believed when this developed the competition would become even more severe than it was at present. As had been well said, "The prairies of America will be added to the pastures of England." Home producers would be beaten out of the field under existing conditions. But he hoped this would not be the case, but that sufficient energy, skill, intelligence, and capital would be found in England if the tenant farmers were allowed freedom of cultivation to contend with this foreign competition. But besides this competition that the tenant farmers had to contend with, and besides bad harvests and low prices, he had to contend with increasing rates and taxes, a heavy labour bill, restrictive covenants, and devastation by game; but, beyond that, the tenant farmer really had no security for his capital. He had put this matter last, but it capped the whole thing. Some people had been talking of the remedies there were for this agricultural depression. First, there was Lord Derby, who did not speak with much sympathy for tenant farmers. No doubt he was a cool, sagacious, and well-reasoned speech which his lordship delivered to the Chamber of Agriculture of Lincolnshire; but it showed little sympathy with the tenant farmer, because Lord Derby said the question, after all, was not a tenants' question, but a landlords' question, and the landlord had the most reason to complain, because the money in the end came out of his pocket by means of a reduction from the rent. The rates, Lord Derby said, all fell ultimately upon the landlord. Lord Derby must certainly have been speaking of a yearly tenancy; he could not have had the question of a lease in his mind, because when there were continued tenancies upon whom did the rates fall? He maintained that they fell not upon the landlord, but upon the tenant who, under a lease, was in the position of the owner. Lord Derby suggested emigration as the remedy. It might be all very well for the young farmers to emigrate, and he would advise them to do so, because he believed in the limited area of England a living was not to be got very much longer, and he hoped to see young and enterprising farmers going abroad and competing with their fathers in this country. The depression had become so great that Mr. Chaplin moved in the House of Commons for a Royal Commission to inquire into the depressed condition of the agricultural interest and the causes to which it was owing; whether those causes were

of a temporary or a permanent character, and how far they had been created, or could be remedied by the Legislature. That Commission was appointed, and he trusted that it would do good work. What would it do? No doubt it would meet, would take evidence on facts relating to the present condition of affairs, and would probably listen to any suggestions that might be made for mitigating the grievances of the agricultural interest, and would report some time hence. But in the meantime what would become of the tenant farmer? Bad seasons, bad harvests, and low prices no doubt were accountable for a great part of the mischief that was complained of. But the seasons were beyond their control, and they must make the best of them. English farming must be made sufficiently elastic so as, if possible, to meet the exigencies of the case. The old system of a fixed rotation of crops must be swept away, and farmers must be permitted to grow produce according to their judgment, and to send to market whatever description of produce was most remunerative. But the chief remedy he proposed was security for the tenant's capital. As he had always advocated, where the tenant farmer was not secured either by agreement or by lease, he should be by the law of the country for the capital invested by him in the land that might be unexhausted at the time of his quitting the estate. Lord Derby did not object to State interference in contracts between landlord and tenant, but to his great surprise he found that Lord Hartington did. Security for a tenant's capital must come, and it not given by lease or agreement, would sure to be given by law. Then there was freedom of cultivation. It was monstrous that farmers should not be permitted to exercise their own judgment, and the conditions which were now imposed must be swept away. (Applause.) Then there must be freedom in the produce and sale of crops; and it was a fact to which they might attach considerable significance, that in cases where the tenant had enjoyed that freedom he had been enabled to stand the bad times. Then, with regard to the devastation of crops by game, he had always advocated the repeal of the game laws, and he held that the tenant should have the indefeasible right of destroying ground game. Then, as to the reduction of taxes. In this matter they should begin at the top. He held that the Civil Service estimates of the country were a scandal and a shame—(hear, hear)—and before they could get any reduction of taxation, they would have to begin at the top and correct the abuses which now existed. (Hear, hear.) As to the rates, it was idle to say they fell upon the landlord, when during existing tenancies they fell upon the occupiers. It became a question then, whether all new rates should not be divided equally between the landlord and the tenant, because, when a man took an estate for a term, he could not foresee what new rates might be levied by the Legislature, and they might prove to be as heavy as they were unexpected. As to a reduction of rents, in some cases it was not possible, because of the mortgages which existed on the property, but where it was possible it should take place. The Duke of Bedford had been enabled to do a noble and generous thing towards his tenants; whilst another landlord in the North of Devon, who seemed afraid to trust them with the money, had given them cake. (Laughter.) But in his opinion, where relief was necessary it should be given in cash—(hear, hear)—and nothing but disaster would happen if it were refused. His advice to landowners was that they should meet their tenants individually and talk over matters, and come to some arrangement so that estates might be kept, untrammelled by conditions, in a progressive state of cultivation, and then they might possibly be able to tide over their difficulties until better times came. His desire was that the old restrictive clauses in leases should be swept away, and that tenant farmers should be permitted to farm their lands and dispose of their crops according to their own judgment. In his view, the agricultural interest was not sufficiently represented in Parliament, and he advised the agricultural community to support men of Mr. C. S. Read's stamp. One other piece of advice was, that this Chamber should aid the Commission in its work by obtaining information and placing it before the Commissioners. He believed they would do well and wisely if they acted upon this suggestion; and he believed assistance of this kind would be highly appreciated. (Hear, hear.) He moved, "That full security should be given to the tenant farmer for the investment of his capital in the improvement of the land; and liberty should

be given to the tenant farmer to cultivate and manure his farm according to his judgment, and full power during his tenancy to dispose of the produce, while at the same time the landlord should be paid for dilapidations and deteriorations caused by default of the tenant."

Mr. FRYNN seconded the motion, considering that it embodied the elements of a just relationship between landlord and tenant.

Mr. J. D. PRATT agreed that if ever there was a time when the landowner and tenant farmer must turn their attention to the state of things with a view to devising a remedy it was at the present time. It was clear that if the land was not worth the rent upon it the rent must be reduced, whether there be a mortgage upon it or not. The position of tenant farmers—they were holding farms which they took in prosperous times, and times had very much altered for the worse. Rents had gone up within the last ten years something like ten millions sterling, and the tenant had to produce at lower rates sufficient crops to meet that great increase. "Statist," in a letter to the *Times*, calculated that the loss to the tenant farmer during the last six years, by means of the diminution in prices, &c., amounted to ninety-seven millions sterling, and gave it that the wages of farm labourers had gone up 2s. weekly. But that did not at all represent the increased rate of wages, which had gone up at least 4s. weekly (Hear, hear). The cry had been that rents must come down. But the fact was that estates went into the market and realised a certain value, and if the tenant farmer overshot the mark he must be the loser. The Mayor of Plymouth, in speaking upon agricultural topics the other day, might have spared his sneers. He stated that thirty-five years ago he could buy beef at 6d. per lb. Now, anyone with a little thought would have seen that 35 years ago 6d. would pay very much more in the shape of rents, rates, and taxes than now. He was astonished that a gentleman holding so high a position should have shewn so limited a capacity. He was afraid that in valuing estates land agents thought more of the landlord than the tenant farmer. Mr. Snell remarked the other day that a landlord and a tenant were supposed to be in partnership, and that where a landlord's capital represented £10,000, the tenant's might be reckoned at £2,000, each bearing about 1 per cent. But was there to be nothing for the tenant for his time and labour as well as his capital? Regarding the law of distraint, he believed if it were abolished there would be more care taken in the selection of tenants, and that responsible men would no longer find themselves in competition with men of straw (Hear, hear). The tenant farmer certainly should have the right to destroy ground game. The present laws damped their energies and destroyed their hopes. He agreed with Mr. Clark that they should seek to return men to Parliament who would represent the agricultural interest irrespective of party; and he believed that if security were given the tenant farmer they would increase their corn crops from twelve to sixteen million quarters a year (applause).

Mr. DINGLE remarked that the great question was whether any of the remedies proposed by Mr. Clark would be sufficient to meet the difficulties by which they were surrounded. To him it appeared that they were but at the very beginning of foreign competition. Wheat could be imported from America to Liverpool and sold for 30s. a quarter, and a calf could be reared on the prairies of America to four years old for 25s., and shipped over for about £3 or £4. The number of cattle imported into this country in 1876 was 600; in 1878 the number had risen to 60,000. The question, therefore, arose in his mind as to how far the remedies of Mr. Clark were adequate to tide tenant farmers over the difficulties of foreign competition. The resolution did not altogether commend itself to his mind because it would compel a landlord to let his estate without any conditions, but he questioned whether any tenant farmer, if he had an estate to let to-morrow, would let it without conditions. He agreed that there were a good many ridiculous and obstructive clauses in the existing forms of leases, but there were some conditions which were of some considerable utility, and he believed they would be putting themselves in a false position both with their landlords and with the public if they were to pass such a resolution (No). His opinion was that the tenant farmers must stand shoulder to shoulder with their landlords in order to tide themselves over their difficulties, and not enter into any vexatious discussions to get rid of all conditions. Mr. Clark had put forward security of tenure as the great panacea for the

present depression; but it was a remarkable fact that in Norfolk, where there was the greatest protection, there existed the most severe distress. He moved as an amendment "That this Chamber, while desirous of advocating the principle of giving the fullest security to the tenant farmer for the investment of his capital in the land, is not prepared to recommend that all restrictions on the cultivation, cropping, and management of farms by the occupier should be abolished, and that the Chamber is of opinion that the recommendations of Mr. Clark are in themselves inadequate to meet the present agricultural depression."

Captain B. SNELL, in seconding the amendment, remarked that there was no doubt but that there was great distress in agricultural circles throughout the country, and it was most severely felt in the corn-growing districts; but in his opinion the general depression in trade was the primary cause, and the adverse season was the second cause. He did not believe in the panacea recommended by Mr. Clark as the main remedy of the existing distress, for the reason that in counties where the most liberal covenants were held there was to be found the greatest distress. He did not believe any person would wish or expect any one man to put his property in the hands of another without some restriction for its security. Mr. Pratt had questioned Mr. Clark's estimate of the amounts relatively put into an estate by landlord and tenant; but he believed he was right when he said that if a landlord bought an estate for £10,000, and a tenant put in £2,000 it was very ample capital. He considered that if the landlord took up 3 per cent. for his money, the tenant should take up something between 5 and 10 per cent. for his capital and labour, and his endeavour in dealing with estates had been to arrange so that the tenant should have that opportunity. His advice to them was that instead of seeking to set aside conditions, they should seek to establish a mutual good feeling between landlord and tenant. It would have a better effect than putting class against class, and removing sympathy where it ought to exist (applause).

Mr. N. ROSEVEARE did not think tenant farmers would get much benefit by taking estates upon the terms proposed by Mr. Clark.

Mr. G. H. E. RUNDLE, in speaking upon the law of distress, said he was sure if it were abolished it would have this effect. Where the time of payment for any commodity was postponed the seller always required that there should be some security. In letting his estate the landlord would, in the absence of the law of distress, put himself in the same position, and if there was no law of distress the landlord would assuredly say, "Give me security by the bond of some third person that your rent will be paid." Regarding the question of leases, that was the most important of all transactions in farming. His opinion was that freedom of cultivation, which seemed so much to be desired, might be obtained by granting a lease without any restrictive covenants for the earlier part, enforcing conditions only for the last two or three years. Take, for instance, a lease of sixteen years. They could let the farmer do as he pleased for the first ten or eleven years; for the last few years he should be restricted to farming it in such a way as to leave it in an eligible form for the incoming tenant, and which would pay the landlord a fair and proper remuneration (applause).

Mr. R. GILL advocated the establishment of friendly relations between landlord and tenant, rather than attempting to sweep away existing conditions. He was extremely sorry to hear of the prospect of a bad harvest, and he hoped landlords would not wait to be asked for relief, but that they would make their tenants some sort of present for their relief (Hear, hear).

The CHAIRMAN said the main question which presented itself was the cause of the present position of the agricultural community. Insecurity of tenure was one of the causes given them, and another was the restrictive clauses in leases. If this were so, most assuredly those who farmed their own lands would not be the victims of the same depression that tenant farmers were. Moreover, if it were due to the restrictive clauses in leases, surely logically they must conclude that agricultural depression would have existed from time immemorial—in fact, from the time the restrictive clauses were inserted in leases. And that had certainly not been the case. There never was a time when restrictive clauses in leases were so exceptional, as now, and there never was a time in which in his experience agricultural depression was so

THE WET SUMMER.

Mr. G. J. Symonds contributes the following reliable particulars to the *Times* :—

Although July has not been quite so wet as June, the fall of rain has been double the average, and the total up to the present time—22·66 in.—exceeds by more than 10 per cent. even that in the previously unequalled year, 1878.

Much has been said respecting the resemblance of the present summer to that of 1860. I therefore give first the totals in each month for the two years :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Jan-July.
	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.
1860 ...	1·97	1·25	1·87	1·45	3·57	5·47	2·26	17·84
1879 ...	2·87	3·77	0·91	2·72	3·46	4·76	4·17	22·66

From this we see that the first four months of 1860 had nearly four inches less than the first four months of 1879, and although the totals for May and June, 1860, exceed those for the corresponding months of 1879, it is only by small amounts, and July, 1879, was so wet that the total for the three growing months (May to July) in 1879 reaches the unprecedented total of 12·39 inches, and that, too, after a wet winter and the wettest year for at least 21 years. It is rather curious what a run of wet years we have had at this station; the average fall here is less than 25 inches, or perhaps I should say it *was* under 25 inches, but the following figures will compel me to assign a very different value if a compensating drought does not soon set in. The totals lately have been :—

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879 (7 months of)
	28·44	26·16	28·17	34·08	22·66
Excess	3·44	1·16	3·17	9·08	8·72

If these excesses be added together it will be found that they amount to 25½ inches, so that in four years and seven months we have had an aggregate excess of rather more than one year's supply.

The full intensity of the excess can only be fully shown by comparing the fall since the exceptional rains commenced with the average. The tremendous fall on April 10th and 11th, 1878, when 3·23 in. fell, was the first of the exceptional rains, but it will be more convenient to take the calendar months.

Months.	1878.		1879.	
	Total	Diff. from	Total	Diff. from
	Rainfall.	Average.	Rainfall.	Average.
	In.	In.	In.	In.
January .....	—	—	2·87	+·92
February .....	—	—	3·77	+2·55
March .....	—	—	·91	—1·17
April .....	4·97	+3·84	8·72	+1·59
May .....	3·89	+1·49	3·46	+1·06
June .....	6·71	+3·66	4·76	+1·71
July .....	·64	—1·15	4·17	+2·38
August .....	6·72	+4·08	—	—
September .....	·83	—1·43	—	—
October .....	1·99	—·60	—	—
November .....	2·95	+·54	—	—
December .....	1·47	—·03	—	—

In.

Total rainfall in 16 consecutive months ..... 52·83

Average rainfall for the 16 consecutive months 33·39

Excess for the above period ..... 19·44

or 58 per cent.

The signs + and - indicate above and below the average.

The following table is necessary to a complete knowledge of the facts which have occurred, and will moreover be useful for comparison with some of the theories which have lately been propounded :—

rife and general. So that they must admit that security of tenure had nothing whatever to do with the position of the British farmer. Then they must turn to the consideration of foreign competition. They had had a picture drawn for them that was absolutely untrue, not by Mr. Clark, but by means of the echoes of the statements of other people. They had had a picture of the American farmer growing fat and the British farmer growing thin. But the fact was that the American farmer was suffering as much as they were in England. Foreign competition was not the cause of the present depression. The reason why so much American produce was being imported into this country—and the fact had been most improperly slurred over—was because they had such a bad market in their own country. If they were prepared to sell wheat in English markets at 30s.—which he disputed their ability to do—it proved that they could not get above 26s. in their own country, and at that price farming would pay no better in America than it would in England. The fact was that all trades were sympathising with the agricultural depression. It was not peculiar to agriculture, because if it were other trades would, of course, be free from the depression. (Hear, hear.) They had had remedies suggested. They had had the steam roller put over the old path, and he hoped it had crushed out some weeds. But he could not agree with the expressions of disapproval at the tone assumed by Lord Hartington in relation to tenant right and the Agricultural Holdings Act. He himself agreed with Lord Hartington, and objected to the Act on the ground that it afforded the greatest possible facilities for litigation between landlord and tenant, and that was sufficient to make it repugnant to him. If they did not pull together, depend upon it they had not learnt their last lesson in the holding of land. (Hear, hear.) It had been said that where the greatest security was given, there was to be found the least depression, but he could give that a direct contradiction. He had been staying with Lord Lindsey at Stamford, and he found that in that locality, where there was the greatest protection, the depression of affairs was unfortunately greater than even in the Midland or Southern counties, and far greater than he hoped it ever would be in the Western Counties. He should like to know what freedom a tenant farmer had not got. They were told he wanted liberty to sell his produce as he liked. He never yet knew of a case where a tenant farmer could not sell whatever produce he liked so long as he did not deteriorate his holding. (On.) If he differed from his hearers on any point, he did so upon common-sense principles, and not because he believed his interest as a landlord was opposed to theirs as tenant farmers. (Hear, hear.) Regarding rents, could they show him any desirable lands which at their present rental produced to their owner more than 2½ per cent. He had never seen it. If the landlord treated his tenant fairly, it was absurd to tell men, when they had invested money at 2½ per cent. that it was incumbent upon them to make a reduction. If they did, they could only do so through a personal consideration of their tenants, and not as a matter of right and justice.

Mr. CLARK having briefly replied upon the discussion, the Chamber divided, and the original motion was carried by a large majority.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Clark for the able manner in which he had introduced the subject, and to the chairman for presiding, brought the meeting to a close.

**FARMERS AND EMIGRATION.**—The Canadian Government has just taken an important step with the view of inducing English farmers, who are suffering from the present depression of trade and gloomy agricultural prospects at home, to try their fortune in the Dominion. The Hon. Mr. Pope, the Minister of Agriculture, has authorised the Canadian Government agent at Liverpool, Mr. Dyke, to place himself in communication with the tenant farmers in such localities as he thinks most desirable for the purpose in view, and on receiving assurances that a fair number, with moderate means, will entertain the subject of emigration, to send out to Canada a delegate appointed by each body of not less than 25. The expenses of this delegate will be defrayed by the Dominion Government, and he will be offered every facility for making himself thoroughly acquainted with the character and resources of the country, the terms on which improved farms may be acquired, and all other matters which may assist his constituents in coming to a decision.

RELATION OF THE FALL OF RAIN IN LONDON IN 1879, TO THAT IN EACH OF THE PRECEDING 21 YEARS.

Year.	Rainfall in					
	April.			April to January.		
	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.
1858.....	2.90	2.76	.91	3.01	9.58	12.95
1859.....	2.53	2.21	2.90	2.93	10.57	13.85
1860.....	1.45	3.57	5.47	2.26	12.75	17.84
1861.....	1.30	1.39	2.73	2.42	7.24	12.03
1862.....	2.30	3.06	2.43	2.61	10.40	16.31
1863.....	.52	1.27	4.86	.92	7.57	11.89
1864.....	.82	1.86	1.28	.62	4.58	9.07
1865.....	.33	3.40	2.21	2.33	8.27	15.30
1866.....	1.76	2.03	3.98	1.19	8.96	18.28
1867.....	2.35	2.45	1.22	4.29	10.31	17.03
1868.....	1.49	1.58	.78	.45	4.30	10.69
1869.....	1.28	3.27	1.03	.62	6.20	13.40
1870.....	.47	.70	.83	1.22	3.22	8.11
1871.....	2.84	.92	3.49	4.13	11.38	15.82
1872.....	1.39	3.05	2.55	2.57	9.56	16.64
1873.....	.55	1.56	2.24	1.81	6.16	12.02
1874.....	1.26	1.14	2.05	.82	5.27	7.74
1875.....	1.53	1.61	2.41	4.63	10.13	15.15
1876.....	1.90	.94	1.27	.81	4.92	10.79
1877.....	2.59	1.91	.42	3.94	8.86	17.76
1878.....	4.97	3.89	6.71	.64	16.21	20.13
Mean.....	1.74	2.12	2.44	2.10	8.40	13.94
1879.....	2.72	3.46	4.76	4.17	15.11	22.66
Excess.....	.98	1.34	2.32	2.07	6.71	8.72
Excess per cent	56	63	95	99	80	63

The temperature has also been very remarkable. I will, however, only take one feature—hot days. In a capital little book which Mr. Glaister wrote many years since, he gave a table of "the most probable highest temperature in each month in the suburbs of London;" these figures form the first column in the following table, and the temperatures observed here in 1860 and 1879 form the second and third:—

	Max. Probable.	Shade 1860.	Temp. 1879.
	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.
January.....	50	55	51
February.....	54	52	54
March.....	62	58	63
April.....	70	66	62
May.....	77	76	69
June.....	84	72	74
July.....	85	76	80

This is tolerably strong evidence as to the absence of anything like summer weather. But perhaps the most startling evidence is afforded by the weekly returns of the Registrar-General; they contain each week a table compiled under the direction of the Astronomer Royal, in which is given the difference between the mean temperature of each day (and week) and the average for the day (and week) during 20 years ending with 1868. It is not unusual to have five or six weeks above or below the average, but the facts in the following table are, I should think, entirely without precedent—certainly even 1860 showed nothing like the continuance of cold weeks.

Amount by which the temperature at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was below the average in 18 consecutive weeks ending with the undermentioned days:—

Date.	Deg.	Date.	Deg.
March 29.....	7.2	May 31.....	4.9
April 5.....	0.2	June 7.....	3.3
April 12.....	3.9	June 14.....	1.4
April 19.....	7.5	June 21.....	1.6
April 26.....	3.6	June 28.....	5.2
May 3.....	4.8	July 5.....	5.1
May 10.....	7.2	July 12.....	6.4
May 17.....	4.6	July 19.....	5.0
May 24.....	1.2	July 26.....	5.4

When we recollect how severe was the winter 1878-79, and find it followed by so summerless a summer, we are at once shown that the temperature has been as exceptional as the rainfall.

BIRMINGHAM HORSE AND HOUND SHOW.

The Horse and Hound Shows, which were formerly held in Bingley Hall, and which were suspended on the occasion of the visit of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1876, have been revived at the Aston Lower Grounds recently, with a success on which the promoters of the undertaking are to be congratulated. The experiment appeared an extremely hazardous one, considering the wet and gloomy weather which has generally prevailed since the project was announced; but the return for a time of bright sun-shine and genial breezes has fully justified the enterprise of the promoters. The entries in all departments, as our readers have been informed, were very numerous, but ample space was available for their reception, the area of the ground being about ten acres, and the arrangements were in all respects complete. A large ring was enclosed for the trial of the horses and a parade of the "turn outs," while the galleries for spectators were convenient as well as easy of access.

The proceedings commenced on Tuesday morning with the competition of the entire horses, and the hunters, the judges for this division being Lord Willoughby de Broke; Mr. Albert Muntz, Birdinbury Hall, Rugby; and Mr. Y. R. Graham, of Westbourne Road, Edgbaston. The Arab stallions, of which there are only two, contributed by the Prince of Wales, first came under inspection. Both these animals were presented to His Royal Highness by the Sultan of Turkey, and were therefore interesting, as genuine specimens of a world-renowned equine race, one being a gray, described as of the "Saklair breed;" and the other a bay, described as of the "Hamadady breed." The former gained the blue ribbon, as was understood, on account of his action being superior to that of his stable companion, which was more symmetrical. The bay as a matter of course was awarded the second prize.

The thorough-bred stallions, of which eleven put in an appearance, are a fairly good collection, though not of a very high order of excellence. Although the schedule did not state that such would be the case, it is probable that their merits were estimated according to their qualifications as sires of hunters rather than for racing purposes; the judges placing the Grey Palmer, an animal possessing bone and substance, with a plain head, and lacking blood-like style, the property of Sir Geo. Chetwynd, first; Messrs. Fort and Son's Raby, a muscular, short-legged brown horse, which has gained honours at various provincial exhibitions, second; and Mr. Alfred Over's Thunderer, a powerful chestnut by Thunderbolt, bred by Col. Barlow, third. Among the noticeable horses in this class is Jolly Friar, by Beadsman—dam Frivolity, a winner of important races, the property of Mr. G. F. Lyndon, of Moseley. With the trio of roadster or trotting stallions short work was made; the Stud Company's well-known Star of the East, the model of a sturdy, active cob, being a long way the first; and Mr. Neate's Young Express, second.

Hunters exceeding 15½ hands high, equal to fifteen stone, are a capital lot, and taxed the critical discernment of the judges for a considerable time. The first prize was awarded to Rossington, a compact bay horse, nine years old, with quality and nice manners, the property of Mr. C. W. Wilson, of Kendal; the second to King John, an unmistakably weight carrier, belonging to Mr. J. S. Forster, of Beal, Northumberland, which took first honours at the recent International Exhibition at Kilburn; and the third to Nobleman, a younger horse with quality and admirable action, which is likely to achieve greater distinction at a more mature age—the property of Mr. A. J. Brown, of Pontefract. Mr. J. H. Stokes, of Market Harborough, was commended for Sutor, a good-looking chestnut. Hunters exceeding 15½ hands, without condition as to weight, five years old and upwards, muster strongly, no fewer than twenty-two being present; and are altogether a very praiseworthy lot. Mr. F. E. Thompson, of Hull, was fortunate in securing not only the first prize in the class but the extra prize given by Mr. W. C. B. Cave for the best hunter, with his Golden Drop, a strong and handsome chestnut, in the finest possible condition, which has won numerous prizes in London and elsewhere. Mr. Henry Ford, of Leanington, was awarded the second prize for Waverley, a meritorious bay, which stood in the same relative position to Golden Drop at Manchester last year; Mr. John Goodwin,

of Cheltenham, the third for Gainsboro, another fine bay; and Mr. Rose Malton, highly commended for His Majesty which was second at the Kilburn International. In a small and moderate class of hunters not exceeding 15½ hands high, Mr. Henry Ford was placed first for Miss Jessie, a pleasing chestnut mare; Mr. R. Leamon, Haresfield, Gloucestershire, second for Confidence; and Messrs. Millward and Urwick, Ludlows third, for a bay gelding named Cautious. The four-year old hunters are a large and good class, at the head of which is Mr. Henry Ford's Forester, a promising chestnut; Cigarette, a Yorkshire horse, belonging to Mr. T. Cattle, Slingsby, being second; and Elmsall, belonging to Mr. A. J. Brown, third.

The awards before mentioned having been completed, the jumping competitions followed, and were a source of much amusement. In class 3 the prize was awarded to Sutor, ridden by the exhibitor, Mr. J. D. Stokes; that in class 4 to Heart of Oak, exhibited by Mr. J. Munton Jaffray, of Frowlesworth House, near Lutterworth, which was ridden by the groom; and that in class 5 to Flashman, belonging to Mr. E. Bowen, of Droitwich. In class 6, the prize was divided between Mr. H. Ford's Forester and a gelding Westhild, exhibited by Mr. E. N. Hadley, Worcester.

The judging of the Foxhounds by Mr. C. Tongue, Trysull, and Mr. G. Castleman, Atherstone, took place on Tuesday afternoon. This division of the show, though not so extensive as might have been expected, was well worthy of the attention it received. The dog hounds (two couples) were a fairly good average class, in which four useful representatives of the North Warwickshire pack were deservedly placed first, and four others from the South Staffordshire second. In the next class The Warwickshire kennels came to the fore with two couples of nice bitches, the second prize going to the North Shropshire. The first prize for unsextered hounds was won by the Warwickshire pack with a couple of either sex, the dog in which was very promising; and the second by the South Staffordshire Sailor. A clever animal from the North Shropshire kennels was the best of the stallion hounds, and Alfred, from the North Warwickshire, second.

Yesterday (Wednesday) there was again a large attendance. The judges commenced with class 7, for hacks, roadsters, and cobs, fifteen hands high and upwards. There were seven competitors for the prizes offered, and they fell to the lot of Mr. Jacob Sturdy's unnamed brown mare, Mr. J. T. Hopwood's very promising colt, Shamrock, and Mr. Thomas Watson; the reserve number being Messrs. Millward and Urwick's Cautious.

Upon the appearance in the ring of Class 8, for hacks or roadsters between fourteen and fifteen hands, a thunderstorm occurred, which delayed the operation of the judges for a short time. Out of the sixteen entries eleven were sent, making a first-rate class. The first prize fell to Miss Harrison's Major, the second to Mr. D. R. Sowerby's Crafty and the third to Mr. R. Knight's Minnie Hawk. Mr. H. Villars's Yorkshire Lass was very much admired, and would doubtless have won the first prize but for a splint in one of her forelegs.

There were five competitors in Class 9, for weight-carrying hacks above fifteen hands high, all of them good, and three of them remarkably so. The first prize was won by Mr. Wilson's very handsome dark brown mare, Lady Watton, whose front action was so splendid as to make her appear rather defective behind. Perhaps she would have shown to more advantage if she had been ridden with the snaffle instead of the curb. The second prize fell to the Stand Stud Company's Bessie, and the third to Mr. Henry Ford's Cee Spring, the reserve number being an unnamed black mare of Mr. Thomas Watson's.

There was a strong muster in Class 10, for weight-carrying hacks, not exceeding fifteen hands high. The first prize was taken by Mr. C. W. Wilson's King Charles III., a remarkably handsome chestnut gelding; the second by Mr. T. F. Forest's Kitty; and the third by Mr. Sikes's Fascination.

In Class 11, for ladies' hacks exceeding fifteen hands high, there was a large number of excellent horses, which gave the judges some trouble in deciding upon their merits. Viscount Dupplin's Norma was placed first, Mr. C. W. Wilson's Sunbeam second, and Mr. Leamon's Confidence third; Miss Moffatt's Charley being highly commended, and Lady Syke's Sir George commended. Sunbeam would undoubtedly have been placed first, as she was in every respect the best horse,

but very fractious in going. There were only four ladies' hacks not exceeding fifteen hands; and of these Mr. F. Cook's Zephyr was first, and Dr. Walker's Comet second. The third prize was not awarded.

There was a splendid show of harness horses. In those fifteen hands high and upwards, the Stand Stud Company were first with Extravagance, Mr. J. C. Shaw was second with Dandy, Mr. J. C. Sturdy third with a brown mare, and Mr. Geo. Kynoch commended with Mujik. For those under fifteen hands high, Mr. T. F. Forest was first with Kitty, Mr. Adcock second with Jocko, and Miss Harrison third with Minor; Mr. Leeds's Empress and Mr. Jermya's Tally Ho being commended.

There was a poor show of horses adapted for car, tramway, and omnibus purposes, and only a third prize was awarded, which was given to Mr. J. Burnett's Stanley.

Only one pair of harness horses fifteen hands high and upwards appeared, belonging to the Stand Stud Company, and these were so good that they received the prize of £20. They went uncommonly well, but were not perfectly matched.

Only one four-in-hand was shown, that of the Stand Stud Company, to which was awarded the prize of £20.

There were two splendid pairs of carriage horses between fourteen and fifteen hands, the prize of £10 going to Miss Harrison, Leamington.

Several well-appointed tandems put in an appearance, the prizes for those over fifteen hands going to the Stand Stud Company and Mr. Geo. Tharme; those between fourteen and fifteen hands to Miss Harrison and the Stand Stud Company; and those under fourteen hands to Mr. W. Foster and Mr. Geo. Wright.

There was a large number of ponies, which were divided into nine classes, and included a number of really first-rate specimens—perhaps the best collection ever brought together; and the competition was very severe in some cases. The entire ponies were superb.—*Midland Counties Herald*.

## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL AGRICULTURE.

The commission appointed to inquire into the state of French Agriculture and which consists of four senators, five deputies, and the well-known M. M. Vietor Borie and Tisserand, having applied to M. Tirard, Minister of Agriculture, for assistance in their researches, the latter has issued a circular to the prefects throughout the country, enumerating a variety of questions to be laid before the councils-general at their approaching meetings.

Baron Corvisart has published a little pamphlet giving his experience in the "ensilage," or preservation by burying, of green maize. He finds that the maize buried just as cut will keep for four years.

A determined effort is being made to check the phylloxera in Burgundy. On the 10th inst., a meeting of wine producers was held at Flavigny, when a report was read to the effect that a central committee had been appointed at Dijon, with three vigilance committees at Beaune, Châtillon, and Semur respectively. On the least sign of infection, delegates will be sent to report on the vineyard and advise as to remedial measures.

The Paris Correspondent of the *Standard* writes:—

The remarks of Lord Beaconsfield at the Mansion House on the agricultural crisis form, in the *Republique Française* to-day, the subject of an interesting article. The paper agrees, on the whole, with the opinions of the noble Premier concerning peasant proprietorship as opposed to the views of Lord Hartington. It thinks, however, that peasant proprietorship is not so foreign to England and the development of her power as Lord Beaconsfield imagines. It asks what were the Yeomen of whom the English are so proud, but small rural proprietors? It is true that the energetic and laborious class has, so to speak, disappeared. A little more than a century ago there were two hundred and fifty thousand proprietors in England, but now there are not more than thirty thousand. Lord Beaconsfield is glad to see that

they have been replaced by three classes, namely, by the large proprietors, the farmers, and the agricultural labourers. The *Republique Francaise* doubts whether England has gained by the change. In any case she has not been able to prevent the agrarian crisis from which she is now suffering. The *Republique* is rejoiced to learn that the Government is going to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject, and says that everybody will follow its labours with great interest and attention.

This agricultural question is becoming more and more prominent in France, as elsewhere. The *Debats* also devotes a leader to one branch of it. It asks whether France can really in these days produce enough wheat for her own consumption, and it proceeds to quote figures to show that she does not. Formerly there might have been a surplus, but times have changed. The peasants and poor people in general no longer eat herbs and roots, as under Louis XV., but call for wheat like their richer countrymen. In 1826, not to go farther back, the harvest produced 184 quarts of wheat per inhabitant, and the consumption was 181 quarts, showing a surplus of three quarts per head. In 1836 the respective figures were 189 and 188. From this date downwards, with the exception of abnormally good years, the harvest presents a deficit. In 1856 the production was 236 quarts, and the consumption 240 quarts per head. In 1866 they were 223 and 241 respectively, showing a deficit of seven million hectolitres. In 1876 four million hectolitres had to be imported. The average consumption of France is at present 95 million hectolitres; twenty years ago it was not more than 80 millions; whilst 50 years back it was only 60 millions. No doubt great progress has been made in the production of wheat; but, according to the *Debats* writer, it has not kept pace with the consumption.

The *Chicago Tribune* states that a reportorial conversation with Mr. P. W. Dater drew out the following ideas:—

The current change in the flour trade with Europe, which has been two or three times referred to in these columns, bids fair to be a radical one. Within a few years from now there will be very little of our wheat exported in the shape of grain, most of it going forward as flour. There would be more of this now but for the comparatively primitive way in which flour is hauled. The exporter who wants to buy a cargo of wheat can purchase it all at once, and of uniform quality, without raising the price on himself during the operation. But if he wishes a cargo lot of flour, he generally has to pile it up in several places, and not infrequently the country owners have to be telegraphed to in regard to it. An offer to take two or three thousand bags from one of these gentlemen is very apt to be regarded as a sign of an extraordinary demand, which justifies him in asking an advance of 10 cents per barrel, or he declines to sell on any terms. What is wanted to suit the altering conditions is a large increase in the milling capacity of this city. The mills now running have manufactured mostly for their own select circle of customers, and as a rule do not sell much on the general market. This city is the best point in the whole north-west for profitable milling on a large scale. Mills are, and others can be, located so that they can receive and ship directly to and from cars and vessels, avoiding the expense of storage and drayage, except on city trade, while they have the immense advantage of being able to select from all the wheat that comes here, and could achieve a uniformity of quality and supply attainable nowhere else. If we had one or more mills here, with say fifty run of stone, the result would be a vast increase in our flour trade. When an exporter or commission firm here received an order for 5,000 or

10,000 bags of flour the order could be filled immediately, and the stuff be on the way to Europe long before it could be made in a dozen different mills in the country of small capacity, with no uniformity in the quality obtained. Foreign dealers would soon find out that they could operate in flour to much better advantage than now, and would order flour and offal where they now order wheat, saving in the transportation, and paying the cost of manufacture here instead of at home.

At no other point could the same business be done with so good a profit and so small a working capital, for the miller here could receive his order, buy his wheat at the same time, have it ground and bagged during the process of unloading the wheat, placed on the cars, and drawn against in time to pay for the wheat. Another important point is the fact that Chicago has now attained prominence as a market for winter wheat, and cannot be competed with in this respect by Milwaukee or Minneapolis, which places now supply large quantities of flour to Europe. There is no doubt that we could beat them in spring wheat and St. Louis in winter wheat flour-making if we had the milling capacity to do it.

The *Nanpatee (Ontario) Express* says: We much regret to learn from reliable sources, from nearly every part of this country, that the wheat crop which promised so well at one time is likely to prove a very poor one. In consequence of so much cold weather during the earlier part of the season, and of rust and blight since, there are very few wheat fields about here which promise anything like an average yield of grain. Several farmers have informed us that it is doubtful if they will have enough wheat for their own bread, and probably the county will have to import considerable from elsewhere to meet the home demand.

The *Ontario Globe*, in quoting some remarks in our "Samples" column upon the condition of some cattle which arrived recently from Canada, says: "There is evidently a strong feeling growing up in England about the hardships suffered by cattle in the ocean passage. It would be well if our shippers would pay attention to this feeling without waiting to have their attention forced to it."

Messrs. David Robertson and Co., of Montreal, write to the *Ontario Globe*: You will excuse us drawing your attention to a manifest injustice to Ontario millers permitted by the recent protective duty on wheat. We are credibly informed that millers here can import American wheat in bond, grind it into flour, sell the flour on this market, and cancel the bond on their importations by shipping Canada wheat, or flour milled from Canada wheat, thus evading the duty entirely. We think this matter requires ventilation.

The *Buenos Ayres Standard* of July 6, says:—There is no country in the world that offers a greater field of un-realised possibilities than the Plate. Of all the nations we know of, the Argentine Republic is the one in which accomplished results are most imperfect. Even our very wool trade, of which we so much boast, is as yet but in its infancy, since we export the wool as it comes off the sheep's back. Our hides are so blurred over with cruel, destroying marks, that our Rural Society is petitioning Government to give up the hot iron. Our saladeros are mere remnants of gaucho trade art, and our new wheat crop is but emerging from the hoofs of a pack of wild mares. There is no art in any of our staples, yet our people hear a far higher polish than the citizens of Havre and Rouen, or the burghers of Glasgow or Dublin; and we are as deficient in art as we are excessive in polish. Don Rufino Varela has said that the slovenly manner in which our wool samples at the Paris Exhibition were got up always impressed European manufacturers with certain unfavour-

able ideas about his country, which it was his greatest difficulty to remove. No man in Europe who forms his idea of Buenos Ayres society by the condition of the staples we send home would believe that there is a piano in Buenos Ayres, much less an opera company; and many of the tanners of Europe are still undecided as to the head-dress Argentines wear. Arriving, as we admittedly have, at such a high standard of civilisation in the art of living, our next care should be to raise the standard of our credit abroad, not by merely paying our way and meeting our coupons, but by the improved quality of our exports. Tallow is our theme, and some samples of refined compressed tallow sent out from Genoa by Italian merchants there to their compatriots here have given rise to these remarks. The Americans are now shipping to Europe a refined compressed tallow that is completely driving River Plate tallow out of the European markets. This refined tallow comes chiefly from a city called Chicago, where no Stagno or Tamagno, or Durand, or Corti have ever as yet set foot; and although it is some satisfaction to know that if they beat us in Chicago in the way of refined tallow, we possibly beat them in refined manners and singing, still the matter is of some importance, since that little sample of compressed tallow exhibited on the Bolsa has shut up all our graseris this winter, and checked a winter trade that usually rests on the slaughter of six millions of fat sheep."

We take the following gloomy account of colonial affairs from the *South Australian Register* of July 14th: "In our last summary we mentioned that widespread depression prevailed throughout the colony, partly owing to the bad harvest reaped in 1878-9, partly on account of the low price of copper and the consequent check upon all mining enterprise, partly by reason of the long-continued drought, and partly through the reflex action of that severe financial crisis, accompanied by paralysis of trade, which has been of such world-wide incidence. A fair prospect of improvement is afforded by the splendid sowing season that is being experienced; but at present we are feeling keenly the reaction from a period of exceptional prosperity. Insolvencies and assignments are matters of everyday occurrence, employment is scarce, and no little distress prevails among the working classes. Still further to aggravate the evil, shiploads of immigrants have recently arrived, and another shipload is on its way here. Many of those who have thus been brought out at the Government expense are but ill-adapted to rough it in a new country. In Parliament the Commissioner of Crown Lands has been taken severely to task for failing to put a timely stop to immigration. His defence is that he has materially diminished the supply, having, in fact, contracted it as far as he safely could having regard to future exigencies. He further claims to have made arrangements for giving employment at a fair wage to all new comers. The glut in the labour market is not confined to South Australia, but is creating uneasiness in all the neighbouring colonies. The greatest sufferer is undoubtedly Victoria, where the signs of depressed times have taken the serious shape of bank failures."

The following letter, published in the *Adelaide Observer* of May 24th, will show intending emigrants how matters stand in the colony of South Australia: "SIR,—Not knowing of any better means of making known my complaint, I take this opportunity of speaking through your paper. First of all, I wish to say that we feel sadly disappointed in not being able to get any work of any kind. And I beg to say that we feel we have been deceived, because we were assured by the Government Immigration Agent in England that the demand for labour was so great in this colony that the

employers would crowd to the vessel on her arrival, and almost beg the immigrants to work for them. Now, I need not point out how utterly untrue that is. Instead of being anything like that, we have to beg for work as though it was for dear life, and on arriving here we are grieved to find that our coming makes it increasingly difficult for the hundreds of colonials to get work who are out of employment. I know, Sir, that you and hundreds of your readers will sympathise with us in our miserable plight. But will the employers also sympathise with us, and give us a chance? I, with two others, applied for work yesterday where men were advertised for; and, although we believed ourselves quite equal to the work, yet because we had not been used to that particular kind of work, we were not wanted. Now, I ask in all fairness, why not give us a trial? Certainly it is time enough to say 'You won't do for us' when it is proved. Now, since the Government has induced us to come out to this colony, will they give us something to do at once? Excuse the complaint of AN IMMIGRANT. Port Adelaide, May 20.

We take the following from the *Sydney Mail*:—

Taranaki, the too famous battle-ground of New Zealand, is once more threatened with a renewal of hostilities. At the Waitara, a few miles north of New Plymouth, the block of land is situate, the dispute about which originated, at least nominally, the war in 1860, when Wiremu Kingi figured as the most prominent rebel. In 1861, Wiremu Tamihana, "the king-maker," journeyed from Waikato to Waitara, and effected a cessation of the strife. In May, 1863, Sir George Grey, then Governor, surrendered all claim to the land which had occasioned the bloodshed, and a week afterwards the incorrigible natives showed their appreciation of this act of weakness by murdering two officers and six men of the 57th Regiment at Oakura, a few miles south of New Plymouth. Thereupon the red flag was hoisted in the paws of the disaffected tribes in every province of the North Island; and though, after a long course of desultory fighting, the two races agreed to lay down the rifle and tomahawk again, the spirit of rebellion still smouldered in the breasts of those Maories who were attached either to the so-called king, Tawhiao, or to the Hau Hau fanaticism. And now the smouldering fire shows signs of leaping into the red flame of war once more. The natives living betwixt New Plymouth and Wanganui are wrath with the Government for threatening to sell the Waimate Plains, which has been confiscated during the late war. For weeks past the New Zealand papers have been full of conflicting intelligence respecting the threatening attitude of the malcontents. Te Whiti, who assumes to be a prophet as well as a chief, is the leader of the insurgent party, and has indulged in some very tall talk indeed. Accounts to hand show that the land of some of the settlers near New Plymouth has been ploughed in retaliation for the action of the Government, and the ploughing may be taken as a practical threat of seizure. Sir Hercules Robinson and Sir George Grey have visited Taranaki, and the district is being rapidly put into a condition of defence. The war-cloud will soon either break or pass away. If the natives are mad enough to defy the settlers, they will probably be "wiped out" by the overwhelming force which will be arrayed against them. Times have changed, and successes which were possible 20 years ago are impossible now. The very latest news is of a more pacific character, and it is much to be desired, for the sake of a race at once noble and ignoble, that Te Whiti and his followers will conclude discretion the better part of valour.

We extract from the *Lyttelton Times* the following table, which gives the complete grain statistics in each of

the provinces, with the totals for the whole of New Zealand:—

PROVINCIAL DISTRICTS.	Total Number of Holdings.		Extent of land broken up, but not under Crop.		IN WHEAT.		IN OATS.		IN BARLEY.		IN POTATOES.		IN OTHER CROPS.		TOTAL NUMBER OF ACRES UNDER CROP, EXCLUSIVE OF LAND UNDER GRASSES.		IN ILIY.		IN SOWN GRASSES.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland	4916	34922	6635	158293	7800	4046	100437	369	9721	4170	17737	6427	29429	11927	14155	213065	227723			
Taranaki	883	2265	2265	57786	141	1797	50602	170	4812	534	1965	350	5257	1884	2994	24542	69392			
Wellington	2493	7279	187698	187698	1026	10852	314528	299	7417	1333	7144	1819	22499	7199	10630	91430	58706			
Hawkes Bay	669	1287	1385	27555	994	3346	678509	463	8856	593	9041	1194	7973	4925	4864	55254	39112			
Marlborough	473	3012	2563	6988	1227	2381	84904	2737	89778	450	2456	727	10218	1177	1681	17237	87836			
Nelson	1496	3499	3524	61955	3465	3013	75138	Nil	Nil	1008	4636	2803	1558	3802	4783	36689	57069			
Westland	282	324	Nil	Nil	373	8	180	Nil	Nil	4614	26767	789	657	182	249	2581	5437			
Canterbury	4683	120483	173895	3621820	15188	128384	4416690	17062	371009	4614	26767	97161	436304	11749	10864	479725	115554			
Otago	5091	77404	66941	1853904	19073	123508	4416690	5181	161287	4390	22651	70825	289918	10287	14380	312557	100651			
Total	21018	368353	264577	6070539	40187	277547	8357150	28646	709465	17399	86186	180654	817810	53022	64520	1236100	1501631			
Increase in 1879	469	Nil	21171	Nil	17836	87208	2427188	5393	32642	Nil	Nil	44099	173977	7392	5849	158646	13266			
Decrease in 1879	9252	Nil	262770	Nil	17836	87208	2427188	Nil	Nil	265	8292	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil			

AMERICA AND ENGLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

Sir,—Under a very necessary protest from yourself, you publish in your number of August 4th extracts from the Chicago *Tribune* and the London *Spectator*. "We must be cracked up, Sir, we must," is the unanimous sentiment of all the Jefferson Bricks of the model republic—itsself in a general state of civil war and chronic discontent, Sheridan fire and sword campaigns, fraudulent presidential elections, granger eruptions, railway riots, "Chinee" persecutions, commuistic canceuses, and nigger exodus. That a British newspaper should lend itself to the propagation of the baseless complacency of trans-Atlantic self-sufficiency does, however, somewhat surprise all who are not habitual readers of your oracular contemporary. Cockney republicans "think as the bells clink," and any lie is probable enough that will make some of the dirt stick that is thrown at the English squire or farmer. But it is time that ignorance and mendacity should be taken by the nose. The monotonous iteration of abuse levelled at our whole rural economy, and the perpetual clamour of unreflecting discontent at everything the English landowner says, does, and even thinks, demands examination.

Is it for those who have driven their own negro peasantry from house and home, and declare their white fellow-labourers to be pauperised by the "heathen Chinee"—who hold vast mass meetings to pass resolutions proclaiming the "misery of their down-trodden native serfs," and whose mechanics in every town have been virtually begging by hundreds of thousands—is it for these gaseous philanthropists to talk so loud about the servitude, mud floors, rags, serfdom, and starvation of the English peasantry?

What are the facts? You yourself, Sir, did yeoman's service to the cause of trade and the credit of the country by collecting from two counties returns of the wages of our peasantry, and proved that they and their families were in the receipt of earnings ranging from £50 to £140 per annum—an income for which many an American farmer would be only too thankful. Mr. Gladstone was proud to say their wages had risen fifty per cent. in the last thirty years. But is this all? Is it for the inhabitants of a ranshaekle wooden shanty, with a shingle roof, with not too many coals, winters five or six months long, and frost thirty degrees below zero, to talk with such patronising commiseration of mud floors, even if the talk were true? Who is he who does this? Why, the enlightened republican patriot, who is taxed to the teeth for everything he eats, drinks, wears, or uses. His sugar, tea, coffee; his beer, wine, and whisky; the shirt on his back, the shoe to his foot, the hat on his head—nothing escapes. He has to work far harder and for greatly longer hours than the English ploughman; and while his poor employer pays him higher wages—at least so he says—than an English husbandman, the British ploughman's wages have a purchase power not far below double that of those of the American. Yes; to the eternal honour of our governing classes, we can say to ail the world—and no other country in the world, least of all the Yaukee, can say the same—there are thousands of families among us (and all the labouring classes might), who command all the substantial comforts, and many of the secondary luxuries, of life, without paying one farthing to the national exchequer.

We must not confound the laws of man with the act of God. India, China, Morocco, Egypt have had a famine from too much drought. England for five years has been the same from too much rain. No human agency could avert that. Concurrently with that, trade and manufactures have been in such a state of collapse in America, and

The seasons have there been so abnormally propitious, that enterprise and industry have been thrown back upon the land, and she has providentially fed us when we could not feed ourselves. It is not low prices, it is not competition that has beaten us. Meat, cheese, butter, poultry, eggs, never were so dear. In the last five years the averaged prices of grain have been materially higher than in the five first after the advent of free trade. Our default has been not that our tenantry have not got enough for their produce, but that they have had none to sell; while the Americans have had an abnormal super-abundance. I pause, however, to make one infinitely significant reflection gathered from your own most instructive columns. Mr. Prout farms some hundreds of acres of a third-rate cold and hungry heavy clay soil—"four horse land." For such a soil the present and four last seasons have been the very worst that bad fortune could have inflicted on the husbandman. Yet Mr. Prout in Hertfordshire, and I believe his fellows in Wilts, present an exception to all their neighbours. The steam plough and artificial manures have given them this year abundant crops of high quality, and they seem destined to show that, upon the whole, higher and more successful culture can be exhibited on heavy clay than on light soils.

But to return to my text. It was the monotonous Jeremiad of Horace Greely that his countrymen were for ever flocking from the country to the towns. That demonstrates that with land at a dollar an acre they do not find agriculture so wonderfully profitable as Arcadian Trip-tolenuus imagined. In fact the trans-Atlantic farmers lead a hard life, and complain that they are heavily mortgaged. Their factories are supplied with their daughters, who go to Lowell and other centres of manufactures to save money to pay their fathers' debts. Even now their complaint is that their produce is so great that they get nothing for it. As for the New England States their soil is run out and they cannot feed themselves. Even in the Western States thousands of farms are for sale, the owners moving farther away, where the land is still unexhausted. There is a universal complaint that at present prices tillage is carried on at a loss; and Messrs. MacCulloch announce that there is a reaction setting in which is again leading capital and industry back to trade, manufactures, and the towns. How indeed can it be otherwise? With the single exception of rent, every process of tillage, labour, implements, machinery, is more expensive than it is here. Protection and monopoly tax the tillers to the very eyes. They have to pay for police, school boards, the administration of justice, highways there, as well as here, if not always directly, therein a more expensive, because less direct way. It costs them as much to raise twelve bushels as our farmers to raise thirty. They have to pay at the very least 2s. per acre to bring their produce to our market, and they get 60s. per acre gross return, while ours realise £7 10s. off the same acreage, at the same price per bushel. It stands to reason—common-sense—simple arithmetic may convince us that, taking an average of production in America, and normal seasons and crops here, we have nothing whatever to fear from trans-Atlantic competition.

Whimsically enough the farmers of Victoria are crying out for a political alliance, and complaining of the weight of their fiscal burdens—the average produce of Australia and New Zealand per acre scarcely reaching 10 bushels. In Portugal, too, the *Lisbon Gazette* announces the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the causes of agricultural distress, in a country that can produce two crops within the year.

The problem of rent is easily solved. It is higher, and land is dearer in France, Italy, Holland, the Netherlands, Germany, the Baltic States than it is here. Our farmers have a natural advantage and superiority in proxi-

mity to the market of consumption of 2s. per bushel, or £3 per acre over their American competitors, which amounts to much more than their average rent—and as for the Continent, it has and will have more than enough to do to supply its own wants—even the Russian agriculturists moving off wholesale to Siberia.

The plain truth is, public opinion has been confused, and the ordinary judgment of thinking men has been set at fault by a singular concurrence of extraordinary circumstances, which do not happen probably at a more frequent interval than eighty or ninety years. Five consecutive bad harvests, rising wages, increasing burdens, form a conjuncture with a succession of great American crops, that is wholly without precedent. No reasonable calculation, no ordinary caution could foresee it, or provide against it. We know that it *must* have entirely overborne even an order of tillers that are entirely without their equal in the world. Their landlords ought to make the utmost allowance for such abnormal circumstances, and act with the most liberal consideration and forbearance. Let neither be misled by a senseless panic. We are just at the turn of the tide even now. "Long fair long foul" is a proverb that has its converse. When it is long foul, it *will* be long fair, as Sir Joseph Banks was wont to say—

There's ne'er so justly paid a debt  
As wet to dry and dry to wet.

There will be bad crops abroad, and seven years of fat kine here. Do not let either owners or tenants throw away their property in unreasoning despair. The true interest of the Squire is to keep the tenants he has rather than to trust to the lottery of change. The real wisdom of both is to—

Rather bear those ills they have  
Than fly to those they know not of.

Entail and primogeniture must go. Old father antic the law must cease to fasten his fangs upon the land, rendering the mere transfer as costly as the fee simple. Our taxation must be not so much shifted as overhauled and reduced. I am a Reformer—not a Revolutionist. I would improve and re-construct—not destroy. After all, our Government, our Constitution, our ruling orders have this to say for themselves, that we are the freest, richest, and most prosperous people in all the world—that our labouring people are the highest paid, the most lightly worked, the least taxed of any; and that our agriculture has been carried to a point of excellence that is wholly unapproached by other nations. Do not let us mistake the haud of human error for the inscrutable dispensations of Divine Providence. The language of democracy and the spirit of communism or social disaffection will do nothing to help but may do much to hinder us. "One and all" should be our maxim.

— Nought shall rue,  
If England to herself will be but true.

I am, Sir, &c., SIDNEY SMITH.

*The Manor, Feltham, 7th August.*

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.—The prizes for market gardens exceeding ten and not more than 50 acres in extent within a radius of 20 miles from the Mansion House have been awarded to Mr. W. J. Gay, of Barking, and Mr. W. Gay, of Romford; those for market gardens above 50 acres, to Mr. J. Lancaster, of Canning Town, and Mr. T. Patch, of Barking; and those for market garden farms within 50 miles of the City, to Mr. H. Swann, of Rainham and Mr. Glenny, of Barking.

**THE PRESS IN PARLIAMENT.**—All the London newspapers—that is, all the morning newspapers—with one exception, have now representatives in St. Stephen's. The *Times* is represented by Mr. Walter, its chief proprietor, and by one of its contributors, Mr. Courtney, the member for Liskeard. The *Daily News* is represented by Mr. Justin McCarthy, one of its leader writers. The *Morning Post* is represented not perhaps quite to its taste, by Mr. O'Donnell; and the *Daily Chronicle*, the youngest of our Metropolitan contemporaries, finds a representative in Mr. Finegan. Mr. Gorst used to represent the *Standard*, and perhaps does still. But the *Daily Telegraph* has no one to do justice in St. Stephen's to its world-wide circulation, although a rumour has been in circulation recently that Mr. G. A. Sala is to be put in nomination at the next election for the borough of Lambeth. The provincial press returns several M.P.'s to the House of Commons, all, however, with one exception, for constituencies south of the Tweed, and it is worthy of note perhaps that with one exception, all the M.P.'s who may be said to represent the metropolitan press are Irishmen, all sit for Irish constituencies, and are all Home Rulers.

**THREATENED SCARCITY OF TIMBER.**—*Iron* says:—"Notwithstanding the increasing substitution of iron for timber in construction, the increasing use of coal, and the introduction of mineral oil for fuel, the forests of the world are being rapidly diminished, much of it from sheer wastefulness; and this is especially true in new countries. In the United States 20,000,000 of people are living in perishable wooden dwellings, and immense quantities of the best timber are destroyed in the process of bringing the forests of the West under cultivation. Unfortunately, too, the most valuable and slowest growing species affect the soils best fitted for grain, and the pioneer never thinks of saving portions of the timber on his allotment, or of re-planting. The result is that in North America, which when first settled was clothed in greenwood from sea to sea, a note of warning has for some time been raised against the indiscriminate use of timber, and planting in some of the States has been encouraged by pecuniary inducements. The splendid pine forests of Nevada, the monarchs of which take centuries to grow to maturity, and which exercise such an influence on the climate that without them the country would probably become a barren desert, are in danger of being utterly destroyed by the short-sighted selfishness of the inhabitants of the territory. The effect of this wholesale destruction is becoming apparent in the recurrence of periods of excessive drought, and the drying up of lakes and streams. In the Old World the future of the Russian possessions in the Caucasus is menaced by the unsparring, and, the official journal asserts, in many instances senseless destruction of the trees. In Daghestan, owing to the cutting down of timber on the mountains to furnish fuel for the Caspian steamers, the contiguous valleys, formerly richly fertile, have become arid gulleys; and other parts of Asia, such as the valley of the Oxus, formerly seats of large populations, are now barren deserts from the same cause. In Australia, from its physical peculiarities, still more liable to drought than either North America or Central Asia, the effects of the destruction of its timber have been more rapidly and more distinctly manifested, and the colonists appear to be seriously alarmed as to the consequences. They are calling for restrictive measures, and others of a reproductive character are already in operation. The rainfall of a treeless region, even when it reaches an average limit, is always fitful, and the rivers rise rapidly and flood the surrounding country, as has been the case in the south of France. In South Australia the clearance now rapidly proceeding must, if not checked, result in an ever-increasing aridity of climate and ever diminishing fertility of soil—a scorching, arid summer and an intensely cold and dry winter, with no intervening spring."

**TESTS OF CIVILIZATION.**—A bespectacled and somewhat fussy member of the Cabinet has received a snub from his cynical but august master in whose presence he was deprecating the Zulus. "Uncivilised?" inquired the Premier with that calm astonishment that precedes his plunge in paradox. "I do not quite see that. They have routed our armies, outwitted our generals, killed a prince, and converted a bishop. The most civilised nation could do no more."—*Mayfair*.

**WEATHER AND HEALTH IN SCOTLAND.**—The Registrar-General for Scotland is able to state, in issuing the June returns for the eight principal towns of Scotland, that the mean temperature of June, 1879, when compared with the May and June returns for 1856-78, is found to be 11 days—but no more—behind the calendar; and, as that not very low temperature has been accompanied by nearly double the amount of rain at precisely the growing period of vegetation, the usual and prejudicial aridity of the spring session in Scotland has been corrected, thus causing a wealth of leafage and strength of green herbage such as has not been witnessed for years. The mean temperature of June this year was only 52.4 degrees at Edinburgh, but reached 54.2 degrees at Dundee; the rainfall averaged nearly 3in. The month seems not to have been favourable to the increase of mankind. The 3,657 births in the eight towns were fewer than in any June since 1873; and the 1,254 marriages were fewer than in any June since 1867, and were 335 under the June average during the last ten years, allowing for increase of population. But the 2,079 deaths were also the smallest number recorded in June since 1867, and were 551 under the June average during the last ten years. Only 13.7 per cent. of the deaths were caused by the zymotic, epidemic, and contagious class of diseases.

**STRAW WOOD.**—An inventor in Illinois, United States, has introduced a very important innovation in the building trade by the substitution of straw as a building material. America is beginning to feel the strain which is continually being made upon her forests, extensive as they are, and this new material has already attracted much attention. Several sheets of ordinary straw boards, such as is produced in a paper-mill, are taken, according to the thickness of the desired block, and are then passed through a chemical solution, which softens the fibre and saturates it. They are then rolled, dried, and hardened, and emerge from the machine as a compact block, hard, impervious to water and capable of taking any polish, such as of walnut-wood or mahogany. In fact, on sawing it, it is very difficult to distinguish it from real wood.—*Times*.

**RUINED BY EMANCIPATION.**—We may mention some curious facts on American statistics. The Southerners have often got up a cry of having been ruined by the emancipation of the slaves. During the period of 1860-70 (that is, during the four years' rebellion and the years immediately following it) there was no doubt a great depreciation of the value of landed property in the South; but we find that, whereas from 1853-63 only 27,142,285 bales of cotton were produced in the South, the production rose between 1871-79 to 33,226,531 bales. In 1871 about seven and a half million acres were cultivated with cotton. In 1878 there were more than 12,000,000 acres of that description. All the Southern towns and villages of some importance have greatly increased in population. A similar increase is observable in the number of the manufacturing establishments in most of the Southern States. Whilst in the North and the West of the Union the agricultural labourer receives about seven dollars as wages, in the South he now receives ten dollars on the average. Figures are truthful, and these figures are exceedingly telling.—*Examiner*.

**THE ROYAL TOUCH.**—It will scarcely be credited that the old tradition of 'The Royal Touch,' or, as it used to be more commonly called, 'The King's Evil,' has still a hold in this age of electricity and society journals. On the occasion of the Queen's last visit to Chislehurst an old woman was observed standing outside the station holding by the hand a strumous child who looked frightfully tired. A friend of mine, concerned at the appearance of the little girl, asked the old woman how far she had walked. She answered eight miles. 'And has this little child walked that distance?' 'Yes sir; and I'd have made her walk twelve for the chance of a cure.' A few more questions produced the extraordinary statement that the old woman believed in the Royal touch for scrofula, and had brought the child to Chislehurst in the hope of getting the Queen to put her hand upon her. I have not heard that her Majesty's carriage was stopped in order that the experiment might be made.—*Mayfair*.

"The wicked stand in slippery places," but for a perfect picture of reckless insecurity, you want to look at a frightened woman trying to stand on a camp stool to keep out of the way of a mouse.

## Agricultural Societies.

### EAST CUMBERLAND.

The annual exhibition of stock, &c., in connection with this society was held August 15th in the usual field facing Chatsworth Square, and from every point of view was a grand success. The premiums were, with a few exceptions, open to the United Kingdom, and the public spirit of the society in this respect was fully rewarded by the very large entry in all classes. Last year there were 391 entries in the live stock classes, as compared with 418 this year; and the show of implements was considerably larger than we have seen in this society's showyard for many years. A finer day for the exhibition could not have been had, the weather being genial and warm, consequently the attendance of visitors was very large; and from ten o'clock in the morning, when the judging commenced, until six in the evening, when a bicycle race—an innovation on the ground this year—was concluded, the finely-situated showyard presented an animated scene. The takings at the gate and stand amounted to £140 some £15 short of last year. The show generally was one of great excellence. All the classes were well represented, and some of the Royal winners were to be seen. The whole arrangements of Mr. Wood, the active secretary, and the committee, were excellent. The 1st Cumberland Rifle Volunteer Band, under the leadership of Mr. Bull, discoursed selections of music during the day.

Looking at the stock we find that in the Shorthorn class there was exactly double the number shown last year. In the aged bull class, Mr. Relph's Bright Duke, a roan, bred by Messrs. Dudding, Panton, was first. It occupied the same position at Templesowby the previous day. The others were first-class bulls, with little between them. Five two year old bulls gave the judges some difficulty in distributing the tickets. Mr. Gibbons, Mossband, showed a fine red, two years and nine months old, in Prince Jersey, which carried off the first prize, but some outsiders considered Mr. Handley's Lord St. Vincent ought to have had the second ticket. Of the eight young bulls, half a dozen were brought into the ring, and a finer or more promising lot we have seldom seen. Mr. Nelson, Bewaldeth, was deservedly first with a roan, Prince Imperial, the second being Mr. Shield's Prince of Ellington, another roan of superior parts. Both winners were bred by Mr. Lambert, and are the offspring of the same sire, Prince Regent (29676). The second was first at Hexham the other day. In the cow class, some very fine animals were shown. Mr. Lambert's Princess Louise was awarded the first ticket in the class for heifers rising three years old, a decision which gave rise to some comment, it being the general opinion that Mr. Handley's Princess Rose was the best heifer in the ring. A close inspection of the latter animals would have confirmed the opinion of the judges, who would have put Mr. Handley's heifer first but for her black nose being so distinct. There was an interesting gathering and competition for the special prize offered by the Solway Manure Works Co., for the best three Shorthorn cows or heifers in milk; and some useful dairy cows were forward. Mr. Watt, Knowfield, showed a couple of Kerry dairy cows, which were minutely inspected. There was also an improvement in the number of Galloways, 35 being entered compared with 29 in 1878. Mr. Little, Fauld, showed his grand bull, Lord Walter, which was first at the Highland Show, and had evidently frightened holders of this class. There were three entries in the class rising three years, and here the decision at Perth was reversed, Mr. Graham's Harden (1151) being placed before Mr. Cunningham's

Knowsley (1279). The competition between them at the Highland Society's Show was very close, but since then Knowsley seems to have suffered slightly in appearance, being light at the flank and hardly so good at the tail root as formerly; on the other hand, Harden seems to have improved, though he is a little light at the brisket. The decision here was a decidedly popular one. The third bull is a promising, lengthy bull, but was low in condition; he was recently purchased by Mr. Graham of Sir F. U. Graham, of Netherby. The bull stirks were symmetrical, stylish youngsters. Mr. Millican's Mackintosh II., which won at the Abbey, was placed first, beating Chief of Errington 3rd, belonging to Mr. Graham of Beanlands Park, which took first honours in its class at the Royal Show this year. Mr. Millican's bull is of a very superior quality, but may be slightly deficient in size. The cow were more remarkable for substance than quality. Mrs. Cunningham, Mr. James Graham, and Messrs. Morton took the chief prizes.

Coming to the horses, we may mention that there were a really grand show of agricultural horses, 124 being entered as compared with 80 last year. Some very fine brood mares with foal at foot were shown. Mr. MacQueen of Dalbeattie, was first with his grey mare, the second, a bay of a real good stamp, coming from Fauld. Mr. MacInnes was third. In the gelding and filly classes, the competition was keen, some fine specimens of the Clydesdale breed being in nearly all the classes. Mr. Cunningham, of Tarbreoch, was a most successful exhibitor. He had entered his four year old mare, Jean, and his three-year old, Evelyn, in the class for the best pair of agricultural horses, three years old and upwards, but the nomination did not appear in the catalogue; it was understood his pair was considered the best by the judges, who, according to the stipulations, were prohibited from awarding him the prize, because the competition was confined to Cumberland. There was some talk of a protest against his exclusion on the ground that the limitation was unwarrantably fixed by the committee after a general meeting of the members had decided that the show was to be an open one. The sweepstake for the best foal was won by Mr. MacQueen with a strong growing youngster, got by Mr. Riddell's Pride of Clyde, and the neat, stylish foal, sired by Dandy Jim, was second. The third was a nice filly from Rickerby. Saddle and harness horses were hardly so numerous as last year; and the decisions in some of the classes gave rise to a good deal of comment. Mr. Hodgson, of the Flatt, again carried off first honours for the best brood saddle mare for field or road, closely run, however, by Mr. Parker's My Darling, a mare that met with a mishap at the steeplechases at Whitehaven last spring. In the class for three year old saddle geldings, Messrs. Wills, of Oughterby, were successful with that fine-looking bay, Sir Roger, sire Lord of the Marshes, which has won eleven first tickets out of a dozen entries, and was five times first as a two years old. The chestnut belonging to Mr. Bauks, commended in its class at the Abbey, was placed second. Mr. Anderson, of Houghton, got third position with The Mystery, a che-tant that was second at the Royal. The decision in this class was ridiculed a good deal outside the ring. We understand the judges were influenced in awarding the tickets by the fact that Mr. Anderson's gelding was suffering from a bad cold, and not being able to satisfy themselves whether the effect would be of a temporary or of a permanent nature, they placed it third, considering it, at the same time, the best animal in the class. The explanation was not considered satisfactory by many, who maintained that, under the circumstances, the gelding ought either to have been first or passed over without notice. When the judges had before them the class of saddle geldings or mares, four years and upwards, mounted, Mr. Moffett's two, Killhow

and Councillor, were placed first and second, Mr. Lawson's Major taking third honours; but when Major and Councillor met for the High Sheriff's special prize for the best hunter, within half an hour, the positions of Councillor and Major were reversed, the judges considering Major the better hunter. In the three-year-old harness gelding class, Mr. Carr, of East Curthwaite, was first, as at Abbey the previous day, and Mr. Hodgson, who was second again, had then lodged an objection against the winner on the ground that he was four years old. Some first-rate ponies were to be found amongst the fishdealer's dozen presented to the judges, who gave Bobby from Kirkhouse the preference. A question arose outside the "circle" as to the reason for placing the Maryport pony second. It turned out that one of the judges was in favour of putting Mr. Patterson's Bounce second, but he was overruled in his judgment by those who were consulted. Mr. Long's pony, first at the Abbey, was hardly noticed. The judges had the hackneys a long time before them, and their conscientious endeavours to select the best three sorely taxed the patience of the most patient amongst the large company who thronged the grand stand and jumping ring, and who were on the *qui vive* for the jumping. Eventually the first ticket was given amid applause to Mr. Davidson's (of Shepherd's Hill) four year old chesnut, which has figured conspicuously in local shows, and has splendid action. The Kirkhouse representative was second. The hunters were not a numerous lot, but there were some remarkably good animals amongst them. Mr. Anderson's Paleface repeated last year's victory. The jumping was far from being so interesting as it usually is at this show; one or two of the animals showed some temper, throwing their riders, but were happily none the worse. None were in the hunt with the veteran grey mare, Lady Armstrong, belonging to Mr. Dickinson of Chesterwood, and after one or two extra spins the second prize went to Mr. Dickinson's second string, Speculation, a bay gelding, which can jump. The Carlattan mare, Fanny, went to work too hurriedly; nearly all the others were too near the fences before they lifted. The judges, who had discretionary power, presented Master Dickinson, the rider of the winner, with the silver mounted riding whip presented by Mr. Sewell, and the grey, amid rounds of cheers, cleared the hurdles in fine style on leaving the field.

In the sheep classes, the entries were not numerous, but the pens contained some of the finest sheep in the district.

There was a fine gathering of pigs.

#### P R I Z E L I S T.

##### HORSES.

###### ROAD OR FIELD.

Brood saddle mare, with foal at foot, or in foal.—1, J. W. Hodgson, The Flatt, Kirkbampton; 2, W. Parker, Carleton Hill, Penrith.  
 Three years old saddle gelding.—1, Messrs. Wills, Oughterby, Kirkbampton; 2, E. H. Banks, Highmoor, Wigton; 3, W. Anderson, Houghton, Carlisle.  
 Three years old saddle filly.—1, P. Hudson, Ireby; 2, J. L. Howatson, Becks, Langholm.  
 Two years old saddle gelding.—1, Mary Ann Bell, Horsegills, Brampton; 2, Sir R. Brisco, Bart., Crofton Hall, Wigton.  
 Two years old saddle filly.—1, E. H. Banks; 2, W. B. Gordon, Juststown, Longtown.  
 One year old saddle gelding.—1, Mary Ann Bell; 2, J. Furness, Balladoyle, Silloth.  
 One year old saddle filly.—1, J. Percival, Burgh-by-Sands, Carlisle; 2, J. C. Toppin, Musgrave Hall, Penrith.  
 Saddle gelding or mare, 4 years old and upwards, to be shown in the ring mounted.—1 and 2, J. Moffat, Crosby-on-Eden, Carlisle; 3, F. Lawson, Howrigg, Curthwaite.  
 Four years old hunter, in the hands of a resident in Cumberland, and bred in the county.—1, E. Lawson; 2, J. Moffat,

##### HARNESS.

Brood harness mare, with foal at foot, or in foal.—1, G. T. Carr, Silloth, Carlisle; 2, J. Grainger, Fenton, Hayton.  
 Three years old harness gelding.—1, T. Carr, East Curthwaite; 2, G. Hodgson, Laverick Stone, Carlisle; 3, J. Wright, Parkhead, Silloth.  
 Three years old harness filly.—1, T. Wilkin, Herricks, Dumfries; 2, T. Little, Thorn Tree, Lazouby.  
 Two years old harness gelding.—1, J. M. Crosby, Tymperon Hall, Penrith; 2, J. Grainger, Fenton, Hayton.  
 Two years old harness filly.—1, W. Nichol, Cargo, Carlisle; 2, J. C. Toppin, Musgrave Hall, Penrith.  
 One year old harness gelding.—1, W. and T. B. Robinson, Wetheral Green, Carlisle; 2, T. Irving, Bowness-on-Solway.  
 One year old harness filly.—Prize, Rev. J. A. Fell, Kuelis, Carlisle.  
 Saddle or harness foals.—1, J. W. Hodgson, The Flatt, Kirkbampton; 2, H. A. Clarke, Prospect House, Aspatria.  
 Harness gelding or mare, 4 years old and upwards.—1, T. Irving; 2, W. Warwick, Glenket Holme, Canonbie; 3, G. Steel, Camerton Demesne.

##### AGRICULTURAL.

Brood cart mare, with foal at foot.—1, J. M'Queen, Crofts, Dalbeattie; 2, R. and J. Little, Fauld, Longtown.  
 Brood cart mare, in foal.—1, W. Kennedy, Luce, Ecclefechan; 2, Messrs. Nichol, Kingmoor, Carlisle.  
 Three years old cart gelding.—1, W. Bell, Milltown Mill, Kirklington; 2, J. M. Crosby, Tymperon Hall, Penrith; 3, W. Little, Bowness Hall.  
 Three years old cart filly.—1 and 3, J. Cunningham, Tarbreoch, Dalbeattie; 2, J. Beattie, Newbie House, Aunan.  
 Two years old cart gelding.—1, J. and W. Maxwell and Son, Aglianby, Carlisle; 2, T. Blaylock, The Plump, Greta.  
 Two years old cart filly.—1, J. Cunningham; 2, J. M'Queen.  
 One year old cart gelding.—1, G. Bainbridge, Whamptown, Kirklington; 2, E. and C. Harding, Uppertown, Carlisle; 3, A. Aitchinson, Newby West, Carlisle.  
 One year old cart filly.—1, W. Bell; 2, J. Bewley, Warthole Guards, Aspatria; 3, J. McCutcheon, Caldeagate, Carlisle.  
 Cart gelding or mare, four years old and upwards.—1, J. Cunningham; 2, W. Bell; 3, M. MacInnes, Rickerby House, Carlisle.  
 Pair of agricultural horses (gelding or mare), three years old and upwards, limited to Cumberland, to be shown in plough harness.—1, W. Bell; 2, J. Kerr, Redhall, Wigton; 3, J. and W. Maxwell and Son.  
 Cart gelding or mare, the breeder and exhibitor to be confined to the county of Cumberland.—1, W. Bell, Milltown Mill; 2, John Kerr, Red Hall, Wigton.  
 Agricultural foal.—1, J. M'Queen, Crofts, Dalbeattie; 2, R. and J. Little, Fauld, Longtown; 3, M. MacInnes, Rickerby House.  
 One year old entire cart colt.—1, J. Owen, Blackwell Park; 2, R. and J. Little.

##### PONIES.

Gelding or mare of any age, and not exceeding 14 hands in height, to be brought into the ring mounted.—1, M. Thompson and Son, Kirkhouse, Brampton; 2, R. B. Brockbank, Crosby, near Maryport.

##### HACKNEYS.

Gelding or mare of any age, and not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch in height, to be brought into the ring mounted.—1, J. Davidson, Hill, Penrith; 2, M. Thompson and Son; 3, T. Sewell, Carlisle.

##### HUNTERS.

Gelding or mare of any age, suitable for hunting, quality considered; to leap one or more of the fences or jumps, if required by the judges.—1, W. Anderson, Houghton, Carlisle; 2, T. Ramshay, The Hill, Gilsland.

##### JUMPING.

Gelding or mare of any age, to go over two or more flights of hurdles two or more times.—1 and 2, J. Dickinson, Chesterwood.

##### CATTLE.

###### SHORTHORNS.

Bull above three years old.—1, J. Relp, Meaburn Hall, Shap; 2, R. Taylor, Crosby Lodge, Crosby Ravensworth.

## Agricultural Table Talk.

At a dinner at Bootle, in connection with the Southport and Ormskirk Agricultural Show—

Mr. Cross, in responding to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," said.—Happily for me, politics are excluded from this table; were it not so, I am bound to say that the speech which was uttered in the neighbouring county only last night would have been a very great temptation to me to have given it a complete and emphatic denial. (A VOICE: "You could not.") At all events, I would try. But I don't want to verge upon politics in any way, yet it is no harm for a man to say what he thinks, whether he try it or not. I wish I could congratulate you very much upon a better condition of the agricultural interest than it is in my power to do. You undoubtedly, and we all feel it, have for the last few years suffered very much from bad harvests, and I don't think there is any man in the present company who can remember such a season as we have had this year. Some of my friends are good enough to say it is all the fault of the present Government. However, to show how very deeply we feel the great depression which unquestionably exists in the agricultural interest, we have thought it right to advise Her Majesty to issue a Royal Commission for the purpose of investigating in every form and shape, the causes of that depression, and to find out, if possible, what remedies can be found. I do not think that any gentleman, whatever his political views may be who looks through the list of names of those who form that Commission will deny that they were chosen simply because, in our belief, they were the best men to do work in a good cause. In order to assist them we have determined that there shall be a number of assistant-commissioners, who will divide the whole country into districts and come down and make inquiries among you; and I only hope that when they do come you will point out all your grievances to them and give them all the information which they can possibly desire; and I can assure you the instructions which they have received as to the points on which they are to inquire and obtain information are such as I think will satisfy the most fastidious of men that the inquiry is to be full and complete. Mr. Read and Mr. Pell, whom you all know, have just started to make a similar tour in America, and in France, Belgium, and other continental countries, and in order that there may be no unnecessary delay the assistant-commissioners will at once set about their business. And I hope when they come down you will not scruple to give them any information which you can to remedy the existing state of things. Don't think, however, that you are the only people who are suffering somewhat from the same causes, because the agricultural depression is quite as large abroad as it is at home. Even in America they are feeling it. But I am not one of those who are apt to take a gloomy view of this matter. I remember the strongest apprehensions of what would happen at the time of the great influx of gold. People predicted that the whole country socially would be changed, but no such change has come to pass. Nor am I alarmed at the great amount of food which is coming, and probably will come from America. But I am sure that this will be a consequence—namely, that all those who are interested in agriculture will set about to use their wits, and see by what device they can improve their condition; and I am certain that energy and industry, backed up by agricultural education and experience, will prove equal to the occasion, and I still look forward to a bright future for your calling. (A VOICE: "No, no.") Well, I am very sorry that you say "no," but I hope that you will find that I am a true prophet in this case, and I would certainly not say so unless I believed it. I don't wish to detain you any longer. I heartily thank you for the reception you have given me, and I can assure you all, whether political friends or foes, that I have thoroughly enjoyed this afternoon, and I hope you have done likewise.

EXHIBITION OF SANITARY APPLIANCES.—We understand that the exhibition of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, held in connection with its autumn congress, will take place this year at Croydon, opening on the 21st of October, and remaining open until the 8th of November. All particulars as to space can be obtained from the curator, Mr. Charles L. Marsh, 133, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

Bull above two and under three years old.—1, R. Gibbons, Mossband, Carlisle; 2, W. Bell, Milltown Mill, Kirklington. Bull above one and under two years old.—1, T. Nelson, Bewaldeth; 2, J. Shield, Park Gate, Allendale Town. Shorthorn cow or heifer above three years old, in calf or milk.—1, W. Langhorn, East Mill Hills, Haydon Bridge; 2, J. and D. D. Lazony, Calthwaite House, Penrith. Heifer above two and under three years old, in calf or milk.—1, T. Lambert, Elrington Hall, Haydon Bridge; 2, J. and D. D. Lazony. Heifer under two years old.—1, W. Langhorn, East Mill Hills, Haydon Bridge; 2, J. Relp, Meaburn Hall, Shap. Three Shorthorn cows or heifers in milk.—1, J. and D. D. Lazony, Calthwaite House, Penrith; 2, W. Handley, Greenhead, Milnthorpe.

## DAIRY COWS.

Dairy cow of any age or breed.—1, J. and D. D. Lazony; 2, S. J. Binning, Meadow Terrace, Carlisle. Extra stock.—J. Watt, Knowefield, highly commended with two Kerry dairy cows.

## GALLOWAYS.

Bull above three years old.—1 and 2, R. and J. Little, Fauld, Longtown. Bull above two and under three years old.—1 and 3, J. Graham, Parcelstown, Longtown; 2, J. Cunningham, Tarbroch, Dalbeattie. Bull above one and under two years old.—1, J. Millican, Wedholme House, Abbey Town; 2, T. Graham, Beaulands Park; 3, J. Cunningham. Cow or heifer above three years old, in calf or milk.—1 and c. J. Cunningham; 2, J. Graham. Heifer above two and under three years old.—1 and 2, J. Graham. Heifer under two years old.—1 and c. J. Cunningham; 2, P. Morton and Sons, Pedderhill, Longtown. Three Galloway cows or heifers in milk.—1, J. Cunningham; 2, J. Graham.

## SHEEP.

Leicester tup of any age.—1, R. Watson, Stone House, Hayton; 2, T. Lambert, Elrington Hall, Hayton Bridge. Leicester tup of one shear.—1, T. Lambert; 2, J. Hogarth, Julian Bower, Penrith. Pen of three Leicester gimmers.—1, S. P. Foster, Kilhow, Mealsgate; 2, J. Hogarth. Lincoln or longwool tup, of any age.—1 and 2, W. Savage, Hanging Bank, Penrith. Lincoln or longwool tup, of one shear.—1 and 2, W. Savage. Three Lincoln or longwool gimmers.—1 and 2, W. Savage.

## PIGS.

Boar of any breed, one year old and upwards.—1, R. Bowman, Wetheral; 2, W. Fawkes, Ivegill Mill. Boar of any breed under one year old.—1, E. Atkinson, Ring Gate, Hayton; 2, C. Wills, Burgh-by-Sands. Sow of any breed, in milk.—1, E. Thompson, Warwick-street; Carlisle; 2, R. Holiday, Heathwaith Lane, Raughtonhead. Sow of any breed in pig.—1, E. Thompson; 2, J. Watt, Knowefield.

## BUTTER.

Fresh butter, in pounds.—1, Mrs. Thompson, Raughton; 2, Mrs. Wallace, Cardew, D. Iston. Three pounds of fresh butter made in a churn of either Tinkler's or Sinton's manufacture.—Prize, Miss Gill, Suggar House, Carlisle. Firkin butter.—1, Mrs. Wood, Easton, Carlisle; 2, Mrs. Fell, Whittrigg, Kirkbride.—*Carlisle Patriot*.

AS OTHERS SEE US.—The report of the United State Consuls on the condition of labour in Europe are not favourable to the moral character of the working classes in England. It is the opinion of the writers that the French people, with far less wages are happier than the operatives of Great Britain, who receive the highest wages in Europe, on account of the steadiness and economical habits of the former, and the strikes, drinking habits, and recklessness of the latter, and that mere misery results from strikes, socialism, and communism in England and Germany than from all other causes combined, hard times included.

## DISHONESTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—One of the many causes, and not the least amongst them, of the present agricultural distress, is, without doubt, the excessive rent which has in many cases to be paid by tenant farmers, induced in a great measure by the competition for holdings and the apparent profits the high prices of certain produce have led amateur farmers to anticipate; a competition which landowners have in many instances availed themselves of, to the ruin or removal of steady, old-fashioned tenants who are replaced by others of more doubtful stability. Land now cannot afford such high terms as are required to maintain the owner in accordance with the wants of life in this high-pressure age. In connection with these new tenants we meet with a cause far more subtle than many others, which tends not only to the impoverishment of the present generation, but is dangerous to that of the future. I refer to the case with which unprincipled men may hold land, and can afford to outbid and so push out of their farms those who have a sense of their responsibilities, in the hope that a good harvest may set them up for a time, or at least enable them to plunge into more remunerative speculations, whom the law actually so protects than even the landowner is unable to relieve himself of one whom he may find out to be a thorough swindler so long as he can, or does, pay the agreed rent.

I will instance my meaning by a case which has recently appeared in the local papers. A trader, whose commercial reputation may be best judged by the fact that it is not the first time a small composition with creditors has been forced upon him, but who through all his past and present difficulties has been able to maintain a respectable position by his house and surroundings remaining in his possession, or that of his family or friend, a short time ago took a farm of some two hundred acres, stocked, seeded, and worked it, and then went into liquidation, offering the magnificent sum of one and sixpence in the pound on liabilities amounting to six or eight thousand. The creditors, amongst them the seed merchant, implement maker, &c., naturally declined such a private arrangement, feeling that the conduct of their debtor was not removed from suspicion, and the county court judge applied to under the circumstances evidently endorsed their views. The chief creditor, however, the manager of the branch of a well-known Joint Stock Bank appealed to the High Court of Bankruptcy in London, gained his cause, reversing the order of the County Court judge, and thus defeated all efforts on behalf of the other creditors to clear up what appeared to be a very questionable transaction. Within twenty-four hours of the judgment being given, stock, implements, and material which had before disappeared were once more in their places, but cannot be touched because for the present they belong to relatives and friends, though to simple-minded individuals there is no appearance of change of ownership, nor so far as outward appearances any want of means, business, or happiness in the "unfortunate debtor."

The question arises, How came the bank to be the largest creditor? And the answer is, by overdrafts induced by the name of a respectable yeoman who may not have been in his sober senses when the fatal stroke of the pen was made; the sequel being that the Bank is secured by the probable sale of that farmer's little freehold, that it debars the rest of the creditors, by the preponderating influence of a debt due to it which is in reality not its own but the farmer's, who, not being *directly* a creditor has no voice in the matter, from the satisfaction of an investigation,

Well may Judge Leonard at the sitting of the Portsmouth County Court say, "the Liquidation Act was a mere means and plan to rob everybody." It is rather a startling idea, however, to imagine the possibility of the manager of a first-class banking establishment open to the charge of compounding a felony, or placed in such a position that one of conspiracy to defraud may not unreasonably be supposed to lie at his door, for unless he acts contrary to the general instructions of his employers he cannot lend their money unless he has reasonable security; he cannot be, therefore, in the position of an unsecured creditor, and to prevent judicial scrutiny for a monetary consideration even on behalf of his employers, has, to say the least, a very unpleasant look about it. If I am wrong it is still more startling to find that such a corporation may prejudice all smaller creditors, and secure cases which may be more than tainted with fraud, from that investigation and correction they justly deserve.

Whither are we drifting? Is that integrity and honourable dealing which characterised our forefathers, like the prosperity accompanying them, passing slowly but surely away? Is the rising generation to be taught by lax laws the strange lesson that "dishonesty is the best policy," and that in our agricultural life we must only look to ourselves, that to that end we must forget our neighbour's wants and rights of fellowship, over-driving and over-working kind Nature, till exhausted she can no longer fill our barns or save our cattle from inbred disease—that in our commercial life we must follow the same rule and make money, irrespective of every honourable or other consideration.

I think not. I cannot but believe that those indications of genuine integrity which have ever been the characteristic of a well-bred Englishman are not fading away, that there are those who, rich or poor, will soon wake from their lethargy and seek a remedy for these shameless attacks upon their honest fame, a clearer comprehension of the laws of nature rather than those of the artificial manure and food merchants, and a cleansing of our Parliament by the infusion of a class of men who are less injured in mind and body by the emasculating effects of society, whose simplicity and good faith are more usefully combined with every-day practical common-sense to enable them to cope with the social evils under which our country suffers than those so-called "gentlemen" whose word on the hustings is no longer their bond in the House, and whose incapacity, veiled by verbose obstructiveness, has strangled the four attempts our Government has made to crush out this increasing evil of national fraud.

I am, Sir, &amp;c.,

Worcester, August 19.

WILL WATCH.

## VARIOUS NOTES.

According to the *Times*, the statistics for the years 1871-6 show that the annual average losses to the agricultural interest in France from incidental calamities have amounted to the large sum of 355 millions of francs. The following table proves that a great proportion of this loss is due to elemental disturbances—viz:—

	Hailstorms.		Frost.		Floods.
	£.	...	£.	...	£.
1873	59,324,542	...	247,109,230	...	6,883,518
1874	151,578,254	...	205,404,846	...	6,358,974
1875	91,844,203	...	14,769,350	...	149,537,498
1876	46,680,565	...	78,136,841	...	16,791,508
	<u>349,427,567</u>		<u>545,420,267</u>		<u>179,571,498</u>

Besides these calamities, which cannot be called preventable, except, perhaps, in the case of floods, where due precautions are not taken in embanking and otherwise

regulating the course of streams, there are others which are more or less dependable on human care and foresight, such as mortality by cattle disease and other epidemics and fires, the losses from which causes are as follows:—

	Mortality.		Fires.	
	F.		F.	
1873	...	30,126,290	...	38,494,635
1874	...	28,463,107	...	46,607,020
1875	...	28,166,101	...	36,965,792
1876	...	31,021,775	...	49,885,754
Total	...	117,784,274	...	172,013,261

The losses from mortality do not fluctuate to any great extent, but those from fire are apparently on increase. This is not much to be wondered at, when we consider that among the 36,056 communes there are only 14,136 fire engines, very irregularly distributed. While the department of Aisne has 637, Aube 540, Marne 653, Oise 779, Somme 642, that of Corrèze has only 13, Landes 17, Creuze 16, Lozère 14, Lot 13, Basses-Alpes 8, Alpes-Maritimes 7, Eastern Pyrénées 6, Corsica none. Of all the destructive causes frost has done most damage, succeeded respectively by hail, floods, fires, and mortality. The most unfortunate year was that of 1875, when the aggregate loss amounted to 438,472,201f.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date Saturday, August 8th:—

In a recent issue of your journal I noted the following paragraph taken from the London *Times*—"The shipment of live stock at the port of Montreal for Great Britain during the first six months of the present year was—10,580 head of cattle, 3,428 sheep, and 1,079 hogs, against 4,236 head of cattle, 2,323 sheep, and 769 hogs during the corresponding period last year. Many of the cattle shipped last year were purchased in the Chicago market, whereas this year the shipments have been only of Canadian stock, owing to the embargo laid upon the United States cattle in consequence of the prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia." This statement, probably supplied by the Liverpool Canadian office, is incorrect. The embargo on the United States was not put on till February 6th. During the month of January large importations of American cattle into England were made by Canadian buyers; and, moreover, some thousands of American beeves were brought into Canada last fall, and fattened through the winter in the distillery stables. These went forward after navigation opened. As it is the rôle of certain interests to pretend that I am prejudiced and inexact in my statements on cattle matters, I will adduce on this point some testimony from the Toronto *Globe*. Writing some time ago that journal remarked:—

"As for the danger which the *Mark Lane Express* deduces from the insinuations of its Canadian Correspondent of exporting pleuro-pneumonia with the American cattle which have been feeding in Canadian stables since last fall, the insinuation could only have been made in absolute ignorance of the nature of the disease. . . . If pleuro-pneumonia had been brought in with these cattle, it would have spread among them like wildfire, and as these cattle are now alive and healthy, it needs no proving that no pleuro was ever introduced." If our cattle fictionists kick at my statements, they can't well reject the testimony of their Canadian champion. Consequently we must trouble them to explain—if shipments since January have been "only of Canadian cattle"—what has become of the 3,000 or 4,000 beeves brought into the Dominion in the "fall" of 1878, and "alive and healthy in Canadian distillery stables in March, 1879?" The truth is that of the 10,580 beasts claimed to have been sent forward by Canadian exporters since January 1st only 5,000 or 6,000—if so many—were Canadian stock. The rest came from Jonathan's pastures.

In view of the prodigious and persistent efforts which are being made all over Britain to induce farmers and others to go to Manitoba, and the Canadian North-West, I present a very careful condensation of a second letter published since I wrote last by Mr. Weld, editor of the Canadian *Farmers' Advocate*. I wish it could be distributed throughout Britain. I earnestly hope your agricultural *confères*, and other leading English papers, will extract it from your columns to save people from misery and disappointment. Mr. Weld having premised that he is not a contractor's, speculator's, or politician's instrument, but only an unbiased friend of the farmers and of truth, and having referred to the powerful influences at work, all tending to allure men and money into Manitoba and the North West, states that no farmer's son should go there, if he goes, with less than 1,000 dollars. The Government pamphlet says 300 dollars, but that is not enough. He found many people out of work, and others who had been unable to find suitable locations. They complained bitterly they had been deceived, and were greatly exasperated. Many of these were farmer's sons from Ontario, &c., accustomed to hard work, and ready for toil and hardship if they could only see a chance of a suitable location. But after spending one or two months vainly seeking for such, and enraged at the treatment they had received, they had left in disgust for the States, and taken the oath of allegiance to that country. Free land, suitable for farming, and within reasonable distance of timber was not to be found. Speculators hold from 50,000 to 100,000 acres each! They bought it of the half-breeds at from 20 to 75 cents., and want 3 dollars to 10 dollars an acre for it. The rest of the country is "reserved" for Merriionites, English Companies, Indians, Hudson's Bay Company, &c. The only free land to be obtained is wet and low, and not worth having, or is too far from timber. I wish I could hang over every mantel-piece in England the picture I enclose you of immigrants travelling near Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is appended to Mr. Weld's letter. If you could have a wood-cut made of it, and give it the benefit of the world-wide circulation of the *Express* it would do more good than tons of pamphlets. Mr. Weld explains that there were three men pushing behind the cart and one lifting the wheel. But the artist could not show them all without hiding too much of the cart, and the black, sticky, warty mud on the wheels. The mud and slush were knee-high! and the men were plastered from head to foot. The immigrants cursed and swore, and said the Government ought to be hung. An M.P.P. there charges emigrants 10 cents. for every one-horse cart which he allows to pass over a dry spot on his farm. The sketch enclosed was taken near the residence of certain Senatorial speculators who hold 100,000 acres of land, "reserved" from the poor emigrants, who have to wade through mud on which to obtain a sustenance. Lord Dufferin, when he made his tour through these ploughs of despond (and pissed everybody and everything all round), was entertained to a grand display by these worthies, and a big dining-room was erected out of the funds provided, though I believe only the Senator to whose "mansion" it was appended, ever used it. Mr. Weld hints that some of the fraudulent sharpers concerned in emigrant fleeing in Manitoba ought to be handed over to the detectives. "Thousands of really first-class loyal men, who would have settled in the Dominion, are lost for ever to Canada, driven into the States by rascally management, or shameful treatment." The men who had been to work on the Pacific Line complained they had been treated like dogs. The recent strike when the military were called out was due, Mr. Weld says, to bad treatment of the workers. The Government emigration employees were found to be ignorant and careless, and emigrants are compelled to go through weeks and months of travel, toil, and ex-

penditure of money and patience, before they finally conclude to go into the States. Mr. Weld was so impressed by what he saw that he telegraphed at once to various leading Ontario papers, and to Mr. Pope, the Emigration Minister, urging him to go over, as immediate remedial action was necessary. He also wrote to him. No notice was taken of his communications. *The emigrants bitterly complain of the misleading character of the Government reports, pamphlets, circulars, etc., and of the agents' lectures and paragraphs in the papers.* Mr. Weld met many who had written true accounts to the Ontario papers, but their letters had been burked. "Many a sad sight I saw," he adds, "many a hard tale I heard, and these from hundreds." For about fifteen or twenty miles along the railway from Emerson to Winnipeg no wandering animals could approach the track except by swimming! "We might as well fence in the Atlantic steamers' course, for fear of their running over cattle," exclaims Mr. Weld; and yet the Government, having greedy political supporters, who must be fed with contracts, and who are fencing in the railroad. At Boniface Mr. Weld found another "reserve" stretching two miles in all directions, while "the roads were beyond description, or belief, if truthfully described." Enormous prices are already asked for the e reserves. Mr. Weld spoke to leading members of the Government and emigration agents, and other officials; but the speculators and officials are all in one boat, and all have one and the same stereotyped cry, that "the emigrants are chicken-hearted!" The agents said if these went away they would get plenty more good ones." "Lots of these M.P.'s" we are told, "and other speculators hold from 20 000 to 100,000 acres each, and what they want is men with money, and railroads, bridges, drains, &c., made out of the public funds; and the life services of the poorer class of emigrants to expend in enhancing the value of their properties." Mr. Weld advocates a heavy tax on all lands, except on 160 acres in actual occupation by a settler. But the speculators, in whose interest Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues have gone to England, will snap their fingers at such a suggestion. They are too powerful. There is, however, much land so poor as not to be worth taxing. "Meantime," says Mr. Weld, "everything the speculators, contractors, or office-holders can do to induce emigration is being done."

It was in the interest of these sharks Lord Dufferin was taken up there, and an almost fabulous sum allowed out of the public exchequer for his semi-regal expenses, in order that he might make speeches which the agents knew would appear in English papers, and which have since been scattered broadcast over England. It is in the interest of these fellows that such gushing papers as a Mr. T. S. V. Smith has managed to get into the *Nineteenth Century*, and which appears so opportunely in aid of the attempt for a Pacific railway loan, are everywhere met with. I cannot give you a better idea of the lavish style in which Mr. Smith has dabbed on the red paint than by mentioning that even the *Toronto Globe* finds it too roseate, while the *Canadian Illustrated News* says, if Mr. S. had put 16 bushels per acre for a first crop, instead of 30, he would have been nearer the mark. The *Globe* says, Mr. Smith has not referred to or implied the existence of a "single drawback," and accounts of that one-sided kind defeat their objects. It is a most extraordinary thing that the fearful mosquito pest is not even hinted at by any of these assumed instructors of the British greenhorn. A hundred other drawbacks are similarly ignored. I trust the English newspapers will reproduce the facts I have given. Mr. Weld's standing and character in Ontario make his impartial account of what he has seen of peculiar weight. He says he intends to continue his letters. I hope he will re-

produce them in pamphlet form. He might then do as much good as was done by Mr. Clayden, in his complete and timely exposure of the Muskoka free-grant delusion.

The *Buenos Ayres Standard* publishes a table showing the increase in the number of sheep in that country since 1852, together with the exports of wool and skins during the same period. We select the following figures as showing the principal items:—

SEASON	Skins in bales of 200lb.	Wool in bales of 800lb.	SHEEP at 7 fleeces pr. 25lb.
1852-3	1,398	20,514	4,597,136
1853-4	161	22,450	5,028,880
1854-5	2,069	25,769	5,772,556
1855-6	5,966	32,634	7,207,776
1856-7	8,009	37,543	8,409,632
1857-8	7,776	39,252	8,792,448
1858-9	9,462	48,737	10,919,088
1859-60	10,715	42,275	9,469,600
1860-1	8,888	60,734	13,604,416
1861-2	10,766	67,161	15,044,064
1862-3	13,960	88,780	19,656,720
1863-4	16,733	96,679	21,656,196
1864-5	19,555	130,860	29,312,640
1865-6	20,761	150,453	33,701,472
1866-7	29,924	155,078	34,737,472
1867-8	37,756	178,983	40,072,312
1868-9	49,119	173,238	36,005,312
1869-70	67,294	160,369	35,922,656
1870-1	48,286	156,882	35,141,568
1871-2	50,157	183,711	41,151,264
1872-3	51,400	197,208	44,174,592
1873-4	57,160	189,337	42,411,488
1874-5	52,051	180,828	40,505,472
1875-6	53,625	218,283	48,896,064
1876-7	50,725	230,242	51,568,608
1877-8	65,922	216,512	48,498,688

The year 1858-9 was one of great drought, and 1876-7 was one of great floods. In 1867-8 the price of wool fell to 4½d. per lb., and boiling down became general.

A recent number of the *Australasian* gives a full descriptive account of the Stock Quarantine Station, for the colony of Victoria, at Melbourne. By this, it appears that the arrangements are good, and every necessary has been studied; but the cost is great. "Provision has been made," it is stated, "for securing an even temperature and good ventilation. The wall apertures for the latter are numerous, and each of the doors is fitted with apparatus for graduating the introduction of fresh air. With a view of keeping down summer heat, the roof is made of good shingles, in preference to iron or slate. All the stables are built upon the same model, only the smallest two have no loose boxes. When quite complete, each will have a fenced yard, four panels (30 ft.) deep, along the whole length of the building, so as to give the cattle room for exercise. In no case, even with respect to the two-stalled stables, will the yard be less than four panels wide and deep. The location of the various stables has been studiously managed, with the view of keeping them as distant and distinct from each other as possible, in order that contagion shall have no chance. Of course the station will often contain—as it does now—cattle brought in at different dates, and if there were the slightest contact between them—if only the attendant in charge of one lot were to visit the stables containing another lot—the quarantine of both would have to be nearly all done over again. The cattle now doing their 90 days arrived by the Syria (March 11) and by the Cambrian Prince (April 1), and although neither of the two shipments presents the smallest sign of disease, they are jealously guarded from each other, as well as from

the world outside. It should be mentioned that a 16-stall stable is designed for the use of store stock for reshipment. Many ships, especially passenger ones, carry store stock, such as milch cows, or a few pigs or sheep, which, of course, must not be allowed to land except at the quarantine station, from whence they can be reclaimed when the ship to which they belong commences her return voyage. It is anticipated, however, that most ship captains will prefer to either kill their stock on arrival in port, or else haul the animals over to some outgoing vessel. Some idea of the cost of the maintenance of the cattle in quarantine may be gathered from the subjoined table, which represents the forage consumed by those brought out by the Syria and the Cambrian Prince from April 1st to April 25th:—

1,250 lb. oilcake, 1s. 9d. per cwtal ...	£3 17 0
152 lb. barley, 10s. 6d. do ...	0 16 0
3,299 lb. bran, 7s. 4d. do. ...	12 2 0
2,354 lb. chaff, 6s. do. ...	7 4 0
3,551 lb. potatoes, 5s. 6d. do. ...	9 15 3
6,212 lb. hay, 5s. 5d. do. ...	17 1 7½
84 lb. linseed, 25s. 6d. do. ...	1 1 5
2,528 lb. straw, 3s. 9d. do. ...	4 13 9
51 lb. oats (price not given)	

Total ... .. £61 11 0½

Thus the animals' feed costs about £3 9s. 2½d. per diem or 2s. 4d. per head per diem, or 16s. 4d. per head per week. This expense is now on the increase, not only because such things as rock salt, etc., are to be added to the bill of fare, but also because, as the cattle recover from their voyage their appetite increases."

An article in the *Farmer's Review* (Chicago), for April, written by Mr. J. R. Dodge, gives some useful and interesting statistics on the relative proportion of various kinds of stock in Europe with those of the United States of America; and from it we extract the following items (but the figures are not quite in accordance with those published by the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade):—"The population of Europe is about six times that of the United States, and the farm animals of Europe and of the United State may be thus compared, the figures for Europe being those of the international statistical commission:—

	Europe.	United States.
Horses .....	31,573,643	10,340,000
Mules .....	4,136,031	1,650,000
Cattle .....	89,673,248	32,000,000
Sheep .....	194,026,236	37,000,000
Swine.....	42,686,493	33,000,000

In brief, this country possesses four-fifths as many hogs, more than one-third as many cattle, one-third as many horses and mules, and only about one-fifth as many sheep as the countries of Europe combined. The more prominent of the European States are thus represented in food-producing animals:—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.
Great Britain.....	6,902,100	29,193,900	2,519,300
Ireland .....	4,142,400	4,482,000	1,042,214
Russia .....	22,770,000	46,432,000	9,890,000
Germany.....	14,386,791	22,295,682	6,340,415
Austria .....	7,425,212	5,026,393	2,551,473
Hungary.....	5,279,193	15,076,997	4,443,279
France .....	11,721,459	25,035,114	5,755,656
Italy .....	3,489,125	6,984,049	1,553,582
Spain .....	2,967,303	22,468,969	4,351,736

In the proportions of the different classes, Russia stands first in horses, having 167 to each 1,000 farm animals (including goats); Belgium, Sweden, and Denmark following next in order. Spain has 61 mules and 18 horses to 1,000 animals. Italy has 49 mules, and Portugal 36—the principal mule-using countries. Bavaria (in Germany) has the largest proportion of cattle, 527 to 1,000 of all

kinds; Wurtemberg, 491; Saxony, 469; Switzerland, 447; and Sweden, 440; while Great Britain has but 150. Great Britain occupies the first place with sheep 735 to 1,000; Spain, 602; Roumania, 596; Hungary, 546; Switzerland, 540; Norway, 533; France, 525; and Portugal, 520. More than half the farm animals are sheep, 511 to 1,000. Comparing with the United States, we find the following proportions, omitting goats: Horses, 91; mules, 14; cattle, 251; sheep, 325; swine, 289. These proportions are all larger than those for Europe, taken as a whole, in all animals excepting sheep. The comparison in proportion to population (the number of each kind to 100 inhabitants), is as follows:—

	Horses.	Mules.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Goats.
Europe.....	11.2	1.5	31.8	68.7	15.1	6
United States ...	21.5	3.4	60.6	77.1	98.7	

This country has 238 domestic animals to 100 people, nearly double the European supply, and more than double in respect to its more important element, that of the bovine race.

THE CUCKOO.

AMID the sounds of picks to-day,  
And shovels rasping on the rail,  
A sweet voice came from far away,  
From out a gladly greening vale.

My mate looked up in some surprise;  
I half stopped humming idle rhyme:  
Then said, the moisture in my eyes,  
"The Cuckoo, Jack, for the first time."

How sweet he sang! I could have stood  
For hours, and heard that simple strain;  
An early gladness throng'd my blood,  
And brought my boyhood back again.

The primrose took a deeper hue,  
The dewy grass a greener look;  
The violet wore a deeper blue,  
A lighter music led the brook.

Each thing to its own depth was stirr'd,  
Leaf, flower, and heaven's moving cloud,  
As still he piped, that stranger bird,  
His mellow May-song clear and loud.

When I could see him as he sings,  
When, as it thought and act were one,  
He came; the grey on neck and wings  
Turned white against the happy sun.

I knew his well-known sober flight,  
That boyhood made so dear to me;  
And blessings on him he stopp'd in sight,  
And sang where I could hear and see.

Two simple notes were all he sang,  
And yet my manhood fled away;  
Dear God! the earth is always young,  
And I am young with it to-day.

A wondrous realm of early joy  
Grew all around as I became  
Among my mates a bearded boy,  
That could have wept but for the shame.

For all my purer life, now dead,  
Rose n<sup>o</sup>, fair fashion'd at the call  
Of that grey bird, whose voice had shed  
The charm of boyhood over all.

Oh early hopes and sweet spring tears!  
That heart has never known its prime  
That stands without a tear and hears  
The cuckoo's voice for the first time.

ALEXANDER ANDERSON.

## THE CROPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The agricultural statistics for Great Britain having appeared, and the state of the corn crops being now stereotyped, a reliable estimate may be formed of their probable yield, although there is not yet an acre reaped in any part of the country.

Adding the Irish areas, the acreage in the United Kingdom under the main crops will be as under:—

Wheat, 3,048,000; Barley, 2,931,000; Oats, 3,987,000; Potatoes, 1,384,000.

These returns show an important decrease in the areas under wheat and oats, and a considerable increase, as was to be expected, under barley. Last year I predicted in the *Times* that the wheat area this year would not exceed 3,000,000 acres, and that the barley area would be proportionately increased, and this turns out to be nearly the case.

A sunless spring and summer, accompanied by excessive rains and low temperature up to the present time, leave no room to doubt what must be the inevitable results on our corn crops. If any proof were wanting to convince the most hopeful that these crops must be ruinously deficient, it would be the unprecedented fact that even now, on the eve of harvest, when the grain should weigh down the straw, there is scarcely any lodged corn to be seen anywhere after the most prostrating storms of wind and rain—a clear proof of the lightness of the heads. I have therefore very little hesitation in estimating the probable outcome of each of these crops at one third less than an average yield. This deficiency, at 50s. an acre, will amount to a loss of £25,000,000 to the cultivator.

At an equal rate of loss for the partial failure of beans, peas, and rye on 780,000 acres, we have an additional sum of £3,000,000 to add, making an aggregate deficiency equal to a money loss of £28,000,000 on our cereal and pulse crops alone.

Taking the next most important crop—potatoes—£10 an acre will not compensate growers for the blight that has already come upon it. I have examined many tubers, and though generally as large as they usually are a month hence, I find them diseased to the extent of two-thirds, even on the driest soils. As they will go worse in the ground they will have to be immediately dug when the weather permits, and the greater part of them consumed as pigs' food. On the 1,384,000 acres under this crop the loss cannot be less than £15,000,000.

The hop area for this year is returned at 68,000 acres, or 6,000 less than that of last year; and as the crop is almost a total failure, the direct loss may amount to a million and a quarter sterling, as the out-of-pocket cost of its cultivation averages £20 an acre.

An enumeration of the agricultural misfortunes of the year would not be complete without mention of those sustained on our unexpectedly abundant hay crop. These have arisen from floods which sanded the growing and swept away a great deal of mown grass, and from unfavourable haymaking weather which has materially deteriorated the quality of that which has been saved. There is still a considerable quantity of hay out, and some hay grass unmown—two months beyond the usual time. Taking the loss at 25s. an acre on the areas under artificial and natural grasses, it will amount to £15,000,000.

Mangolds, turnips, and other root crops are late in growth and small in size, and everywhere mastered by weeds, and it will require a long and especially fine autumn to bring them up to half average crops.

On grass, though abundant, no live stock—except dairy cows—has this season made profitable returns.

In early spring this year's crops were looked forward to with sanguine hopes that they would help to redeem the losses of the previous four years, but now that the die is cast there appears nothing wanting to complete the ruin of the poorer class of tenant farmers, especially in England and Scotland.

From the above data we may conclude that we shall require two-thirds of our breadstuffs from abroad, equal to 16,000,000 qrs. of wheat, for the cereal year 1879-80; and as our harvest must be now nearly a month behind the usual time of ingathering, and consequently a month's extra consumption has to be provided for, it is not unlikely we may require a million quarters more.

Our foreign imports in 1877-78 were 14,638,000 qrs. and our home supply 7,921,000 qrs., making together 22,559,000 qrs.

For 1878-9 the foreign imports up to the end of this month will be 13,900,000 qrs., and the home deliveries 10,180,000, making 24,080,000 qrs., equal to a consumption of 2,000,000 quarters a month.

Prices during this cereal year have been very much lower than they were in 1877-78; but, notwithstanding, farmers have been obliged to realise, and they have, consequently, delivered 2½ million quarters more wheat into our markets than they did in the previous year; this circumstance likewise affording a proof that the wheat crop of 1878 was considerably better than its predecessor, although estimated at two bushels under an average crop.

I am, Sir, &c.,

THOS. C. SCOTT.

7, Moorgate-street, E.C., August 23.

## HARVEST PROSPECTS.

The agricultural correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Lincoln on August 21, says:—

During the past week I have traversed parts of the country presenting a succession of what can be little better than shells of crops. In an ordinary season you may form an approximate judgment of the general character of the yield of cereals from the bulk of straw, the size of the ears, and the broken-down or upstanding condition of the crop. But in the present unfortunate period of ever-recurrent rainfall, of abnormally low temperature, of harvest deferred beyond all precedent, usual deductions made from the appearance of crops to allow for deficiencies in kernaling are not admissible. We have to go back to the somewhat similar season of 1860, when, as now, it seemed problematical whether wheat, barley, oats, and rye would change colour and really ripen in the absence of fervid sunshine and in spite of the prevailing wet. In that year blight and mildew revelled in the moisture, resulting in a most pitiful produce of grain in proportion to the outside promise of the straw and ear. And so it is at the present time. Probably no one remembers a harvest heralded by more widespread and all but universal complaints of deficiency of grain in wheat-ears. In some places almost a panic has taken possession of farmers, who, upon examining ears of their crops which stand up straight enough instead of lying beaten down after tremendous rain, report that "there is nothing in them," and apprehend that a terrible and unparalleled calamity has fallen upon the nation in the shape of a well-nigh barren wheat crop. This extreme alarm is unfounded; but there can be no doubt whatever that vast numbers of crops are delusive in appearance, that generally the wheat-ears are defective beyond former experience, and that even the best crops must prove disappointing when tested by the thrashing machine. It is not only the paucity in number of grains, but their inferiority in quality which must tell disastrously upon the amount and value of produce. No blazing weather beyond a few warm days having come to force on the formation of the grains, the small, soft, milky grains now existing, or only half-filled yet, will inevitably harden into thin, husky berries; the time being now past for any spell of weather, no matter how hot and bright, to perfect

their formation with a full body of flour. Where not heavy and knocked down by the storms, the straw is for the most part yellowing for the harvest; and when straw ripens while the head is still green and growing, precocious hardening instead of well-ripened maturity can be the only result.

Highly-farmed light soils, like the sand loams and flint loams of West Norfolk, carry fine crops of both wheat and barley, so far as appearance is concerned, the barleys doing well without much favour from the sun. Even there, however—as in the grand reach of country for spirited agriculture on a not naturally very fertile soil between Swaffham and Lynn (excepting the poor sandy heath), and on the Earl of Leicester's noble farms around Holkham, mildew shows on the wheats, and anxiety is becoming great as to the chances of being able to harvest the barleys without serious loss in condition. The reports from clays and medium lands in Norfolk agree with the universal testimony that except upon ground well-drained, clean, richly manured, and in fine condition, only wretched yields either of wheat, barley, or oat will be reaped. Moreover, the general foulness of the crops is a distress to occupiers who, as a rule, farm as cleanly as any in Her Majesty's dominions. The prospect of winter keep is not bad upon the light lands, though all roots are very backward. The irrigating rains, perpetually pouring upon land which is always thirsty is rapidly forcing growth. Hay has been got with loss almost everywhere, and in the Norfolk valleys floods have swept away or grieved and damaged meadow hay to a like ruinous extent as in other counties.

Lincolnshire, our greatest corn-producing county next to Yorkshire, comprises districts of so many varieties of land that it may be looked upon almost as a sample of the whole kingdom, except in regard to climate, which is of that moderately dry character pertaining to the eastern side of England. What is the condition of the crops here? Stretching northward and southward of Lincoln, the "Cliff" and "Heath" uplands of oolite light land present a succession of superb four-course or modified four-course farming for very many miles—a sight, indeed, unequalled in any other county. The wide sweeps of corn, now of golden hue, alternating with the brilliant green of luxuriant clover-fields, and the paler verdure of swedes and common turnips—farms spreading like huge chess-boards of these colours, with squares divided by low, close cut hedges—make a feast for the artistic as well as agricultural eye; a picture, indeed, that would be monotonous in its profusion of beautiful crops were the scene not interrupted by wooded villages and belts of pasture watered by brooks which wander in the narrow vales. If the seeds and clovers on which the flocks of heavy-woolled sheep are now folded, and the strong, though backward, root-crops, tell of the high-manning and consumption of feeding stuffs which impart constant productiveness to these shallow scylys lying close upon the rock, the corn crops bear evidence of their dependence upon the artificial fertility. While, as a rule, wheats and barleys between Seaforth and Lincoln, and thence to Brigg and further north towards the Humber, look well for yielding, many fields are thin and patchy and short in straw, as if insufficiently fed, from manure having been too much diluted and washed out of the ground. The expectations are of fair yields, especially of barley; but defective ears, never the less, abound, as in other parts of the country. I hear that on the fine tract of flint-loams, and sandy land of the chalk "Wolds" ranging from near Spilsby to Louth and Caistor, the corn is of a like promising appearance. I believe, however, that disappointment will be felt both with the Wold and Heath crops when they come to the real test of measuring and weighing.

On the brash and crech lands for some miles east and south of Grantham the crops are more various in bulk; and the usual complaints of wet and cold, of failure in crops, of smothering weeds, of spoil hay, of watery grass doing little good to animals, are heard in all parts. The strong clay country occupying the middle of the country between the two principal hill ranges, between Brigg, Wragby, and Market Rasen, is much of it in a lamentable condition—for corn crops, weeds, and fallows, in the same plight common to most clay districts this year.

The clays between the Heath and the eastern fens and the clays also in the valley extending west of the Heath toward Newark, are still more wretchedly situated for failing produce and land unprepared for next season.

In many parts of the county corn crops have on some fields been so bad that they have been ploughed up, and notably have great numbers of acres of peas been lately ploughed in as green manure, the podding being so poor that the crop would not pay for cutting and carting off. All over Lincolnshire the potatoes are badly smitten by disease. In the alluvial flat of the south-eastern quarter of the county the air is loaded with the acrid odour of the rotting bins. There was only a poor growth of tubera to begin with, and now it is a question if many of the crops will not be too diseased and decayed to be worth taking up when the time for lifting comes. The incessantly drenching rains keep water so long standing between the ridges or potato rows in very many districts, that the greatest fears are felt as to the perishing of the whole crop. In such a season, too, vast injury is generally done by the roots superabundant. The cereals on the marsh loam lands look better than in, perhaps, any other part of the kingdom; though even there the full length of straw and moderately good heads are deceptive, for the ears, on careful examination, reveal an alarming proportion of empty chaffs, and mildew and night ripe and red gum are doing much mischief.

Heavy wheats and oats are seen on some of the peat fens; but it is certain that the apparent yields must be greatly diminished by the causes of deficiency universal in the present year.

My inquiries have been directed to the above subject by the letter of W. B. G., which appeared in your last issue. His dates as to the beginning of different harvests are instructive, but I think a harvest cannot properly be said to begin when an isolated field or two are cut in a district. Such a thing does not indicate the true character of a season as "one swallow does not make a summer."

W. B. G. states that in the late year 1860, reaping was begun near Bedford on the 15th August, whereas the report to which W. B. G. refers makes the date to be the 27th of that month. On inquiring of Mr. McLaren, of Cardington, who is an accredited authority for weather and dates, he gives the date of beginning the 27th, but there are many other independent testimonies, which may be mentioned.

Mr. Barclay, of Youdirton, gives a list of 40 years' harvests, and he says that he began harvest on 6th September in 1860. Mr. Dickson, of Hellington, gives a list of 20 years, and he states that he commenced cutting on 12th September of that year, and finished on the 8th October; his farm stands about the same height above the level of the sea as the plains of Bedfordshire. Again, Mr. Owen, of Hungerford, Berks., publishes a list of 50 years, and in 1860 he began on 27th August and finished on 12th November.

W. B. G.'s letter is dated 13th August, and he speaks of the more than ordinary amount of sunshine that week. Now whether he refers to the three preceding days of that week, or the seven prior days, I think he does not show his usual accuracy. He goes on to state that the thermometer shows a higher degree of heat with the exception of 30th July, than it has done this season. Now it so happens that that day (July 30th), was the warmest of the season which may be seen on consulting the weekly tables in the *Times*.—J. G. B. in *Beds. Times*.

**BETROOT CULTIVATION IN AMERICA.**—A new industry is about to be established in the State of Maryland, in the shape of beet cultivation, which is proposed by a company of Germans, who have offered to come to Baltimore and set up a large sugar factory, provided that the farmers will plant 2,000 acres, at least, with German beetroot. They guarantee to take the whole produce at the rate of 5 dols. per ton. It is considered that good land ought to produce 30 tons of beet per acre; and, as the climate is a suitable one for this crop, it may be reasonably expected that before long a flourishing sugar industry will be added to those already existing in Maryland.—*Times*.

## SUCCESSFUL FARMING.

Mr. E. L. Rowcliffe, of Cranleigh, Guildford, has sent the following letter to Mr. Mechi :—

"Your interesting letter, with the instructive extract referred to in it, which appeared in the *Times* of Tuesday last, leads me to trouble you with some short account of the present state of my farm in the Weald of Surrey.

"I now farm 300 acres about nine miles south of Guildford, about 120 being pasture and the rest arable. Some of the arable land is fairly workable, but the soil varies very much in each field, there being frequently a vein of the toughest red clay running through the lighter land, and in some fields a very large quantity of pudding ironstone. The other portions are weald clay. Some of it has the reputation of being the poorest between Guildford and Horsham, and, as I say, is often birdlime in the morning and brickbats at night.

"When I first took my land in hand about ten years ago some of it had been cleared and drained by the previous owner, but other portions of it were in the state so graphically described by the *Times'* Correspondent in his letter from Peterborough a few days ago, the fields being small, the hedgerows enormous, overgrown with timber, undrained, and so poor that the last occupier scarcely got back his seed. Of course, my first step was to grub and drain, the draining being 2ft. 6in. deep and 18ft. apart, my experience being that this mode of draining is the most suitable for heavy land where, as in my case, there is no porous subsoil. I set on foot a breeding flock of about 200 ewes, and adopted the system of buying and rearing as many calves as I could.

"The stock on my farm consists at present of about 220 breeding ewes, 60 draft ewes, which I am fattening, 230 lambs (I sold 40 to the butcher at £2 a head during the spring), 12 Irish steers fit for the butcher, eight dairy cows, 55 young things of various ages from one to two years old, and 23 weaning calves. All have cake, and all are in the most thriving condition, except that some of the ewes are troubled with rot. I have besides about 60 pigs. The ewes are eating off vetches preparatory to wheat, and the lambs are eating off a piece of two-year-old ley.

"I find that with my dairy of eight cows I can supply my house most liberally with butter and cream, supply the labourers with a certain quantity of skimmed milk, and rear the number of calves I have stated, of course supplementing the milk with linseed, oatmeal, and Thorley's food.

"I walked over my farm on Monday last with some of my agricultural friends, according to my annual custom, to see how things were looking and estimate the produce. I have 45 acres of wheat, all looking well, with sufficient straw to give a load an acre, but which, owing to defective kerning, we put down at 32 bushels to the acre; 16 acres of barley, which we estimated at six quarters to the acre; about 20 acres of oats, which we also estimated at six quarters; and about eight acres of peas, which we estimated at 32 bushels, the haulm being very strong, but the pods small and not well filled; 16 acres of mangolds, the best plant I have ever had, but backward; 16 acres of very good swedes; and 27 acres of turnips in various stages of growth, but all promising well.

"We have had at least double our average rainfall, which has of course, given us great trouble, but beyond being very backward I do not think we have suffered from it. I hope to begin cutting wheat next Monday, and barley the week following.

"It may interest you to know that I now always sow barley without seeds, so that I can cut it and carry it the same day, sowing my seeds either with wheat or oats, my observation being that in nine cases out of ten barley is spoiled through the clover, which necessitates its lying out for some days until the clover is dry, thereby spoiling a very valuable crop of barley for a very small quantity of clover hay.

"I have three homesteads, avoiding as much as possible needless carting. I grow every year four acres of mangolds on the same piece of ground, close to two sets of the buildings, manuring heavily with dung, sowing 4 cwt. of dissolved bones and 1 cwt. of nitrate broadcast, and drilling in with 3 cwt. of dissolved bones.

"My other piece of mangolds I always sow after swedes, thereby saving all dung cart, and having the best possible preparation with only one ploughing. Like your correspondent, I always grow my swedes partly after rye and partly after trifolium fed off, generally sowing daily as I plough up to the sheep.

"I always seed out heavily, sowing some Dutch and alsike with the clover and bents, and I keep my land down two, three or four years, according to circumstances, always arranging to have a piece of old ley adjoining my roots, so as to be able to run the sheep out in wet weather. I have laid down and am laying down some 60 acres to grass, seeding out with half a crop of oats, mowing the first year, and then feeding and continually manuring, and in that way I find I very readily get an excellent pasture.

"And now for results. My accounts are very accurately kept. I get a better rent than I should get from a tenant, I get 5 per cent. interest upon a capital of about £20 to the acre. I pay a bailiff liberal wages. I farm for pleasure and spend at least £100 a year in neatnesses and delicacies. I am continually taking poor fields in hand and bringing them round, but generally succeed in making both ends meet within a moderate sum, which I am sure would be just the other way if I farmed myself and farmed entirely for profit; and, moreover, I have had the satisfaction of having at least doubled the capital value of my land.

"I hope it will not trouble you to read what I have written."

THE GAME LAW AMENDMENT  
BILL, 1879.

Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., writes to the *Daily News* :—

Mr. Mundella, in describing the engagement made by the Government in regard to this Bill as a "partial promise," has quite understated the extent of their bad faith. The case stands thus:—The case of a farmer in Scotland, convicted, under the Night Poaching Act, of killing a rabbit outside his own gate, had excited much indignation, and at the suggestion of a Scotch member the Government promised to mitigate the brutal severity of this Act, by enacting that when the convicting magistrate was of opinion that the crime of killing a rabbit at night was not aggravated by violence, actual or contemplated, the penalty might be diminished to that to which the offender would have been liable had the horrible crime been effected in the daytime. It probably is not generally known that under this atrocious Night Poaching Act the magistrate in sentencing has no discretion—he must condemn to imprisonment with hard labour. Well, the Government brought in their Bill, and strange to say, although the Night Poaching Act applies to the whole country, this mitigating Bill applied to Scotland only. The English farmer and labourer may, I suppose, be kicked and flouted with more impunity. On going into Committee (May 5, I think) I pointed out this anomaly, and moved that the Bill should apply to the whole country. While I was speaking much conversation and whispering were going on between the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, and the Attorney-General, the result of which was apparent when, on my sitting down, the Attorney-General rose and said that if I would not further oppose the going into Committee he would move to report progress after negating the first clause (limiting the action to Scotland), with the view of preparing the necessary clauses to effect the object of extending the Bill to the whole country. I, of course, acceded gladly, and the first clause was duly negatived, and progress reported; and all friends of justice and decency congratulated themselves on the fact that at least one little step had been taken towards mitigating the shameless atrocity of our Game Law Code.

The Bill could have been carried through without the slightest difficulty or loss of time; the Government, however, postponed and postponed, until they could make the lateness of the session an excuse for withdrawing it. Amongst their many sins against decency during the session, this may seem but a small one, but perhaps of all it bears away the bell for surpassing meanness.

**CASE OF LOCK JAW SUCCESSFULLY CURED WITH NITRITE OF AMYL.**

Mr. S. Lawton Ragg, M.R.C.V.S., writes to the *Field* :

I forward you particulars of the following case, not because it can be considered a very uncommon one, or that it possesses anything very unusual, but from the fact that, so far as I am aware, no case has been recorded in which lock-jaw has been treated with the nitrite of amyl—an agent which I think deserves a more extensive trial in this disease than I have hitherto had an opportunity of giving it.

The subject of my communication was an aged cart mare, the property of Mr. J. Hudson of this town. She had only been in her owner's possession a few weeks, when she fell lame from two sand cracks in the near fore foot. For this lameness she was taken to the shoeing smith's. This individual, like a many more in his trade, had the idea that he knew how to "doctor a lame foot," and he forthwith fired the mare; not on the coronet over the cracks, as we should have supposed, but barbarously burnt with a firing iron six or more holes through the horn into the sensitive parts of the foot; the result was a considerable amount of irritative fever, followed in a short time afterwards by the disease in question.

It is not my intention to describe the various kinds of this disease, nor to advance any explanation to elucidate its pathology, but to limit myself as briefly as possible to the case before us. On May 6 I was requested to see a brown mare, who, as the owner said "could not eat, frothed at the mouth, and clamped her jaws a deal." On arriving at the stable, I found the mare presenting the following symptoms in addition to the above: Pulse 80, protrusion of the membrana nictitans, but not to such an extent as is usually seen in lock-jaw, a general stiffness of the whole body, more particularly the cervical and muscles of mastication, straggling gait, and elevation of the tail; the mouth was only partially closed; breathing accelerated, with dilation of the nostrils.

I at once diagnosed the case to be one of tetanus or lock-jaw, and at the same time administered a six-drachm purging ball; this was accomplished by sticking the ball on a pointed stick, and pushing it as far back as I could, it being an utter impossibility to introduce my hand into her mouth. I left instructions for the mare to be kept perfectly quiet till I should see her on the following day.

On the 7th inst. I found my patient much the same; the purgative had only acted slightly. As the mare was quiet, and had not laid down, I did not consider it desirable to place her in the slings. I commenced giving her half-drachm doses of hydrocyanic acid (Sheep's strength) night and morning, which she readily took in a little water. This treatment was continued up to the 12th of May. On this date the mare had either laid or fallen down, and in her violent struggles to get up had knocked one end of the loose-box down, which was only a single brick wall. With some little trouble I got her up and placed in slings, fearing that she would again get down and injure herself.

On the 19th I found the mare more excited, although she took to the slings very well. As she was making little or no progress it was evident that, unless some alteration took place, the case would soon have an unfavourable termination.

As I had used the nitrite of amyl in a case of traumatic tetanus last September with such results as warranted me in again giving it a trial, I determined to have recourse to it again. Accordingly I prescribed this agent in half-drachm doses night and morning, which I increased to a drachm. As I gave it in luscid tea, the smell was in some measure hidden. I need not give you detailed particulars from day to day; suffice it to say that I continued this treatment with the best of results up to the 30th, when I had her taken out of the slings. With the exception of an 8oz. bottle of belladonna liniment for the throat, nothing more was done in the way of medicine, the rest being left to nature. I last saw the mare on the 4th of June, when I dismissed her; she was put to the horse, and is now working on a farm.

In conclusion, I may mention that, although she was in a loose box, kept dark by nailing sacks over the windows, and every attention given her by the person in attendance, she was subject to the constant noise of file-cutting (the stable being next to a file-cutter's shop), which would not tend to hasten her recovery.

**REVIEW OF THE CATTLE TRADE DURING THE PAST MONTH.**

The position of the cattle trade has not undergone any appreciable change during the month. The total supplies of stock exhibited has not been as large as usual, but this is mainly owing to the detention of the American beasts at water side. From the midland and home counties, however, the receipts of beasts have fallen off and in addition there was noticed a marked unevenness of quality and condition. From Norfolk and Suffolk about an average supply came to hand, whilst the Irish receipts were considerably heavier than last year. Scotland contributed a fair show for the time of year. From abroad there was a full average display from Spain, Denmark, and Sweden, with a few Canadian. No feature was observed in the trade. Quietness reigned throughout, and the tendency of values was towards weakness. The best Scots and crosses were disposed of at 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. per 8 lb.

In the sheep pens was a fair supply, the number being in excess of last year. The quality and condition were about up to the average. Business was quiet, and but few changes took place in prices. The best Downs and half-breds were disposed of at 6s. 8d. to 6s. 10s. per 8 lb.

Lambs were quiet throughout, and were generally quoted at 7s. to 7s. 8d. per 8 lb.

For calves and pigs about an average inquiry was experienced, quotations resting about the same.

The imports of cattle during the month thus compare with the last three years:—

	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Beasts.....	13,951	11,308	8,481	13,344
Sheep, Lambs.....	62,572	77,331	62,207	69,547
Calves.....	2,178	4,142	2,798	2,978
Pigs.....	1,212	3,989	5,654	3,497

From our own grazing districts, the receipts were as under.

	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879
Lincolnshire, Leicester-shire, and Northampton-shire.....	10,950	9,650	9,410	7,705
Other parts of England.....	2,245	2,100	1,800	1,880
Scotland.....	24	150	10	124
Ireland.....	—	90	120	800

The total supplies of stock exhibited and sold were:—

	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Beasts.....	23,410	17,290	19,740	12,930
Sheep, Lambs.....	144,310	73,720	76,810	86,690
Calves.....	4,320	1,030	1,760	3,420
Pigs.....	111	120	140	70

Beasts have sold at 4s. to 5s. 8d., Sheep 5s. to 6s. 10s., Lambs 7s. to 7s. 8d., Calves 5s. to 5s. 10d., Pigs 3s. 8d. to 4s. 6d. per 8lb.

**COMPARISON OF PRICES.**

	July		August	
	1875.	1876.	1876.	1878.
Beef.....	s. d. 4 0	s. d. 6 8	s. d. 4 6	s. d. 6 2
Mutton.....	4 6	7 0	4 6	7 0
Lamb.....	6 0	7 6	7 0	8 6
Veal.....	4 6	5 8	4 4	6 0
Pork.....	4 6	5 4	4 6	6 0
	August		August	
	1877.		1878.	
Beef.....	s. d. 4 6	s. d. 6 2	s. d. 4 6	s. d. 6 0
Mutton.....	5 6	7 2	5 6	6 10
Lamb.....	7 0	8 0	7 0	8 0
Veal.....	5 0	6 2	5 6	6 6
Pork.....	3 8	5 2	4 0	4 10

"How dare you curse before me?" severely inquired a clergyman of a loafer who had used bad language. And then this bad man retorted, "How did I know you wanted to curse first?"

## REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE,

FROM *THE MARK LANE EXPRESS* FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 25.

Although we have now arrived at the last week in August, harvest operations have scarcely commenced in this country, as the weather throughout the past week has been excessively wet and altogether unfavourable to the cereal crops and agricultural labour. Wheat will, in all probability, turn out very deficient when the thrashing machine gets to work, and Barley even more disappointing than Wheat, as both crops began badly, sowing being much delayed at the outset by the saturated state of the land. Little or no subsequent amelioration took place in the weather, which has continued abnormally wet throughout the summer, so that, so far from any lee-way having been made up, the crops are even more backward at the present time than they were in the Spring, considering the average time at which harvest commences. Independently of the general detriment to the quality and yield caused by the absence of sunshine, the heavy rain storms of the past week have seriously laid the crops in many parts of the northern and midland counties, while the submersion of low-lying lands has caused the plant to rot at the root, and developed blight and mildew in the ear. Large quantities of hay have been washed away in Derbyshire by the overflowing of rivers, while in Wales, the floods have been so heavy, that railway traffic has been seriously impeded. Nearly everywhere the fields are choked with weeds, and there is every sign that the present year will be as bad or worse, for the farmers than its immediate predecessors. The few days sunshine towards the middle of the month gave promise of fair weather for harvest, but all who indulged in such anticipations have been disappointed, as the season seems likely to maintain its watery characteristics to the close. In the more sheltered districts some pieces of Wheat and Barley are ready to be cut, and should anything like fair weather prevail, will probably be down this week, but harvest is not likely to be general under any circumstances before the first week in September. In Scotland farmers have taken advantage of the recent short spell of fine weather to secure a good deal of hay, which has not been so injured by wet as was at one time feared. The cereal crops in the North are, of course, still quite green, and as everything is so unusually backward, much of the grain in the uplands may never ripen at all. October rather than September will probably be the harvest month in Scotland this year. Turnips are said to be improving, and Potatoes generally free from disease, but like everything else the tubers are very late, and do not promise an abundant yield by any means. After the sunshine and consequent depression in the grain trade during the previous week, the change for the worse in agricultural prospects has brought about a revival of activity in the Wheat trade, which has in some instances enabled sellers to recover the recent decline of 1s. per qr. The imports have again been excessive, last Monday's return showing over 100,000 qrs., while the subsequent arrivals up to Friday have reached 110,820 qrs. But for the fact of imports having been fully up to their usual summer complement the strength of the trade has been so marked that higher prices would doubtless have been obtainable, but it is difficult to persuade millers to buy except in retail, in face of a supply considerably exceeding 300,000 qrs. in three weeks, on the eve of harvest, even if the prospects of such harvest are admittedly bad. America's capacity for gigantic shipments is also thoroughly understood by buyers, who have operated

cautiously, but at the same time more freely, during the past week at a slight advance on last Monday's currencies. In another month's time the out-turn of most of the European crops will be more accurately known, and then it will be possible to obtain reliable data upon which to indicate the future course of prices. Barley has maintained previous values, but Maize and Oats have again eased slightly under pressure of increased supplies.

The sales of English Wheat noted last week were 18,862 qrs., at 49s. 3d., against 26,279 qrs. at 45s. 2d. in the previous year.

The London average for the week ending August 22nd was 48s. 11d. on 263 qrs.

The imports of the United Kingdom for the week ending August 16th were 1,458,598 cwt. of Wheat, and 280,224 cwt. of Flour.

With an average attendance of millers and country buyers, increased steadiness was observable in the trade at Mark Lane on Monday last, when, notwithstanding the excessive arrivals from abroad, the retrograde movement in prices which took place at the close of the previous week was checked by the return of heavy rain. The rally was, however, slight, as it was difficult to get millers to operate except in retail, in face of the large supplies. Of English Wheat there was scarcely anything on offer, and in absence of quotations remained nominally unaltered. Foreign on the other hand, was abundant, the total week's imports exceeding 103,000 qrs., of which 42,555 qrs. were from American Atlantic ports, and 37,051 qrs. from Russia. Australia and New Zealand contributed about 12,000 qrs., and the remainder was from Germany, Turkey, and the East Indies. Factors commenced by asking the full prices of the preceding Monday, which were not obtainable in face of the heavy supplies, but the trade was decidedly firmer than at the close of the previous week, and a fair consumptive demand was experienced at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per qr., the full reduction affecting white descriptions, such as New Zealand and Australian. The exports were 2,253 qrs., against 3,349 qrs. in the preceding week. The supply of Barley consisted of 1,227 qrs. of home-grown, and 3,153 qrs. of foreign. Business was not very active, but a steady tone prevailed, and no reduction was necessary to effect sales. Maize, with an arrival of 28,391 qrs., was rather easier, especially for mixed American, which could only be moved off at a decline of 6d. per qr. on the week. The imports of Oats were also large, in all 85,778 qrs., but with a steady demand fine sorts were saleable at about former rates, while inferior descriptions favoured buyers to the extent of 3d. per qr. On Wednesday the return showed 220 qrs. of English Wheat, and 84,270 qrs. of foreign. The market was fairly attended, and as the weather was exceedingly wet the increased firmness noticeable on Monday, gained further strength. A good business was done in Wheat at fully former rates, but Maize and Oats met a slow sale at unaltered currencies. On Friday the supply had increased to 110,820 qrs. of foreign Wheat, but there was no further supply of English. The market was moderately attended, and the trade ruled steady for Wheat and feeding corn at Monday's full prices, but no advance was obtainable, except in the case of fine white Wheat, which brought 1s. per qr. more money, as the arrivals from abroad were excessive. The imports of Flour into the United Kingdom for the week ending August 16th were 280,224 cwt., against 181,179

cwt. in the previous week. The receipts into London were 14,464 sacks of English and 9,865 sacks and 4,360 barrels of foreign. The trade, although still of a dragging nature, has been, if anything, a trifle more active, and holders now ask the full prices of last Monday, for both sacks and barrels. The week's arrivals of Beans were 63,559 cwt. and of Peas 28,164 cwt., showing a decrease of 197 cwt. on the former, and an increase of 13,738 cwt. on the latter. There has not been much inquiry for Beans, but in the limited business passing, previous quotations have been supported. Peas have also sold slowly, and with increased supplies prices have been the turn in buyers' favour. The deliveries of Malt were 16,151 qrs. and the exports 741 qrs. No new feature has presented itself in this branch of the trade, which has ruled quiet at about previous currencies. Although wanting in animation, considerable steadiness has characterised the agricultural seed trade during the past week, and with very few exceptions the values of all the principal varieties continue to tend upwards. Fears are entertained that the English crop of red Clover will result in failure, and the samples of new Trefoil shown have been of the poorest quality. Mustard and Rape have met a steady demand, the former having improved 6d. per bushel, but no quotable change can be noted in any other variety. Supplies continue light at the country markets, and there has not been much business done in Wheat, but the broken and unsettled weather which has prevailed, has strengthened holders' views, and in some cases the decline of 1s. per qr. which was necessary to effect sales at the beginning of the week, has been recovered. Spring Corn has been firm but quiet, while Maize has, in some instances, brought rather higher rates. At Liverpool, on Tuesday, the market was fairly attended, and a good retail trade was done in Wheat at fully previous prices for all except new red winter American for which 1d. to 2d. per cental advance was obtainable. Flour was also fully as dear, and Beans and Peas 1d. per cental dearer, but Maize closed quiet, notwithstanding the advice of light shipments, at the previous quotation of 4s. 9d. for new, and 4s. 10d. for old. The week's imports included 86,000 qrs. of Wheat, and 34,000 qrs. of Maize. At Newcastle Wheat has met a dull sale at about late rates, while Flour has slightly receded. Maize has also favoured buyers, but no quotable change has occurred in Spring Corn. At Leeds there has been very little inquiry either for English or foreign Wheat, and no alteration has taken place in values, but Oats and Beans have found buyers at 6d. per qr. more money. At Hull the trade has ruled slow, for both English and foreign Wheat, at a decline of 1s. per qr. Barley and Beans have, however, been rather dearer, and Maize, although not very active has firmly maintained late rates. At Edinburgh the market has been fairly supplied with Wheat, which met a slow sale on Wednesday at a decline of 1s. per qr. Barley was unaltered, and Oats and Beans found buyers at previous prices. At Leith the weather has been stormy and unsettled, and the trade has ruled quiet for Scotch Wheat at about late rates. Foreign has been firmly held, but with heavy arrivals from abroad the amount of business done has been limited. There has, however, been little pressure to sell as the bulk of the imports has gone direct to millers. Barley and Maize have been steady, and occasionally the turn dearer, but there has been no change in Oats, Beans, or Peas. At Glasgow the week's arrivals have been liberal of Wheat, Flour, and Maize, for all of which the trade has been dull, and prices have tended in buyers' favour, but an upward tendency has been apparent in Spring Corn, all varieties having sold steadily at fully late rates. At Dublin the grain trade has been exceedingly quiet, and in the absence of sales prices remain nominally unaltered for both Wheat and Maize. At Cork

a steady consumptive demand has been experienced for Wheat at last week's quotations, while Maize has firmly maintained previous currencies.

The following are the reports from Mark Lane during the past month :—

#### Monday August 4.

The attendance at the market had been expected to be good, but expectations only resulted in disappointment, many factors being out of town, but few millers being in special want of grain and farmers in general being busy in the fields. The weather was fine after two warm but cloudy days, and the wind having veered from the south to the north-east, continued sunshine was promised. English Wheat, 130 qrs., was in very meagre supply, so that prices were not changed from the beginning of the week. Foreign Wheat, 63,420 qrs., was held rather stiffly by the greater number of merchants, though there were a few sales at a decline on the week of 2s. for white, and 1s. for red descriptions.

English Barley, 300 qrs., was in moderate request at the advanced quotations of Monday. There were no imports, and as the quantity on passage is very small, holders manifest full confidence.

Oats, Scotch, 360 qrs.; foreign, 78,840 qrs., were difficult to maintain in price; inquiry, although fairly active, not being equal to the heavy Russian and Swedish arrivals.

Maize, 10,210 qrs., was rather dull at the commencement of the market, but as the day wore on, holders refused to make any concessions, and a moderate business was done at fully previous rates, both for round and for flat descriptions.

Beans were occasionally 1s. dearer from Monday, as since the end of the previous week there were no arrivals.

Peas, foreign 1,390 qrs., were firm at full prices.

Flour, foreign 11,160 sacks; American 5,020 barrels, was a slow trade. Prices were quite unchanged.

#### Monday August 11.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat, 612 qrs.; foreign, 104,013 qrs. Exports, 3,349 qrs. The supply of English Wheat fresh up to market this morning was practically nil, and the few samples offering were firmly held for last week's prices, but without attracting much attention; of foreign the arrivals were very heavy, and with finer weather, a quieter tone pervaded the trade, but a moderate consumptive demand was experienced, albeit at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per qr. on the fortnight.

Country Flour, 10,883 sacks; foreign, 12,210 sacks and 1,311 barrels. There was a quiet but fairly steady trade for both sacks and barrels at unaltered currencies.

English Barley, 959 qrs.; Foreign, 5,286 qrs. An improved inquiry was met for all varieties, and sellers were enabled to establish an advance of 6d. per qr.

Malt: English, 20,307 qrs.; Scotch, 1,300 qrs.; Irish, 200 qrs. Exports, 1,934 qrs. Owing to the more favourable weather, holders were more anxious to sell, and prices were, if anything, a shade easier.

Maize, 11,911 qrs. Exports, 3,812 qrs. Owing to the scarcity of Spot Corn, sales were practicable at 1s. to 1s. 6d. per qr. more money than was obtainable this day fortnight.

English Oats, 1,273 qrs.; Scotch, 150 qrs.; foreign, 42,131 qrs. Exports, 104 qrs. All descriptions were in fair request at an advance of 6d. per qr.

English Beans, 236 qrs.; foreign, 6,221 qrs. Firm and fully as dear.

Linseed, 4,605 qrs. Unaltered.



# THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

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SEPTEMBER, 1879.

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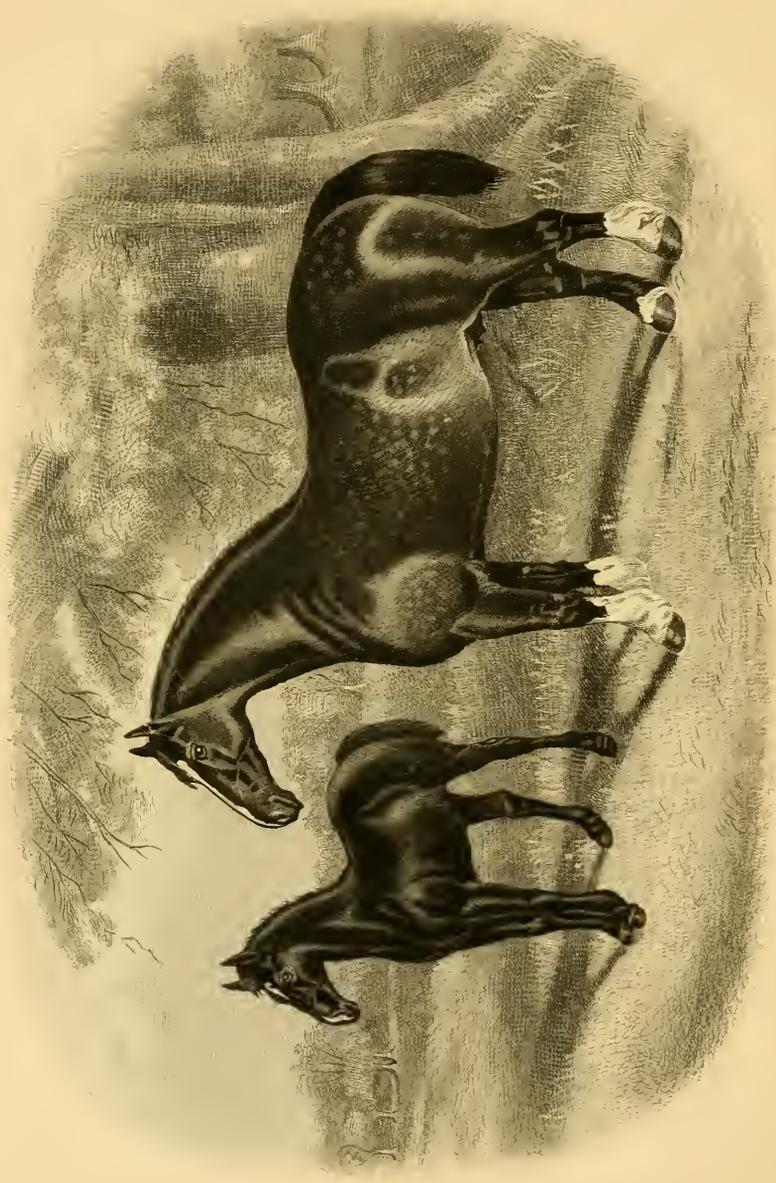
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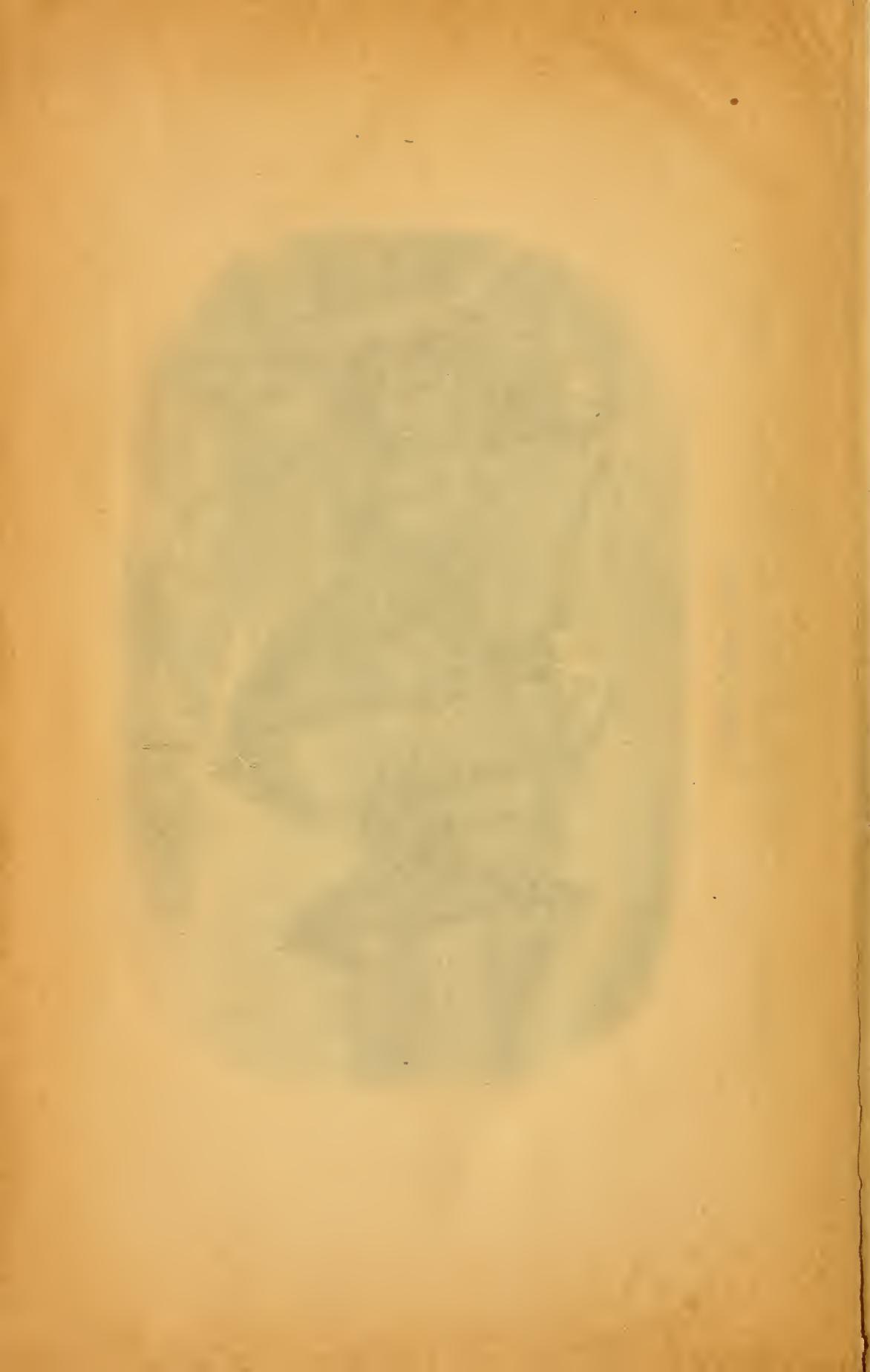






*Poppet and foal.*  
*The prize agricultural mare and foal, not qualified to compete as Clydesdales or Suffolks,*  
*at the Royal Agricultural Show, London.*  
*London: Published by Rogerson & Telford, 262, Strand, 1874.*







*Prince Peter,*

*The Champion Long Horn Bull at the International Exhibition,*

*Held at Kilburn July 8, 1879. See page 108 in Catalogue. No. 1139.*

*Published by Rogerson & Tuxford, 255, Strand.*



# THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

OCTOBER, 1879.

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## PLATE.

### POPPE T A N D F O A L.

THE PRIZE AGRICULTURAL MARE AND FOAL, NOT QUALIFIED TO COMPETE AS CLYDESDALES OR SUFFOLKS, AT THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW, LONDON.

Poppet (breeder unknown), a rich, dappled, brown mare, seven years old, standing nearly sixteen hands high, is very good-looking, with length, breadth, and depth on a short leg. She made her first appearance in a prize ring at the Oxfordshire Agricultural Meeting at Banbury, in 1877, where she was awarded first honours as Mr. Anderton's, of whom Messrs. E. and A. Stanford, of the Eatons, Steyning, Sussex, purchased her and won first prizes at the following agricultural meetings in 1878. The Royal Counties, Southampton, Tunbridge Wells, Steyning, Pulborough, Chichester, and a Bronze Medal at the Paris International Horse Show, and in 1879 at the Bath and West of England, Essex, the Royal Kilburn, and Leicestershire Meetings, when she became the property of the Duke of Westminster, and has since been placed first in the rings at Chester and Manchester. Poppet, in contending for these prizes, met many of the best show going cart mares in the country. She has had three foals, all fillies. Her first

filly, now two years' old, has won several prizes, and left the Eatons, Steyning, with Poppet, and her foal by Young Topsman, for Eaton, Cheshire. The yearling filly was first at the Bath and West of England this year, the only time she has been shown. The Messrs. Stanford are well-known for their Clydesdales, and the portraits of The Duke and The Flower, both Royal winners, have appeared in the *Farmers' Magazine*. They have at the stud now, in some grand, roomy boxes, Young Topsman by Topsman out of Jess, and The Baronet by The Duke out of Venture. two well-known prize Clydesdale stallions. The Drummer by the Duke, and Young Active, a shire bred stallion by Young Black Prince. We have only space for the names of a few of their well-known prize brood mares. The Flower, Venture (bay), Venture (brown), Jessie, and Diamond, all Clydesdales, and Daniel, a shire-bred mare. Among the hunting brood mares was old Monops, a winner of several steeple chases.

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### A L O N G H O R N C H A M P I O N.

Our frontispiece to-day is a photograph of Major-General Sir F. W. Fitzwygram's Prince Victor, a very creditable specimen of the Longhorn breed, which gained the first prize in the class for bulls over three years of age, and the Champion Cup as the best Longhorn bull in the

yard, at the show of the Royal Agricultural Society at Kilburn. Prince Albert was bred by Mr. Shaw, of Fradley Old Hall, Lichfield, his sire being Earl of Upton 7th (76), dam Princess, and grand dam Victor.

## OUR WATER SUPPLY.

As long as the majority of the inhabitants of great cities, like London, are content to drink water derived from rivers contaminated by sewage, it will not be surprising that the people of our rural districts derive their water supply from wells, in many cases impure brooks or rivers nearly always impure, and from stagnant ponds. In spite of the apparent purification of water by the great water companies, there is probably no more dangerous source of supply than that of a river contaminated by sewage. The water is often more pleasant to drink and more inviting in appearance than well or pond water; but it is more likely to contain germs of disease. At the National Water Supply Exhibition, held in the Alexandra Palace, maps, diagrams, and tables referring to the spread of disease by drinking-water are shown, and they afford striking evidence of the great sacrifice of health and life which arises from this source. At a recent meeting of the Society of Arts, Mr. Ernest Hart remarked upon the impossibility of estimating "the number of lives annually sacrificed in this country at the shrine of polluted water;" but he mentioned, as one result of his inquiry, that no fewer than 6,879 preventable deaths occurred in England and Wales in 1877, from enteric fever alone. With the maps shown at the Alexandra Palace the following quotations from the report of the Rivers Pollution Commission are given:—

"1. The existence of specific poisons capable of producing cholera and typhoid fever is attested by evidence so abundant and strong as to be practically irresistible. 2. The admixture of even a small quantity of infected discharges with a small quantity of drinking-water is sufficient for the propagation of those diseases among persons using such water. 3. The most efficient artificial filtration leaves in water much invisible matter in suspension and constitutes no effective safeguard against the propagation of these epidemics by polluted water." Many other particulars are also given, especially in relation to outbreaks of cholera, several of which have been traced to an infected water supply. These relate to large towns or cities; but there is only too abundant evidence of mischief arising from the consumption of impure water in rural districts. For instance, in consequence of an outbreak of enteric fever in a rural district, inquiry was made on a particular farm. The medical officer reported:—"At the back door was a deep well sunk in sandy soil. Close to the well on the surface was an open cesspool, into which the excrement of the fever patients was thrown without any admixture. . . . I asked the farmer what he did with the contents of the cesspool. The answer was suggestive. 'Strange to say,' he replied, 'the cesspool never needs to be cleaned out.' The reason was obvious. The excrement in a liquid state readily filtered into the adjacent well." Public attention has been very widely attracted to the dangers of the generally impure water supply

of the country, and there is reason to hope that before long something will be done to relieve us from the barbarism and disgrace of the existing state of things.

The Society of Arts recently offered prizes for the best suggestions for dividing England and Wales into districts, for the supply of pure water to the towns and villages of each district. At a meeting held in May last the Committee reported that they had selected two out of twelve papers sent in as deserving of silver medals, but advised the withholding of the gold medal. Seven papers altogether were deemed worthy of publication, and these have since been published in a book which is well worth reading, and which can be obtained for one shilling and sixpence of the Society, or of Mr. Trounce, of 10, Gough Square, Fleet Street. The essay placed first of the two that obtained a silver medal is that of Mr. Frederick Toplis, who makes the following main suggestions, as the basis of his scheme:—

"1. That the country should be mapped out into watershed districts, each containing one or more complete river basins, and that a body of Commissioners should be appointed to each district. These Commissioners should be nominated by Government with the sanction of Parliament; they should be men not connected with the district by personal residence, nor by having property or business in the district, and their appointment should be for life, or at any rate for a long term of years, otherwise they will not take sufficient interest in their work to acquire a thorough knowledge of it. A man appointed to a post for a year or two rarely cares to go through the drudgery necessary to make himself acquainted with all the petty details connected with it.

"2. That these Commissioners should be assisted by competent legal and engineering advisers. They should have a permanent engineer, at a salary sufficient to secure a man of considerable experience in hydraulic engineering; and there should be a consulting engineer chosen from the first rank of engineers engaged in this class of work. It may, however, be left undecided for the present whether each set of Commissioners should have its own consulting engineer, or whether two or more districts should be grouped together, or whether there should be only one, or perhaps two, consulting engineers for the whole of England and Wales.

"3. That these Commissioners should have charge, not only of the waterworks in their district, but also of the rivers and other watercourses, and, in fact, that every drop of water falling in their district should be more or less under their control, from the time it falls on the land until it reaches the sea. All existing Commissioners for river improvements, &c., must be abolished, and their authority merged in that of the new Commissioners, whose duty it would henceforth be to initiate and carry out works for the improvement of river navigation, for the prevention of floods, &c.

"4. The Commissioners must have power to acquire all existing waterworks, and, if necessary, all canals, &c. With regard to canals, it will not,

perhaps, be advisable that the Commissioners should acquire them except when, owing to the scarcity of water in a district and to the smallness of traffic on the canals, it may be considered advisable that they should be closed."

Mr. Toplis maps England and Wales out into twelve districts, and shows the sources of water supply in relation to the population in each. He also elaborates his scheme in other respects, and his remarks will repay perusal. He remarks that the removal of all sewage pollution from rivers is only a question of time, but adds:—"Agricultural pollution must always remain, and, on this account, stream or river water, when there is any considerable extent of cultivated land in the basin draining into the river, can never be a desirable source of water supply for domestic purposes." Many people think that water out of land drains is particularly pure, as it is often soft and sparkling; but analysis will often show, as we have proved from experience, that this is a dangerous mistake. As to wells, everyone now knows how careless our ancestors were, and ignorant people still are, in allowing cesspools to exist in close contiguity to wells of drinking water. On this point Mr. Toplis observes:—"The protection of the underground water from pollution is a point which has hitherto been entirely neglected, but which urgently requires attention. The custom prevalent in many parts of the country, of pouring sewage into cesspools in permeable strata, or into what are known as swallow holes, is one which it will soon be found necessary to put a stop to."

The nastiest water consumed in country districts, as far as appearance, taste, and smell goes that derived from ponds, and no doubt in summer, when this water often becomes more or less putrid, it is the cause of much sickness. Still if it contains no germs of disease it is less dangerous to life than the apparently purer water of rivers and other sources of supply contaminated by sewage. The slow undermining of health, however, often resulting in the ruin of the constitution, is a result but little if at all less deplorable than the more obvious horrors of an epidemic, and the water supply of a large proportion of our rural districts is dangerous as well as disgusting. We call to mind an instance in which the inhabitants of some cottages were dependent for their drinking-water on the supply from a pond in which sheep were washed annually, and in numberless cases dunghills are placed too close to ponds from which people drink, while in other cases the ponds are near to farm yards, and subject to drainage from them after every heavy rain. No wonder that farm labourers are not teetotallers, when they can help it, and that they seldom drink raw water when they do not drink beer or cider. The men and women drink weak tea, and as boiling is the best means of purifying water—far better than filtering—much of the evil that would otherwise be caused from an impure water-supply is avoided. Children, who will drink water between meals, are the chief sufferers.

Of course we may expect that to any system of national water supply objection to increasing the

already overburdened rates will be raised, and we admit that it would be extremely unfair to raise the funds necessary for supplying the people with water on the basis of the existing rating system. This difficulty, however, might be met by rating the owners of houses and cottages only, and any objection to this way of raising the necessary funds may fairly be disregarded, as it is the duty of every house owner to provide it supply of wholesome water to its inmates.

#### THE IMPORT OF AMERICAN FOOD.

One of the Trade Reports by Her Majesty's Secretaries of Embassy and Legation, recently issued to both Houses of Parliament, contains a Supplementary Report on the Trade and Commerce of the United States, by Mr. Victor A. W. Drummond, to which we desire to call the careful attention of our readers. It has been compiled by Mr. Drummond from a Special Report on the Foreign Commerce of the United States, for the fiscal year 1878, by Mr. Nimmo, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics; and of this Mr. Drummond speaks as being, probably, the most valuable statistical Report on commercial matters ever issued by the United States Government. The tables published in Mr. Drummond's Report are voluminous in detail; and, under existing circumstances, are in the highest degree interesting and valuable. It will be impossible, in this notice, to give details, and we shall in most instances have to confine ourselves to the summaries furnished by Mr. Drummond. He tells us that in respect of the money value of United States' exports of "domestic commodities," cotton and cotton manufactured articles stand first, bread and breadstuffs second, provisions third, and mineral oils fourth. Thus, cotton and its manufactures represent 27.52 per cent. of total value of exports, bread and breadstuffs 26.12 per cent., provisions 17.76 per cent., and mineral oils 6.69 per cent.; these values constituting 78.1 per cent. of the total value of exports of "domestic merchandise." The value of exports of agricultural products is a most striking feature of these statistics, and fraught with the gravest consequences to the British producer. In 1850 the value of these is given as 108,605,713 dollars (£22,626,190 4s. 2d.), and in 1878 as 536,038,254 dollars (£111,674,636 5s.). Mr. Drummond goes on to show that the percentage, in quantity, of the various crops grown in the United States which is exported, is as follows:—Cotton 69.7 per cent., wheat 25.3 per cent., corn (maize) 6.5 per cent., oats 0.9 per cent., barley 11.3 per cent., hay 0.03 per cent., potatoes 0.43 per cent., tobacco 51 per cent., butter 2.3 per cent., cheese 40 per cent., and petroleum 66 per cent.; showing that 21 per cent. of the cereal crops and 97 per cent. of the cotton crop are exported. It will be noticed that the immense imports of maize which we—and other countries—receive from the United States, are estimated at only 6.5 per cent. of the total produce. And Mr. Drummond points out that in the "home" value of these crops corn (maize) stands first, wheat second, hay third, and cotton fourth; whilst in exports cotton stands first. The values of exports of raw cotton for

the year 1878 were in the following proportion:—To the United Kingdom 65·23 per cent., France 14·42 per cent., Germany 7·42 per cent., and all other countries 12·91 per cent. Of cotton manufactures the relative export values, for the year 1878, were as follows:—To China 22·40 per cent., United Kingdom 13·75 per cent., Mexico 11·39 per cent., British Possessions in North America 10·82 per cent., and to all other countries 41·64 per cent.

The exports of bread and breadstuffs from the United States are shown in a table dating from 1860 to 1878. It appears that in 1860 the value of these exports was 24,422,310 dollars (£5,087,981 5s.), and that in 1878 the value was 181,777,841 dollars (£37,870,383 10s. 10d.). This large amount of exported breadstuffs is about 21 millions of dollars in excess of the next largest figures, which relate to 1874; the greatest increase having occurred since 1873. The proportion in which various countries received these exports is in the following order:—The United Kingdom 69·21 per cent., British Possessions in North America 8·07 per cent., France 4·21 per cent., Belgium 3·42 per cent., Brazil 2·58 per cent., British West Indies, and British Honduras 1·76 per cent., Netherlands 1·73 per cent., Portugal 1·72 per cent., and other countries less than 1 per cent. in each case. It is stated that a large proportion of the exports of breadstuffs to the Dominion of Canada consisted of shipments in transit from the United States to Great Britain, according to the Canadian official returns. Mr. Drummond deduces from these facts that, "of the total value of breadstuffs exported to the British Possessions in North America (during the year 1878), amounting to 14,671,936 dollars (£3,056,653 6s. 8d.), the value thereof which was re-exported thence to the United Kingdom amounted to 8,171,842 dollars (£1,702,467 1s. 8d.). This amount, added to the value of direct shipments, would give a total value of the exports of bread and breadstuffs from the United States to the United Kingdom of about 134,000,000 dollars (£27,916,666 13s. 4d.), or about 73 per cent. of the total value of such exports to foreign countries."

Exports of "provisions" from the United States form another remarkable feature of this report. These "provisions" include pork and pork products, beef and preserved meats, butter, and cheese. The export value of these articles to the several foreign countries is in the following proportion:—The United Kingdom 64·91 per cent., Germany 8·62 per cent., France 6·99 per cent., Belgium 5·34 per cent., Cuba 2·96 per cent., British Possessions in North America 2·21 per cent., Hayti and San Domingo 1·70 per cent.; British West Indies and British Honduras 1·20 per cent.; and other countries in each case less than 1 per cent. Of the total value of exports of "provisions," pork and pork products constituted 70·15 per cent., beef and preserved meats 10·59 per cent., and butter and cheese 14·60 per cent. The larger portion of provisions exported to Canada was subsequently re-exported to the United Kingdom and other foreign countries. The exports of bacon and hams were fifteen times as great in 1878 as in 1870, beef three and a half times as great, preserved

meats more than sixteen times as great, and during the past six months of the current fiscal year there has been a rapid increase of these exports.

The most startling figures in this report are those which refer to the exports of fresh meat and living animals. The export of fresh beef (beef alone) was 4,370,000 lb. in 1876; 49,210,990 lb. in 1877; and 54,047,771 lb. in 1878; the United Kingdom taking 99·13 per cent., and all other countries together 0·87 per cent. The exports of fresh meat are not now on the increase. But the growth of the export trade in living animals is marvellous. In 1868 the value of such exports was 733,395 dollars (£152,790 12s. 6d.), and in 1878 it was 6,844,653 dollars (£1,217,636 0s. 10d.), for the fiscal year, ending June 30, and during the last fiscal year, ending on that date, the value of the exports of living animals was eight times the value of such exports during the corresponding fiscal year of 1868. The proportion in which these exports were received by foreign countries is as follows:—The United Kingdom 54·33 per cent.; Cuba 14·91 per cent.; British North America 11·92 per cent.; British West Indies and British Honduras 6·85 per cent.; Mexico 3·36 per cent.; French West Indies and French Guiana 1·82 per cent.; Germany 1·60 per cent.; British Guiana 1·36 per cent.; Belgium 1·23 per cent.; and other countries, collectively 2·62 per cent. About 55 per cent. of the entire exports of living animals was to Great Britain and Ireland, about 15 per cent. to Cuba, and about 12 per cent. to British Possessions in North America. The exports of cattle constituted 67 per cent. of the exports of living animals; the numbers of the different kinds of stock exported during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, being as follows:—Horned stock, 80,040; horses 4,104; mules, 3,860; sheep, 183,995; and hogs 29,234. Nearly 62 per cent. of the total value of the exports of cattle during the fiscal year 1878 was to Great Britain, 17½ per cent. to Cuba, and 11 per cent. to British Possessions in North America. But a large proportion of the last-mentioned item consisted of exports to Great Britain *via* Montreal. The average price of the cattle exported to Cuba, during the period alluded to, was 17 dollars (£3 8s. 10d.), to the Dominion of Canada, 46 dollars (£9 11s. 8d.), and to Great Britain over 96 dollars (£20). During the first six months of the current fiscal year, namely from July to December inclusive, there has been an increase equal to 100·6 per cent. in the exports compared with the corresponding months of the preceding year, and an increase of 270 per cent. in the value of such imports. This last statement we take to be the most significant of the whole list of astounding items contained in this report. The value of the exports of cattle during the year ending June 30, 1878, amounted to 3,896,818 dollars (£811,837 1s. 8d.); whereas, the value of such exports during the past six months of the current fiscal year amounted to 4,974,323 dollars (£1,036,318 6s. 8d.), or 1,077,510 dollars (£224,481 5s.) in excess of the exports of the preceding fiscal year.

We leave our readers to form their own opinions on these figures. For our own part, we have from the first expressed ourselves to the effect that they deceive themselves who under-rate and under-

estimate the food-producing and food-exporting power of the United States of America. We take it that the data supplied in this valuable report, and the daily experiences of the working of this export power, do not afford a basis on which to form even an approximate idea of the extent to which this export trade may grow within the next decade. Mr. Drummond thinks that it may, perhaps, be some slight consolation to British producers "that there are others on a small scale, in a position somewhat identical to their own." If so, it must be very slight indeed—in infinitesimal fact—so far as his figure are concerned. He tells us that during the year 1856 the average rate for the carriage of wheat from Chicago to New York, by Lake and Erie Canal, was a little over 27 cents (13½d.) per bushel; but that during the year 1878, by the same route, the average rate was 7½ cents (3½d.), and by rail 12 cents (6d.) Even this is but as nothing, for the possibility has been shown that wheat may eventually be carried from St. Louis to Liverpool, by the Mississippi route—a distance of more than 5,000 miles—at a rate of 12 cents (6d.) per bushel. Mr. Drummond says that until the advent of a succession of good harvests, accompanied by a sensible reduction in farm rents generally throughout the United Kingdom shall enable farmers to grow their corn, and breed cattle to sell as cheaply as American corn and cattle are sold in England, he can see no chance of their being able to compete very successfully with the increasing areas of agricultural lands now being brought under cultivation in "that vast progressive country," the United States of America, for some years to come. We go further, and say, unhesitatingly, that before British agriculture can again be prosperous—that is to say, before it can compete with foreign importations of food-products—there will have taken place many changes, in our agricultural system such as our great landowners can plainly foresee, but which, as a rule, they carefully avoid mentioning in public.

Since the previous article was written Mr. Drummond has supplemented his report by a valuable statement published in the *Daily News*, and copied on another page of our present issue. Want of space prevents us from commenting fully upon this interesting statement; but we must point to one important deduction to be drawn from it, a very different one from that which Mr. Drummond himself draws. He tells us that meat brought from America in a dead state can be sold in London at 6½d. per lb. with a profit, and that some people say it can be sold at 5½d., still with a profit, though a small one. He also tells us that meat brought from America in the form of live cattle can be profitably sold at Liverpool for 7d. to 7½d. per lb. From these figures it appears that the shipper of cattle requires from 1d. to 2d. per pound more to remunerate him than the shipper of dead meat requires. At the same time we are informed from another source that American graziers derive more advantage from the dead meat than from the cattle-export traffic. If these statements are true, it is clear that only middle men are benefited by the American cattle

traffic, producers and consumers both reaping a greater advantage from the dead-meat trade.

Another important conclusion is to be drawn from Mr. Drummond's statements. He tells us that American shippers have obtained for their cattle sent to Liverpool, not only the 7d. or 7½d. per lb. necessary to secure them a fair profit, but from these prices up to 9d. per lb. That being the case, how can slaughter at our ports have diminished the supply? We presume that American shippers are not particular as to where their cattle are killed as long as they are paid well for them. If we paid satisfactory prices for the animals and then threw them overboard in the middle of the Atlantic the shippers would not care. Why then has not the supply been larger than it has been? The answer is, because we cannot draw blood out of a flint. The Americans have sent and are sending all the cattle suitable for our markets that they could and can spare. Vast as their herds of cattle are, the number of their well-bred cattle in a finished condition is relatively small. It will be some years before they can send us half as much prime meat as we can readily consume. Market reports in American papers for some time past have shown that the supply of first-class cattle has been very small.

#### AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

The *Daily News* has appointed a Special Commissioner of its own to investigate the causes of agricultural depression. In an article published recently this gentleman describes what he saw and heard in visits made to various districts of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. He says, at the beginning of his article, that a farmer of large experience estimates that more than half the farms on the poor clays of the lias formation, and on the red clay, or brick-earth, of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire are to let. "Some of these tenants," we are told, "have retired with loss rather than sink their last shilling in a vain hope that times may better; some have had no option but to do their best for creditors by getting out of their farms at any sacrifice; some have left for smaller holdings or farms on more grateful soil; others have gone away from this neighbourhood altogether to non-agricultural business or employment; and some are acting as farm managers to the landlords they lately lived under." This is bad enough, but it is not the worst; for we are further informed that many other tenants in the district, occupying fair land, at moderate rents, under liberal conditions, and with no excess of game to complain of, are giving notice to quit; while others have compromised the matter by offering to remain at a large reduction in rent. From 38s. to 20s., and from 35s. to 20s. per acre are given as instances of the reduction actually made, and still it is doubtful if the tenants will be able to hold on. In one instance the tenant had a large sum due for Tenant-Right allowances, according to the custom of the country, and his landlord, a small limited owner, was unable to pay the tenant and let him quit. Why he did not charge the sum upon the estate, in accordance with some provisions in the Agricultural Holdings Act

are not told. Probably the peculiar unworkableness of the measure was shown in its inapplicability to the conditions under which the amount of compensation was due. At any rate the tenant was not paid, but induced to stop at a rent reduced by more than half. He now pays only 13s. an acre, and we are told that those who know the farm well, looking at the crops, are doubtful whether there will be any surplus after paying expenses. We can believe anything that is bad of the crops of the present season, and if there were no rent at all to pay on thousands of farms there would be no profit on the year. But such seasons will not always prevail, and the desire to leave their farms, which seems to be general amongst the tenants of the district, may be to some extent the result of panic. That, at any rate, is what the report before us reads like. When rents have got to their lowest, probably long-headed men will take up the vacant farms and do well in them. As far as the case of unpaid Tenant-Right is concerned, it is a remarkable instance of the kind, and one likely to be cited as a case of hardship to the landlord. Here, it will be said, is a case in which the owner of a farm seriously depreciated in value has yet to pay a large sum for improvements. Now, we presume that in this £2,000 claimed by the tenant, the whole of his valuation as an out-goor was included. We are not told the size of the farm; but if it is a large one only a small portion of the sum named may be charged for improvements, the rest being due for tillages, hay, dunghills, and other things usually paid for by an incoming tenant. Even if the whole amount were charged for unexhausted improvements, properly so-called, there would be no more reason to cite the case as a proof that it is unfair for tenants to be allowed to charge for such improvements, when through a temporary depression rents have gone down, than there is to say that it is unfair of a landlord to take a high rent, agreed upon in more prosperous times by a tenant holding under a lease. Of course a landlord should only be required to pay for real improvements, such as would increase the letting value of the farm under ordinary circumstances, and then, in spite of a fall in rents, the farm will still be more valuable than one in an unimproved condition; sufficiently so, very likely, to recoup the owner for the payment made to the out-going tenant. The case in question, however, is not sufficiently described to enable us to have any very certain conclusions upon it. It is especially mysterious how the landlord, a life owner, could have offered the farm for sale.

After giving another striking instance of the effects of a succession of bad harvests and low prices upon a good farmer possessing plenty of capital, and farming under liberal conditions, the writer asks:—What alteration of the Land Laws, what security of tenant's property, what security of tenure, what lightening of taxation, what adjustment of local rates can do anything for such a business in such a position as this? This question may be answered by another:—Who has affirmed that any kind or all kinds of agricultural reform can control the elements or pre-

vent our markets from being glutted at a period when general depression has diminished demand? Favourable conditions of holding land cannot prevent a catastrophe of such an overwhelming description as that which has fallen upon the farmers of this country, though they may alleviate the severity of it, and probably have done so in the instance cited. The tenant has lost money during the three past seasons; but probably he would have been ruined if he had not possessed most of the advantages which agricultural reformers desire to make general, instead of exceptional.

#### LORD BEACONSFIELD ON AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS.

At the dinner of the Central Bucks Agricultural Society on Aug. 13, the Earl of BEACONSFIELD said:—

Gentlemen,—I have now to propose our good wishes for the prosperity of this association. I cannot say that it is an easy task. I have had the honour of filling this chair before. I have—at a period which cannot be remembered by any occupant of this gallery, for it is between forty and fifty years ago—I have assisted at the birth and formation of this institution. I have witnessed its fortunes under many different circumstances and at different conjunctures, but I cannot conceal from myself that I never met my friends the farmers of Buckinghamshire under circumstances more difficult and desponding than the present. I did not form that opinion from the exhibition which we have examined this morning near the agreeable residence to which we all repaired. I thought it gave some evidence of the prosperity, or at least of the pluck—that great characteristic—of the British farmer, for all that we saw was much to be admired; some was to be more than admired, and recognised as excellent. Our show to-day was one which I confess somewhat surprised and greatly pleased me. I was also glad on that account to find that our cottage contributors had sent their beautiful offerings to our exhibition, and I saw in those flowers, and in those fanciful creations of their horticulture, evidence that even at this moment, when the strain upon rural life is great, they at least are not insensible to the charms of nature. It would be affectation if I did not avow some consciousness at least of the feelings which must permeate almost all our bosoms. I was elected, much to my gratification, last year to this post, and I feel the honour, coming from those whom continuously for thirty years I had the honour to represent in the House of Commons, and it is a duty to fulfil which, without affectation, is often invidious to one who, from whatever cause it may be, occupies the position I now do. Under ordinary circumstances I might have asked you to excuse me, but in the hour of your adversity I did not think it becoming to be absent. Gentlemen, there can be no question that there is at this moment in the agricultural interests of this country a strain, certainly unprecedented in the lives of all present, and probably not easily to be equalled even in the records of our history. It has been announced, and it has been intimated as a subject fit for popular suggestion by one who may be considered a high authority, that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs may perhaps be traced to the constitution of our system, and that the agricultural system has, to use the words which you are now familiar with, broken down. It has broken down, we are told, because there are general expressions of discontent with the situation, and because there is undoubtedly considerable distress. Well, gentlemen, a year ago, when a bank in the commercial capital of Scotland suddenly broke—when it shook that highly civilised country to its very centre, when it affected some of the greatest commercial houses—houses carrying on the greatest commercial business in the world—when it produced a state of affairs, a distress, which I can hardly describe—a condition of de-olation—nobody went about and said that this was proof that the commercial system of this country had broken down. And a few years before that I remember that there was a day of deepest anxiety for this country, a day still remembered

Black Friday, when the commercial credit of this country had ceased for four-and-twenty hours to exist. Nobody then went about and said that the commercial system of England had broken down. Why, if you were to pursue the subject further, which at this moment it may not be convenient for want of time to do, I remember even an earlier period when one of the highest authorities in the country said that we were within four-and-twenty hours of a state of barter—this great country with its many resources. But nobody went about and said because there was this strain and distress that the commercial system of England had broken down. For the moment, however, there is distress on the part of the agricultural interest, and I am sorry to say there are some who seem eager to recognise not only signs of distress, but of decadence and desolation. Then we find them going about and announcing that those circumstances are symptomatic of the breakdown of the agricultural system. Gentlemen, I think it is of the utmost importance that upon this subject there should be clear opinions. I presume to indicate what I think is the wisest course for us—all classes of the agricultural interest—to pursue at the present moment, but I think it of great importance that clear ideas as to your situation, as to your position, as to your responsibility, should prevail, because you may be hurried into conclusions and into conduct which, if you had been better informed, or had given further thought to the matter, you would not perhaps have sanctioned and adopted. Now it has been intimated by a great authority that the cause of our agricultural system having broken down may probably be that it is unlike the agricultural system of any other country, that it is founded upon an unnatural principle, that it is essentially artificial, and that the essence of its artificial character is that in this country three classes are dependent upon the produce of the soil, who are, according to that system, necessary to its cultivation. I have taken an opportunity, the earliest I had with convenience, to meet opinions which I think are most fallacious and must be most disadvantageous to the country. I have laid it down as a principle which can be demonstrated in the most complete and satisfactory manner that whatever may be your tenure of the land, whatever may be the number of classes concerned in its management and its cultivation, there must be what are now familiarly termed three profits obtained from the land. The cultivator of the soil who does the manual labour, naturally says "I will not cultivate the soil without my being fed, and clothed, and nourished for my pay;" and that I take to be a reward which is called wages. Then the cultivator of the soil—whatever he may be called, farmer or otherwise—who furnishes the floating capital which is to stock the soil, and who must have a return for his investment, and then there is the capitalist who funds the capital, which, like that of the farmers, must have a return, or the capital never would be advanced. In the third instance I say that whether the cultivator of the soil pays for his farm from his savings, or, as is usually the case under such circumstances, by borrowing his interest or the return for his capital is in fact rent. When we are told that the agricultural system has broken down because three profits by our system are required from the soil, it is as well to show that in a system the most contrary to the system which has existed in this country—namely, that which prevails in some continental countries in the shape of peasant proprietorship, although only one individual takes the three profits still the three profits must be claimed. I do that because it has been said I was very unfair, in alluding to a distinguished man who had touched on these subjects, to say that it was his wish to introduce peasant proprietorship as the cure of evils in this country. Now that reasoning, that view of the case, has been questioned; but I could adduce overwhelming evidence, had the opportunity justified it, on this subject—one most interesting and most vital in our consideration of the agricultural position. You have all heard of, and many have known, the Association for the Benefit of Agricultural Labourers. The newspapers have circulated their views and express them with energy and propriety. I read one of these journals, and learned their scheme for the elevation of this country. What is that? I will put it before you briefly, because on an occasion like the present I know that brevity must be studied. It is their opinion that this country ought to institute a vast body of small proprietors. They have fixed the amount of the proprietorship at twelve acres. They have worked it out in complete detail, and call upon the country,

upon the Government of the country, to carry it into effect. Now, what are these details? I mention the most important and the most interesting. It is calculated, according to the society, that a quantity of land amounting to twelve acres, with a farmstead and necessary buildings, may be obtained for a little more than £600 for £610; and they propose that a sum of £40 per annum should be paid for 30 years for the holding; at the end of the payment of that sum it would become freehold. But they are not sanguine that those who embark in those speculations will agree to pay £40 a year which I will not call rent, but on which you can form your own opinions. They expect that the £600 in round numbers would be arranged at 4 per cent.—that is at £24 a year. They are paying £24 a year for 12 acres—that is £2 an acre. Is that rent or is it not? It is not the average rent of the county of Buckingham, as that is 25s. You see what the scheme is of those who would protect the land, but they propose also, that being done, the country should supply each holder of those 12-acre farms with £120 to stock the farm, and also they call upon him not merely to return interest, but they look to him to supply what we may call the wear and tear of that stock. What is that but the duty which the farmer is now fulfilling? Well, having bought his land under these circumstances, paying a heavier rent than is usual, and obtaining a floating capital by the credit of the State, no doubt the man may probably cultivate 12 acres with effect. But while he cultivates these 12 acres he will expect to be paid he will expect to be lodged he will expect to be clothed, and the third profit will appear in the shape of wages. Therefore, according to the very accounts and the very estimates of those who are offering their wild schemes as the cure for one evil, three profits must arise from the land. I know, gentlemen, that these are questions which require some attention. Your position is critical at this moment, and you must give your minds to these questions. I know it may be said that after all we don't care, we don't fear the competition of Europe, but we do fear the competition of America. Well now, first let me show you for a moment what is the competition of Europe. If this new system, this new theory is adopted, that the assumed break-down of the agricultural system of England is occasioned by its having to support three classes, and I have shown you that, whether there is one class or three classes, equally three profits must be received—and myself I believe that it is much more advantageous to a country that the three profits should be divided among three classes than that they should be received by one. It has given to this country an independent class; it has I think, worked well for the liberty of England and its order; it has given us in the farmer the most important portion of the middle-class, which all wise men have looked upon as one of the best elements for the security of the State; and it has given you an agricultural peasantry which, whatever they may say—and the charges against us with respect to their position are generally made by those who are not acquainted with it—I know myself, from my own experience, happens to be that portion of the agricultural hierarchy that at this moment is most prosperous and content. Well now, I say before I touch on America, which my friend naturally interested wished me to do, let me make one remark on this subject of peasant proprietors. I introduced originally the question of peasant proprietors, where one individual obtains the three profits, as the complete answer to those who said that because three profits were obtained the unsatisfactory state of the agricultural interest might be explained. But in France we know on the highest authority the question of peasant proprietorship has been tried upon the greatest scale. There are by the best accounts in France 5,000,000 peasant proprietors who do not hold more than six acres of land—that is, 30,000,000 acres. The experiment has been tried on 30,000,000 acres; and what is the result of the experiment? You may refine and explain as you like; but what is the result of the experiment of these 5,000,000 proprietors occupying 30,000,000 acres compared with what our 500,000 farmers have done? Remember what you are trying this test on. France has a most fertile soil, while that of England is ungrateful. You are trying it when that fertile soil is managed by the most ingenious and thrifty nation in the world that can make something out of nothing—that spend in its management the greatest ability. But what is the result? It is that the production of England per acre is double that of France. The average of England is 28 bushels

per acre; in France it is 14. I say that these are subjects that ought to be well understood by all classes of the agricultural interests. The summing up is this, that when we are told that our agricultural system has failed in consequence of three classes being sustained by the land, I say that is a complete fallacy, for whatever may be your tenure the same results will occur. Three profits under all circumstances must be obtained from the land, and the question arises whether it is not better that the amount of profit should be represented by three classes rather than by one class. Proceeding in this argument, let me refer to the exclamation of a gentleman respecting America. I do not deny the great difficulties we have to encounter, and I should have been glad at once to advert to them, but with your permission I would make some brief remarks on the American question. We hear every day that it is impossible to compete with America. There may be other causes which have prostrated our energy at the present moment, but I will not give any decided opinion on that matter. It is a singular circumstance that at this moment the greatest apprehension is felt in the United States that they cannot compete with Canada. The taxation in America is so high, the rates of wages are so high, that it is impossible, according to some of the best American authorities, that they can any longer continue to successfully compete with Canada. What is the position of Canada? If we are to be fed by Canada, it is at least satisfactory that we shall be fed by our fellow subjects. But let us look for a moment at the situation of Canada, which is most peculiar. Since the surrender of the Hudson Bay Company, and the settlement of their affairs, the dominion of Canada became possessed of what I might almost describe as an illimitable wilderness, and a wilderness of fertile land. Now, it is a peculiar circumstance, one to be noted, that the dominion of Canada is not in favour of peasant proprietorship. What the dominion of Canada is anxious for is a great yeoman class. It has legislated with that purpose. Its legislation is now an influence for that purpose; and let us see what is their legislation. Every harvestman, every man of fair character who comes to Canada, has a right to apply to the Government agent to claim and to obtain what is called a quarter-section of land. That quarter section of land consists of 160 acres. He receives those 160 acres on condition that at the end of three years he will reduce them to perfect cultivation, and that in the interval he will raise a substantial and real building upon the land. At the end of those three years the Government inspector visits the allotment, and if it is found that the farmer has fulfilled the conditions, that he has completely cultivated the 160 acres, and raised the necessary buildings, he is permitted to receive an equal quantity, that is to say, another quarter section of 160 acres, on the payment of a dollar an acre, and no greater payment, even if the value of land in the interval had greatly increased. You will observe from the first moment that this is not a scheme of small peasant proprietors. It is not likely that a man will be able to reduce 320 acres to cultivation and erect buildings on the land through his own efforts. He must begin and proceed with hired labour. What is hired labour in Canada? Hired labour is less than hired labour in the United States. The rudest labourer will get 10s. a day, and a skilled labourer 16s. or 18s. The first thing that the new yeoman does—what I say I say on the highest authority—is to calculate the value of his freehold. The value of his freehold depends on the amount he has to pay during those six years in hired labour, in buildings, and the amount he paid for the last quarter section; and at four per cent. he writes off interest. What is that but rent? Now, there is another very curious circumstance which I will venture to mention on this occasion, because I have heard it from as high an authority on the subject as can be conceived, and that is, that the sudden cultivation years ago of the extreme Western States of the United States, which first, I think, alarmed this country, and drew its attention to it, and, no doubt affected prices—that in that country the production, which was extreme at the commencement, has been reduced one-third, generally speaking, and in some provinces one-half; and that the chief pioneers who advanced so greatly the cultivation of the extreme Western States of the United States have all sold, or to a great degree have sold their farms, and have sold them, allow me to say, at 30 and 40 dollars an acre, showing, as an essential thing, that there was a basis of

rent included in the arrangement, inseparable to the tenure. They have sold their farms, and they are now repairing to the illimitable wilderness of Canada. You will ask me what is my inference. My inference is a practical one. It may not be an interesting one. It may not be a satisfactory one; but I think you will, on reflection, deem it a wise one—that placed where you are, as far as foreign competition is concerned, it is wise not to take—I speak to the landlord and the occupier equally—it is wise not to take precipitate steps. Take care that you do not conclude that that is permanent which is only transitory, though upon that subject I give no opinion, because I think it would be presumption in any one of us to give any opinion. But still I feel convinced that where you have to deal with new circumstances, that where you find them of so transitory a nature that the very land that four or five years ago, by its extraordinary produce of 50 bushels an acre, affected the market in England and frightened all those who are competent to think, to ponder, and to form an opinion upon it—I say it is wise when you see circumstances so transitory that the very place of competition is doubtful, and when you hear—and you hear through me, I will not say from me, on high authority—that Canada expects completely and successfully to beat the United States from the European markets, it is wise for us not to take any precipitate steps. There is another reason why I think, in considering the present position of the agricultural interests, it is unwise to act with precipitation. Let us for a moment dismiss from our minds all external considerations. Let us look at what has passed in our own country during the last five years. And has nothing passed which may account for a great deal of distress and suffering? Is it not a fact that for five years the farmer had sought in vain for a quick and matured produce to his labours? Is it not a fact, I venture to say in the memory of any man in this hall, that there is no instance in our recollection of such continuous dearth as there has been in England during the last five years? We have had bad harvests; we have had as bad harvests as any men have had to encounter, but we have not had a cluster of bad harvests. You have gone on and on, fairly hoping that nature would re-assert itself; and if you had one or two bad harvests you have always believed that the time would naturally come in which you would find a remedy. Well, that is not the case; but it is necessary that we should be conscious of it, for there is a strain upon the proprietors of the land which they have not in our experience ever endured. Well, what is the natural course that we should take, what is the step we should pursue under such circumstances? I cannot doubt what is the course we ought to take. The rents of England have been calculated upon a fair average of nature. Our experience of the results of what has happened during the last five years has been entirely contrary to those calculations, and to my mind it is the duty—and for all I hear, it may be the willing duty—of the proprietors of the soil to come forward to stand by that class with regard to whom there has never been any want of affection and duty and devotion. I say that I believe the landlords of England are prepared to do their duty on this occasion, but what I want to impress upon you, and if I may presume to do so, upon members of the agricultural interest who are not present in this hall, is that it is of vital importance that they should thoroughly comprehend the present state of affairs and act in a manner which is necessary, and in a spirit which is indispensable. Now, I do not want to take refuge in general expressions. I say for one that reduction of rent calculated on the uniform percentage of the rent does not appear to me to be a panacea for the evils which we have to encounter, or the remedy for those calamities which most of us experience and all acknowledge. When I consider the variety of the soils in this country—the variety of climes even, I would say, in this island—when I remember the peculiar circumstances of districts, I would even say the peculiar circumstances of estates; when I mention what I know is a fact and which many of you must know, that in the same district, with the same conditions, with the same soil, with the same climate, with the same amount of labour, the rents are very different as to the rate at which they are apportioned—it seems to me there is only one conclusion to arrive at, that we should examine every individual instance, and that the aid which landlord and tenant should give each other should be from reciprocal acquaintance of each others' duties and necessities. Ten per cent. reduction of rent may be in some

stances a very agreeable Christmas-box if it comes at the time, but I know instances in which ten per cent. reduction of rent would be utterly insufficient to the circumstances of the case. Allow me to say, however, I consider myself in a judicial position, and therefore you will permit me to say that there are some cases in which even ten per cent. reduction of rent is not necessary. Gentlemen, this is the spirit in which I think the present state of affairs ought to be encountered. I would not too curiously inquire upon the question of the competition of America, and I will tell you why. I have had an opportunity lately of some conversation on this subject with one who may probably be considered the highest living authority on such matters—which are almost as political, I may say, as statistical, and he told me that he was quite perplexed, after the deepest and most minute inquiry, as to what would be the result to Canada of 200 millions of the acres of the wilderness being gradually brought into cultivation. He said he saw there were some who believed—and he shared that opinion—that under all circumstances the market of the United States would be destroyed, but as regarded Canada itself, he said if the influx of population were to go on as it was going on now but that we can't expect—in consequence of these fertile acres being placed at their disposal, he could not tell what might be the consequences. That population would demand itself not only sustenance but extravagant and extreme sustenance, as always happened in California, when even money was made quickly; and for his part he should not be surprised, with the impulsive character of humanity of the United States, if that wilderness which so now alarmed us was not soon occupied by consuming millions. Therefore, I say that it is not wise at this moment to attempt to take into precise consideration the influence of those markets. When that influence is ascertained it will be recognised, and we must act upon it. But we ought to take into consideration the influence of unfruitful seasons in this country. This is a subject which we cannot avoid, which is fatally and painfully precise. It has had an effect upon the condition of the farming class that never was anticipated, and never could have been wished by the owners of land. We have always heard that their interests were identical, that between the landlord and the tenant there were feelings of regard and affection, and I have always had a most solemn and sincere belief in this operation; but if ever there were a case in which that sympathy should be shown it is the present. It would be not merely a great danger for ourselves, but it would be a great danger for England that the farming class should be reduced either in influence or in numbers. I would make one more remark upon the position in which we are placed with reference to the want of precise information as to the effect of American produce on our position in England. I may remind you that we have by a Royal Commission sent to the United States and Canada two men of your own class, men of considerable ability, men who have had the advantage of enlightened opportunity in the House of Commons for many years to become acquainted with those principles on which a state ought to be governed. These two men, two great ornaments of the farming class in this country, are visiting America, and I await with confidence and interest their communications. But let me say there is no reason why, because we are placed in an indefinite position with regard to foreign supplies, and have taken all these means to obtain information, farmers of England should not take every legitimate step to make their position more satisfactory if they have occasion to complain. I want to remind you of a subject which is sometimes forgotten—the introduction by the present Government of the Agricultural Holdings Act. That Bill is described by a stupid word generally used by stupid people. The Bill is called a sham by those who have never read the Act, and never studied it, and never profited by it. I will show you in a sentence or two that that Act is a living Act. It is an Act of the utmost advantage to the farmers already, and, if they were wise, it would be productive of great future advantage. That Act, in the first place, for the first time in English legislation, gave the presumption of all improvements in the land to the credit of the farmer, and not to the landlord. That alone was a very great affair. That Act secured compensation to the farmer for unexhausted improvements, and it did it in a manner which met the wants of different classes of improvements. It gave the best security that no dissension and quarrels should occur between landlord and occupier. That Act also extended

the period of notice to quit from six to twelve months. You may say—and I know it will be said by those who know nothing about it—that all the world have contracted themselves out of this Act. A great many persons have contracted themselves out of that Act who ought not to have done so, and a great many men are now ashamed of having contracted themselves out of it; but I let that pass. Such an extraordinary stream of mendacity has been poured on this Act that I need not dwell on the point at length. It was said, for instance, that the noble duke who brought the Bill forward had contracted himself out of the Act. My noble friend, the Duke of Richmond, has always given leases to his tenants. He prefers leases. Therefore, it was impossible for him to contract himself out of the Act. The other Minister who brought it forward in the House of Commons was a gentleman who was a member for the county of Buckingham, and I defy anyone to say that any of his tenants contracted themselves out of it. I have seen a great many of these contracts, and they deal with the varying conditions of the soil and climate of England, and we find cases where the contracting parties, knowing nothing about it, have made contracts agreeing to all the vital points in the Act, and the only disadvantage the occupier and tenant have is that the contracts are drawn up in a manner which may involve them in litigation, whereas, if they had stuck to the Act of Parliament they would have avoided that. In most of these contracts I find that notice to quit is increased to one year. That is not as far as I would wish to go, as I have often said, but, no doubt, the arrangement was a prudent one. Most of their contracts agree, as a matter of course, that the tenant is to be compensated for his investment in the soil. Gentlemen, before I sit down I must make one remark—and I ought to apologise for having spoken at this length—you will remember that one gets garrulous when one meets one's old friends. You will not forget the various scenes that have taken place with reference to this society—the struggles we have had, and the contests we have had to encounter—and you will never forget that for a term, longer than a generation, you entrusted to me the greatest honour of my life, the honour of being your representative. I did not think I should be doing my duty to-day in merely meeting you at a time of strain and trial like the present, and indulging only in a few commonplace remarks. There is no doubt that there is a party in this England—I don't believe a very numerous party, but a very busy one, who always view with feelings of hostility the agricultural interests. They do so because they are opposed to the free and aristocratic Government that still prevails in this country, and which it is to the interests of agriculturists to maintain. You may get rid of it, gentlemen, but you will have either a despotism that ends in a democracy or a democracy that ends in despotism. A year ago, when the pressure was first touching us, in addition to the general sufferings of the country when it began to be whispered that the agricultural interest was suffering, that party sprang immediately to their heels. They saw a golden opportunity, as they thought, and their first step was an attempt to agitate among the agricultural labourers of the country. Fortunately, those men who attempted to agitate in rural England were thorough Cockneys. They were not, perhaps, born in London, but they were born in another town that often makes a greater noise. If they had known anything of country life they would have known they had got the stick by the wrong end; that if there were any class connected with the land in England that was unusually prosperous, it was the agricultural labourers. But when those meetings were held and the dreadful news was announced that agricultural labourers in some parts of England were only getting 14s. a week, the absurdity of the whole affair was too ludicrous for contemplation. Even the agricultural labourers who made those complaints could scarcely keep their countenances. They knew well that during the last 40 years their wages had been raised 40 per cent. They knew very well that with those increased wages their purchasing power of all that was requisite for life was immensely increased. They knew very well that throughout England to a great extent their habitations were greatly improved—in themselves a source not only of health but of income; and, in fact, the agitation founded upon data so fallacious quickly evaporated. But another year has passed, and the strain upon the farmers of England is excessive and lamentable. But a year ago they were setting the agricultural labourers against the farmers;

now they are attempting to set the farmers against the landlords. It will never do. The Government of England will always be supported by those who know the spirit of justice and liberality on which it is based. We will not consent to be devoured singly and alone. We have stood together under many trials, and England has recognised that in the influence, the best influence, of the agricultural interest there is the best security for liberty and law.

## LORD HARTINGTON ON THE LAND LAWS.

At Newcastle on Friday Lord Hartington said:—

We have heard during the last few months a great deal about the question of the land. This is a subject which by common consent it is thought extremely probable that Parliament will be more or less thoroughly called upon to deal with shortly. At all events it is a subject which no one will desire should be touched with a rough or unfriendly hand. It is a subject which will require great political knowledge and great calmness on the part of those called upon to deal with it. I have had this morning the opportunity of reading only very cursorily a very long speech made by a distinguished man—by the Prime Minister himself on this subject. The Prime Minister has done me the honour to refer at very considerable length to some observations made by me in a speech in the House of Commons. Now, after the very cursory examination which I have been able to give to his speech, I do not think it would be wise or respectful on my part if I were to attempt to give an answer to his arguments, so far as I am able to understand them—but I must say (and I am at a loss to understand it) that Lord Beaconsfield appears to me to be determined in every respect to misrepresent every position which I put forward—every argument which I used. The observations which I made were not made at any great length, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, they have been generally understood in their natural meaning by the greater part of the community, but Lord Beaconsfield is determined to put exactly an opposite construction on almost every word I uttered to that which it is generally supposed to bear. Lord Beaconsfield, I see, stated yesterday that I said it was not the tenant but the land system of this country which had broken down. Now, gentlemen, that is an observation I never uttered and which I am certainly not prepared to make. What took place on that occasion was this. I listened to the speeches made by some gentlemen who were supposed to especially represent the agricultural interest, and I heard from them the most dismal representation of that interest. We were told that, altogether apart from the succession of bad harvests with which we have been lately afflicted, the profession of farming was one in which a man could not make a living. We heard that the question of land had little to do with it—that in the position in which the farmers found themselves they were so exposed to the enormous competition of America and the Continent that it was utterly impossible with present prices that farming could be made lucrative. Well, I do not think that, with all their dark forebodings, we were driven to that by anything they brought forward. I should think, if the state of things were such as they represented it to be, that it was a proof that the land system—a system which it is thought to be almost sacrilegious to think of touching—had broken down. These representatives of the agricultural interest did not appear to have any very tangible reasons, but I supposed they did hint darkly at the reimposition of protective duties for the protection of agricultural interests. Well, gentlemen, I said that if the state of things were such as they represented it, and if it required remedies of any kind, the one which they had touched on or hinted at was one which they did not dare positively to propose, and was the most revolutionary remedy they could take. I said it was perfectly idle at the present time, this country entirely depending on its manufacturing and industrial supremacy, and requiring so large a portion of foreign food from foreign countries, to suppose that the people of this country would ever submit to the reimposition of protective duties—and I said that therefore if the state of the agricultural interest was such as it was represented to be by its own representatives, the remedy must be sought for in some other direction; and I also pointed out that in the opinion of a great many very competent cultivators

there was much that was mischievous in the laws that regulate the transfer of land in this country, and that before we proceeded with the revolutionary remedies which they supported, we ought thoroughly to examine those laws, and see whether there was in them anything which had led to the depression of which they complained. Again, Lord Beaconsfield represents me to have pointed to a remedy by the establishment of peasant proprietors. Now, I do not believe that there is any political economist in this country who has the smallest objection to the establishment of a peasant proprietorship. I should be glad to see peasant proprietors, but I am as opposed as any one can be to the establishment of a peasant proprietary or any other class of proprietors by special legislation. I believe the distribution of land in the same way as the distribution of other property is best left to natural causes—best left to the operation of natural laws; and I am not in favour, and I do not believe any portion of the Liberal party is in favour, of exceptional legislation for the creation of a class of proprietors, peasant or otherwise. But if it was shown undoubtedly that our laws favour the creation of a class, not of peasant proprietors or of small proprietors, but of large proprietors, and that these laws tend to aggregate great quantities of land in the hands of men not having the capital necessary for its improvement, and not having the power over the land which will enable them to offer the tenants inducements to use their capital upon it, I say these are laws which are worthy of our consideration, and if the case is found to be as represented by many authorities on this subject, these laws do require consideration.

## THE WEATHER IN 1879 COMPARED WITH THAT IN 1860.

Mr. G. B. Edwards, of Addleston, writes further on the above-named subject to the *Surrey Advertiser*:—

In consequence of my letter to you on the above subject, I have received several direct inquiries as to the weather following 21st December, 1860. With your permission I will answer them generally, through the medium of the *Surrey Advertiser*. In my letter to you of the 30th of August, I stated that on the 21st December, 1860, snow fell all over England to the depth of from two to four feet; on the 24th of December in that year I have recorded in my diary, deep snow and 22 degrees of frost; December 28th, snow and frost most intense, roads almost impassable; 29th and 30th, slight thaw; 31st, frost returned in all its intensity; January 2nd and 3rd, 1861, severe frost and cutting wind; 4th to 11th, extreme frost, and cold intense; 12th and 13th, slight thaw, but snowing all day; 14th, frost returned again; 16th, cold extreme. The Thames (in London) full of ice, navigation in the pool quite stopped; great distress, owing to long continued frost; horse to house collections for the poor, as well as in all churches; coal and bread tickets, soap, &c., widely distributed. This weather continued until the 24th January, when it became less intense, but on 10th and 11th February I have written very frosty, with snow, and in April and May cold weather prevailed, and the season was backward. I hope these details will be satisfactory to your inquiring readers. It is a very remarkable coincidence that the weather cleared up on the 31st of August this year, precisely the same day it did in 1860, and then it continued fine for 22 days, when it became very wet again. I trust we may have more than 22 days fine this September, or I fear a great deal of corn will remain unharvested, for it is making but slow progress, owing to the lack of sun, the low temperature, and the unusual quantity of weeds and rubbish grown up with the corn. The last 12 days of fine weather, however, have proved a great blessing, and the crops have marvellously improved, and we may yet hope to see some fine samples of wheat and barley, please God the fine weather continues. But the potato crop I fear is past hopes; those in this locality that are not diseased are wretchedly small, and the yield will be very deficient.

If there be any foundation for the "lunar theory" now under discussion—and facts seem to support it—and we are to have such a winter as in 1860-1, it would be wise for all persons to prepare in time for the days of frost and snow.

## Agricultural Table Talk.

Mr. Percy Wyndham, M.P., Mr. George Howard, M.P. and Sir Wilfred Lawson, M.P., were all present at the dinner of the Wigton Agricultural Society on August 17, and spoke upon the agricultural depression.—Mr. WYNDHAM said he was glad to find from the talk in Cumberland that agriculture was not in so depressed a state there as in the South. He believed the main cause of the distress was the continued bad seasons. There was no doubt, however, that the nation from right to left, had been spending a great deal too much money. He was told they did not live extravagantly among the farming class in Cumberland, and he congratulated them upon it, because right and left, from the highest to the lowest, there was hardly a class which did not eat twice as much as was good for them (laughter). In the upper classes they had their four meals a day. First, they had a breakfast such as their fathers never ate except it was to last them all day; then they had luncheon, with side dishes, fish and soup; they had tea at four or five, which even men took with hot toast and buns; and a tremendous dinner at eight. The result was that millions of money were wasted which went into men's bellies instead of increasing the riches of the country (laughter). He was speaking seriously. This extravagance would have to be considered by all classes. If the upper classes, the middle classes, the farmers, and the colliers had made use of the good times and laid by, the country would have been in a better position than it is now (hear, hear). Many people said the Royal Commission would do no good, but it would do good if it showed it could do no good.—Mr. HOWARD, M.P., said he understood the distress had hit the large farmers far more than the small. He did not rejoice at that; far from it. But it was some advantage gained to the community, and might put a stop to the practice of agglomerating farms, a practice which might be economical to the landlords, but which produced some social disadvantages which would be serious if universally extended over the whole country (hear, hear). He recommended a thorough revision of this subject, so that if there existed obstacles to capital being expended upon land they might be removed. It was a very difficult question, and one which would take a long time to settle. He himself believed in what was called free trade in land.—Sir WILFRED LAWSON said his opinion was that the Agricultural Commission was appointed to prevent anything being done. Whenever there was a pressing and difficult question to settle the Government appointed a Select Committee or a Royal Commission which sits for two or three years, and then leaves things exactly as they were before (laughter). The House of Lords started a Committee to find out what made people drink, and while it was sitting he was frequently told to wait till the report came out. Directly the Committee reported, he said to the Government, "What are you going to do with the report of the Lords' Committee?" "Nothing at all; you be hanged," they said (laughter). So much for Select Committees and Royal Commissions. There were only two ways in which the condition of the farmer could be improved. One was to give him increased facilities for producing the articles in which he deals, and the other was to increase the consumption of those articles.

The Earl of BECTIVE, M.P., in proposing the principal toast at the Lonsdale Agricultural Association Show on Aug. 16, referred at length to the cause of the depression in agriculture. He attributed the depression to a succession of bad seasons, and to the bad condition of commercial trade generally. Although the times were bad prices in agricultural produce were yet not lower than they were some years ago, and he was very hopeful that the country would soon see a return to prosperity. As regarded suggested alterations in the land laws, he thought that landlords and tenants could manage their own affairs best themselves, and deprecated any compulsory legislation for regulating the relations between landlord and tenant. Although he highly approved of the Agricultural Holdings Act, as it made that a rule which was previously only a custom—namely, that outgoing tenants should receive adequate compensation for unexhausted im-

provements, a return to protection was by some persons suggested, but that would not meet the exigencies of the situation, and he certainly was of opinion that any system which artificially raised prices of food for the benefit of a special class, would not be tolerated for one moment.

At a dinner given to LORD DERBY at Southport on Sept. 18 the noble lord said: "I do not deny, and I do not attempt to minimise, the severe soft-rug which has fallen both upon landowners and their tenants; but I may note in passing, that, so far as I have been able to observe, the condition of the third class concerned in agriculture, the labourer, has not been depreciated to the same extent. I take it that, upon the whole, the agricultural labourer throughout England is better off than he was a generation ago. His wages are higher, and there is labour for everyone, if he chooses to work. But returning to the other two classes concerned, what is to be done? What is to be their future? I do not understand the language of those, although I have heard it pretty often, who talk about the possibility of the land of England going out of cultivation. The last three years have been altogether exceptional in point of weather and we cannot judge by them. But when that exceptional time is over we shall be able to judge better than we can at present what the real effect of foreign competition has been upon agriculture, and, therefore, what will be the future fair settlement as between landlord and tenant. But observe this, the tenant can only suffer for a time. When existing contracts are run out it is his own fault if he renews the engagement on terms disadvantageous to himself. Therefore, speaking of the class as a whole, and speaking of their permanent interest, I say, that whatever the depreciation in the value of land may be, the tenant will not be a considerable loser in the long run. Whatever loss there is must fall in the end, I do not say exclusively, but mainly, on the owner of the soil. Now, I am a landowner myself, and naturally I sympathise with my friends who are in the same position. I think there may probably be a large, possibly a very large, reduction of agricultural rent throughout England; but if we are looking at the matter from a national point of view, I cannot help saying that the reduction due to the lower prices at which food can be obtained by the population is not for the entire community an unmix'd or unqualified evil. No doubt the producer of food, or rather the owner of the land upon which it is produced, will lose, but the consumers will gain; and after all they are the majority. That, therefore, is my summary of the agricultural situation; probably heavy loss falling upon one class, but probably also, if you cast the balance, a considerable compensation for that loss in a national point of view by the greater cheapness of food. As to our manufacturing industries, that is a far more difficult and complicated question. I think no one can doubt that if we are to be shut out from foreign markets—and not only from foreign markets, but from those of our own colonies—by protective tariffs, that will be one of the heaviest blows which the country has ever felt. In the United States, as we know, the principle of protection just now reigns supreme; but the Americans are about the quickest-witted people that now exist upon the earth, and they are the most receptive of any new ideas; and I can hardly bring myself to believe they will be likely long to create and maintain at the public expense a privileged class of manufacturers and producers. On the Continent it is hardly accurate to say, as is often stated, that protectionist ideas have obtained the ascendancy. The fact is that the great military monarchies of Europe care little about protection or free trade. Emperors and field marshals do not concern themselves with such vulgar things. They want money; they want to keep up their gigantic armaments; they must have money from some quarter; they find it difficult to get it, and they do not much care how they get it, whether it is by protection or not. This condition of things cannot last for ever. It is not for me to predict how or when it is likely to end, but that it must end before many years are over seems to me beyond doubt. I know it is hard to say to men who are suffering, and know better than I do what they are suffering from, "There is nothing for you but to wait." But still, whatever losses there are, you had better trust to tried remedies than to remedies which may only aggravate the complaints. To exercise severe economy—private, and I will venture to say public also—is a duty as well as a necessity.

## HUNGARY AND HER EXHIBITION.

"The granary of Europe," as Hungary was rightly called even by the last generation, has undergone a good many changes since.

Many have been the reasons which prevented that country for a long, long period of centuries from keeping pace with their western neighbours on their rapid career of intellectual and industrial progress; the Hungarians were hardly settled in their new homes at the end of the ninth century, when a horde of Tartars swept over the country spreading destruction and death all over Hungary. The Turks soon followed them, and after some short incursions held the whole of the rich country for nearly three centuries under their mighty sway.

With the reign of the Hapsburgs the struggles of the nation for their ancient institutions of constitutional liberty began; second only to the English in their ardent love for these treasures of national life, the Hungarians at last obtained, through the wisdom of an enlightened statesman, what the iron arm of a military reign could not have long withheld from them. Rich as the country always was in the products of its fertile plains, and the numberless herds of cattle and horses, it could easily give to others from the abundance of its harvests, even in the gloomy days of the past times; but industry was lagging behind in the towns. New roads over land and sea, new means of international communication, hardly dreamt of half a century ago, were beginning now to bring distant lands, and all they brought forth, within the easy reach of ever hungry and ever increasing Europe. The Hungarians began to find that a few bad years left them without bread and hardly any money to buy some from others, and they turned their attention to those branches of art and peaceful labour which make the pride and opulence of other countries. Some of their great sons showed them the way to new sources of intellectual and material progress; the rising sun of liberty diffused its warming rays over the country; mills and factories sprang up rapidly, increasing to the ten-fold value of what perhaps was thrown away before as useless, and new lines of railways carried heavy bales to distant lands. It can be said to day that Hungary, if not equal in all respects to those highly industrial countries of Europe which it had to protect with its strong arm for centuries against the continued attacks of the barbarians, can boast of some branches of industry in which it is a worthy and even successful rival of its neighbours.

Exhibitions of an international or local character are, comparatively speaking, an institution of modern times, and although England has taken the lead in this, as in many other respects, as far back as in 1756, they have taken more considerable proportions only much later. France followed in 1798, 1801, and 1839, when 4,381 exhibitors entered into competition, which is to be considered a marked progress against the 200 exhibitors of the preceding show in 1801. It is needless to enumerate the results obtained in later years, and let it suffice to say that Hungary took an active part and obtained encouraging distinctions at all the different shows since the first Vienna Exhibition in 1835. Hungary had its first national Exhibition in 1842, which was followed by those of the years 1872 and 1876, of a similar character. Count Emeric Zichy, a member of a well-known family of Hungarian magnates, conceived the idea a few years ago of bringing together in a show arranged on a larger scale all that his country could produce in the different branches of agriculture and industry. An appeal was made to the lords spiritual and temporal, and to the Government, to contribute to the funds necessary for such an enterprise; the patronage of Archduke Josef, the most thoroughly Magyar prince of the Imperial family, was easily obtained,

and the 15th of May of the present year saw the solemn opening of the first really General Exhibition in Hungary. Stuhlweissenburg, the chief town of the county of the same name, and the residence of Hungarian kings in olden times, was chosen as an appropriate site for this national undertaking; the centre of a county uninhabited exclusively by a Hungarian population, and within two hours by rail from Budapest, it afforded all the facilities of the ample space available in all the smaller towns of the country combined with an easy communication. The Government put besides one of her establishments for horse-breeding purposes in that town at Count Zichy's disposal, which, with all the stables, court-yards, and riding-houses appertaining to it, made the erection of only a very few buildings necessary. The whole group of buildings, including several dwelling-houses of the officials, was naturally vacated for the time being, and gave an animated sight of unusual festiveness with all the gay flags, green festoons, and hastily improvised arches. On the left of the main entrance a wide space was put aside for machines of every description for agricultural and industrial purposes. Here, again, it was England that first showed to Hungary the advantages of machines over manual labour in the fields. In 1850 a large English firm opened a depôt of agricultural machines, and was soon followed by many others, who, besides their agencies for the sale of their own manufactures, kept numerous workmen at Pesth for repairs and other works of smaller importance. In 1860 a Hungarian firm founded the first machine factory there, and this branch of industry has so much developed since that there is no agricultural machine now, from the simple plough to the thrashing machine and powerful engine, which could not be made in the different parts of the country. Budapest has naturally remained the centre of this industry, and several firms were represented at the exhibition, whose machines challenge not wholly unfavourable comparison with their English neighbours. It is needless to say that the articles exhibited by such well-known English firms as have permanent agencies in Hungary hold the rank which is due to them wherever they appear. A working flour-mill, exhibited by a Hungarian maker, and fitted up with all the newest inventions and improvements which have secured to the Hungarian flour such a prominent position, attracted special attention in this department; a happy combination of mill-stones and steel cylinders, besides some other appliances hardly noticeable to the eye of the uninitiated, is said to be the secret of this superiority.

There are 514 mills driven by steam power, and 27,500 mills of other construction, in Hungary, and the annual export of the various products is about 3½ million cwt. Brazil alone buys about 150,000 barrels of Hungarian flour a year, and a new line of steamers between Fiume (the Hungarian sea-port *par excellence*) and Glasgow and Edinburgh promises a very fair chance of success and further development, owing especially to the rapidly increasing demand for this article in the English market.

Iron has become in the everyday life of nations as necessary as bread is in the life of individual persons; no wonder, therefore, if Hungary has tried its best efforts to utilize those treasures which it possesses in such abundance. The production of pig-iron has increased more than 60 per cent. within the last ten years, and the annual produce may be estimated now at about 3½ million cwt., certainly a very modest quantity compared with the production of other countries and the immense supplies left untouched yet, owing principally to the want of capital. The iron industry, especially the branches affecting the construction of railroads and ships, is also showing signs of development, so that most of the material necessary for these works comes from the country itself.

Some large establishments, founded partly by the Government itself, partly by companies and private individuals, supply most of the articles here mentioned. The lion part of the Show fell to these large works, although very fine specimens of the small industry show also signs of healthy progress. Solid fire-places for kitchens and rooms, beautifully worked iron railings, casts of various descriptions, well-finished tools, and the like, were exhibited in long rows, and show, almost without exception, one of the happy qualities required in things of common use—cheapness.

Hungary is exceedingly rich in coal. Strata of more or less extent are to be found in all parts of the country, and, but for two reasons—the want of capital and totally erroneous legislation in this respect—they would be the source of great wealth. Some of the large steamer and railway companies have opened, however, pits for their own use, as well as for trading purposes, and are doing well. It must be mentioned, though, that wood is so plentiful, and therefore cheap, in Hungary, that the use of coal, especially for domestic purposes, has been very limited as yet; wood, sometimes straw, is used as fuel even with most of the engines for agricultural machines. The annual produce of coal has, for these reasons, not exceeded 30 million cwts. yet. Some fine specimens of lignite and other coal are exhibited at Stuhlweissenburg, the average prices of which are far below the English market price.

One of those industries in which Hungary has attained a certain degree of perfection is pottery in its different branches, a whole row of rooms in the principal building, usually occupied by the officers of the stud-farm, contained the articles belonging to this section, from the plain, queerly-shaped clay pipe and the homely stove to the china vases, majolicas, and fayences of most artistic finish. Some of the articles are very successful imitations of antique objects of this kind, with original designs and lively colours; others combine the forms of the graceful modern patterns with the shape of Hungarian national household articles, and thereby produce the very pleasing effect of a special cachet. The excellence of Hungarian pottery-ware has been repeatedly noticed at some of the latest International Exhibitions, and several prizes were awarded to it by the juries. Only a few of the forty-five glass factories of the country were represented at this Show. Hungarian makers have to battle against many difficulties in their competition with the great and rapid progress made in other countries. The want of easy means of communication, especially in those districts where the glass industry is at home, and the want of capital make themselves heavily felt. Some of the larger firms of old standing have exhibited, nevertheless, some noticeable articles of fine colours and elegant shape.

The Government of Hungary has paid special attention to the instruction of the people in light manual labour, which promises to procure a livelihood for those who are either too young or too old to follow any particular profession. Switzerland and Germany are earning millions by such trifling articles as can be made during the long winter evenings in the country districts, where the huge mills and factories of happier lands are blessings yet unknown. Patterns of such articles are distributed, therefore, amongst the country schools, and gratuitous instruction is given to those who care for it. Higher classes exist in some places for more complicated ladies' work, and very great benefits derived therefrom. The inscriptions on the numberless articles at the Exhibition indicated the age of the respective makers, varying between seven and 69 years. Embroidery, baskets, carved and turned objects of wood, ivory, and other materials, children's toys, ready-made linen, and a

thousand other things were visible here in admirable disorder, showing tolerable skill, and often tolerable taste. One room contained some relics of national history, manuscripts, swords, old engravings and prints, and the like, tastefully arranged under the auspices of the Minister of Public Instruction. A collection of standard school books, maps, and other means of popular instruction was exhibited by the same authority.

The corridors of the whole building were hung with plans and designs of the principal public buildings which have been erected of late years in great number, regardless of expense and, alas, regardless of the sad state of the national finances.

The picture gallery did not give at all an adequate idea of the high degree of excellence attained by some of the Hungarian painters; several of their masterpieces were much admired at Paris last year, and London has only lately given almost unanimous praise to Murkaesy's Milton, and to several others of his pictures.

Jewellery, musical instruments, arms, sewing-machines, scientific instruments, different tools, steel-pens, &c., were shown in great variety.

The art of photography has been brought to great perfection in Hungary. Weaving is entirely in its childhood, and this is so much the more remarkable, as nearly all the necessary raw material, wool especially, is so abundant in the country; coarse cloths, for the use of the country population, and some linen tissues are all the articles produced. A considerable trade is done, however, in ready-made clothes, large quantities of which are exported annually to the Danubian Principalities and Turkey.

A more favourable report can be given of the leather industry in all its branches, which is one of the oldest in the country, and it was well represented at the Exhibition. Furniture was also well represented.

Hungary is well known as one of the best wine countries of Europe; the quantity and quality of the produce are equally worth the best attention of growers and buyers, and it may well be wondered that a more befitting rank has not been obtained yet for Hungarian wines in the European markets. The value of the annual product is nearly 7½ million pounds, and yet comparatively small quantities are exported. The principal condition of a better trade with this article would be more unity in the preparation of the different wines. Most of the vineyards are in the hands of small proprietors, each of whom tries to make a wine of a special quality or, worse still, does not care at all what wine he gets. Much good has been done lately by so-called cellar-companies, which buy up these smaller lots of a certain district, and, by a more careful manipulation, get wines of a more uniform character. Several stands occupied by some of the numerous distilleries of the country adjoined the wine exhibits in the Exhibition. There are over 800 large distilleries, and about 82,000 smaller establishments of this kind, in Hungary, which have a double importance as regards the quantity of raw material annually consumed by them, and the material gained for the fattening of cattle and pigs in the shape of refuse.

The large forests extending over a considerable portion of Hungary produce some very excellent sorts of wood, the total value of which amounts to about five millions a year; of this quantity about two millions worth is exported annually. The management of the forests has been most primitive until recent times; they have been cut down in many cases for the sake of momentary profit without any regard for the laws of nature or science. An act passed in the last session of the Hungarian diet will put an end to this state of things, equally detrimental to the material interests and the climate of the country. At the Exhibition there were some magnificent trunks,

and also samples of manufactured articles, such as inland floors, staves for casks, &c. Of this last-named article about twenty-six millions are annually exported from the Hungarian seaports. The pavilions built for special purposes in the grounds of the Exhibition were interesting. Most worthy of attention was the pavilion of Count Zichy, which contained samples of everything that is produced on his extensive estates; it was an elegant little structure, prettily decorated, and guarded by two men in the original and picturesque dresses as they are worn in the country districts. An album containing the plans and sketches of his farm-buildings and many articles of domestic industry made by his own people were also to be seen here. A similar pavilion was erected by the family of Eszterhazys. The minister of public works sent models and plans of the railways, bridges, canals, and other constructions executed under his auspices, some agricultural schools, objects illustrating their activity, and even Szegedin—poor Szegedin, of which Europe has heard so much lately—contributed her mite to this temple of national labour.

The soil and climate of Hungary are especially favourable for the breeding of cattle of all kinds and horses—this was the first occupation of the Magyars long before they settled down in Europe, and even for many centuries afterwards their continual wars did not allow them much leisure for the more peaceful works of the agriculturist. Their tributes were paid in cattle, the fines imposed upon crimes consisted in so many head of cattle, and the gifts of kings to their brave warriors were richly caparisoned steeds. The Hungarian horse, as his master, is of an Oriental origin; it is of middle height, exceedingly hardy, well shaped, and especially fit for military purposes. Several Continental powers draw large supplies for their armies every year from this country. Great care has been lately bestowed on the breeding of horses, and much Arabian and English blood introduced. The Government itself keeps some large studs with nearly 6,000 horses of all kinds, and the purest breeds, very few of which are sold, but nearly all employed for breeding purposes. Several thousands of sires are distributed all over the country, and let for low charges to the farmers and peasants. Careful breeding and superior training have given to Hungarian thoroughbreds a good name of late years, and "Kincesm," the winner of last year's Goodwood cup, is probably known to most sportsmen. This remarkable mare has won in England, France, Germany, Austria, and Hungary, in the short period of three years, fifty first prizes, the last of which was the silver shield at Berlin last month, without being once beaten. "Kisber" also is still remembered in England. The horse show at Stuhlweissenburg was a very good one, including nearly all the principal breeds of Europe and Arabia; heavy cart horses, hacks, carriage horses, thoroughbreds, were well represented, and special interest was shown in some of the large studs, which exhibited horses of their special breeds, and of all ages. Some of the peasants and farmers had brought up animals which would have done honour to any one. There have been as many as 23,000 horses exported from Hungary in one year, and a good many more could be sold if there was any one to buy them; the prices are 70 to 100 per cent. lower than in England, and fine business could be done in spite of the difficulties of transport.

The cattle-show was equally satisfactory, and one could not but admire some of those large white Hungarian bullocks with their long horns, which do all the labour in the fields and can trot nearly as fast as a cart horse. They are said to be equally fit for fattening, and but for the unfortunate Cattle Plague, they would be largely exported. The geographical position of Hungary combined

with rather high rates of transport on some of the railways, however, makes it very difficult for Hungarian meat to compete with American. An excellent show of sheep and a less satisfactory one of pigs and poultry completed the live stock show at Stuhlweissenburg.

The great importance of the Exhibition at Stuhlweissenburg lies in the fact that it illustrated, by palpable proofs, that Hungarian industry has become an element fully appreciated, and in many cases successfully followed up in national life. The sound principles of Free Trade have been guiding the Hungarian Government from the beginning, and if this principle was not always carried out by the united Austro-Hungarian Empire, the fault of it was certainly not with the representatives of Hungary.

The hopes of Hungarian patriots are therefore well founded—that, with all her natural wealth and appreciation for the only just principles of international intercourse, of their country will sooner or later reap the fruits of honest good will and perseverance.

### THE IMPORT OF AMERICAN FOOD.

The following letter and statement has appeared in the *Daily News* :—

SIR,—I have been asked by so many people, since my arrival in England from the United States, whether I could give them any exact information as to the lowest prices that wheat, cattle, and pigs can be landed for in England from across the Atlantic, that I find it will be the easiest way in my own personal interest to give the required information, which I am now enabled to furnish, through the medium of the Press. I therefore have recourse to your kindness to insert the following statement, or any part of it, in your circulation, if you deem it of sufficient interest. I do this as you have shown such deep interest in the future of agriculture at home.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
 VICTOR DRUMMOND,  
 H. B. M. Secretary of Legation at Washington.  
 Kurhaus Hotel, Kessingen, Sept. 10.

#### WHEAT.

Lowest and average prices of wheat on board at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Boston, and landed at Liverpool first half-year, 1879. The dollar is equal to 5s.

Lowest price per bushel on board at New York, 1 dol.; at Philadelphia, 1 dol. 6 cents to 1 dol. 15 cents; at Baltimore, 1 dol. 6 cents; at Boston, 1 dol.

Average price per bushel of red winter: On board at New York—1 dol. 12 cents; at Philadelphia, 1 dol. 11 cents; at Baltimore, 1 dol. 6½ cents; Boston, 1 dol. 6 cents.

Average price per bushel landed at Liverpool: From New York—common wheat, 1 dol. 17 cents; red winter, 1 dol. 2½ cents; from Philadelphia—red winter, 1 dol. 18 cents; from Baltimore, ditto, 1 dol. 27 cents; from Boston, ditto, 1 dol. 21 cents.

Average freight per bushel: From New York, 6d.; from Philadelphia, 3½d., or 7½ cents; from Baltimore, 6½d. to 7d.; from Boston, 7½d.

The average price of red winter wheat per quarter landed at Liverpool is then as follows: Landed from New York, 41s. 4d.; landed from Philadelphia, 39s. 8d.; landed from Baltimore, 42s.; landed from Boston, 40s. 4d. We here observe that wheat from Philadelphia is landed in England at a cheaper rate than from the other ports. The low freight from Philadelphia is the principal cause, and this arises from that progressive city reaping a large share of the trade to Europe. From the 29th of July to the 4th of August over 1½ million bushels, or more than four times as much as during the same period last year, has been shipped. This steady increase in the grain trade requires a large fleet of ships, chiefly British, which are now flocking to the port of Philadelphia. From information which has reached me, I am led to believe that under certain conditions wheat can be delivered at Liverpool from Philadelphia, with a margin for profit, for 35s. a quarter. It is not probable that this will happen, but I mention it as a remote possibility, although it would not be a lasting one.

The total spring wheat acreage sown this year in the United

States was 4 per cent. greater than last year, and the increase will no doubt be as great each successive year until there are symptoms of profit in this direction. The yield in the one great wheat State of Minnesota for this year is calculated at 40,000,000 bushels; this is calculating that in two-thirds of its wheat are 1,900,000 acres, there will be an average yield of 13 bushels per acre; and in the rest of the area, 600,000 acres, the yield will be 17 bushels per acre. The cost of wheat per acre in the great wheat-growing States averages 20s. per qr.

It is a very different thing in the North-Eastern States where the farmers are handicapped as ours are by the extraordinary low freight charges from the Western States. Again, their farming is carried on partially under the same conditions as our own; they have the advantage, however, over ours by generally having good-sized orchards, which in a good year bring them in a fair revenue.

#### THE CATTLE TRADE.

Now, with reference to the cattle trade between England and the United States, I am enabled to furnish some very important information kindly furnished to me by those who are an unbiased and reliable authority.

NEW YORK.—The "prime" beef, wholesale price has ranged between 9 and 10 cents (4½d. to 5d.) per lb. For the common quality the price has varied between 7 and 9 cents (3½d. to 4½d.) per lb. since the 1st of January last. Beeves shipped "alive" to Great Britain will average to cost about 5 dollars 70 cents per 100lb. gross weight. The best grades cost more than this, and the fair grades less. The dressed beef "shipped in quarters" costs from 8 to 9 cents (4d. to 4½d.) per lb. on board in New York, but prime live cattle, for which quotations are made, command, on slaughtering, a better price than ordinary refrigerated meat. The average weight at New York of a "prime bullock" is 1,400lb., and that of a "common bullock" is 1,100lb. Average freights per head £3 10s. They have been as low as £2 10s. and as high as £3 15s.

PHILADELPHIA.—Prime shipping are held at 5½ cents (3½d.) per lb. They weigh from 1,250 to 1,500lb. A beast of 1,500lb. is landed at Liverpool for £24 10s. Average freight is the same as New York, £3 10s.

BALTIMORE.—Freight per head to England averages same as New York and Philadelphia, £3 10s., although it has been as high as £4. Cattle landed in England will cost there from 90 dols. to 110 dols. per head, clear of any charges—£18 15s. to £23. The freight on kine from Baltimore to England averaged £4 5s. per head; it was as low as £3 and as high as £5 15s. during this past season.

BOSTON.—Cattle here are reckoned at so much per lb. living weight. The average weight of each animal sent over is 1,450lb. 5½ cents (3½d.) per lb. is the average price on board. Freight averages the same as the other ports, £3 10s., although it has been as high as £4. Cattle cost, landed in England, on an average £22.

As to the future prospects of the cattle trade between Great Britain and the United States, I think the following points should be known:

If the present restrictions in England on cattle from the United States were removed and they were allowed to be landed alive the trade would increase enormously and give employment for a large number of British steamers now lying idle, in fact more would be built expressly for this trade. Notwithstanding the present restrictions and the prejudice created by reports of pleuro-pneumonia and other diseases among American cattle, the ships from the United States have shown a substantial increase this year. One firm alone in New York sent 2,800 head of cattle the last week of July to Great Britain. Dead American meat is sold in London at 6½d. per lb. at a profit, and it is said that even if sold at 5½d. it would give a small profit.

As long as shippers from New York obtain in Liverpool not less than 7d. or 7½d. for their "prime" beef, so long will a remunerative trade be open to them; but they have obtained readily prices ranging between those given above and 9d. per lb., according to the state of the market. While these prices are obtained, the shipments of American cattle will continue in increasing quantities, for with the vast stock-raising lands in the West there is practically no limit to the exportation; and with reference to this I will mention that in 1877 there were 30,500,000 head in the United States, and next year the returns will probably show 35,000,000 head. Last year 38,000

head were landed in the principal ports of the United Kingdom, 67,000 more than in the previous year, mostly from the United States, 30,925 from the port of New York alone to various countries in Europe. It is calculated that England took 21,811, at 97 dols. a head (say £20 4s.), and Cuba 40,000 head at 17 dols. each, (say £3 11s.); the wild-grass fed Texans to Cuba, and the Shorthorn grades with better feeding to England and Europe; the latter selling for less than five times the price of the former. The weight of the Shorthorn grades was about twice that of the Texan. Ten years will, it is stated, bring a remarkable change in the quality and weight of these Texans, and the improvement will possibly be more than enough to supply in quantity the present exports to Europe. Each year probably adds nearly 100 b. per head to their live weight. Exportation stimulates careful breeding, enhancing the character, quality, and weight of the animal. This improvement in breeding will be equal to an increase of 25 per cent. in number of cattle. Better feeding produces earlier maturity, and therefore, if 5,000,000 of these are ready for market at two and a half years instead of three years, and 5,000,000 at three years and a half instead of four years, this would give about 16 per cent. more cattle for market each year without increase of the whole number kept.

Oxen are raised in the State of Colorado, and ready for market at a cost of 4 dols. (or 16s. 8d.) per head, and it is claimed that on a large scale it can be done for 3 dols. (or 12s. 6d.) per head. That the United States is destined to supply England with its main supplies of food I have no doubt, for as one of my informants states, first, it is in the very nature of American enterprise to push a trade which affords a profit, and to resort to all manner of "cheaping" processes and methods to make it more profitable; secondly, the extension of railroads and their facilities into Nebraska, South Missouri, and Texas, all stimulate breeding and increase and cheapen both cattle and their transport to the coast; thirdly, British shipowners will construct vessels with a special view to the rapid and improved conveyance of animals across the ocean, and despite the check caused by the pleuropneumonia scare the traffic will increase. Another gentleman writes from New York:—The cattle dealers here are prepared to work at an even much smaller profit than the present, which they admit is paying handsomely. Even if freight goes up, which is a straw upon which our farmers in England are clinging I do not believe that will help them materially; I imagine that if any brighter look-out arises, it will be from the intense railway speculations going on in the United States, and from the immense sum which must be forthcoming for the renewal of the 80,000 miles of rails already commencing. Will not foreign shareholders require the interest on their money invested, when they find large payments will have to be made for renewal of plant? Will not further capital be required on this account? I only mention this, as it is just possible a rise in transport charges may some day occur if railway directors find the pressure greater than they can bear.

The United States Treasury Department has recently revoked its order of February last, in which the importation of neat cattle from foreign ports was prohibited; they are now subjected to a quarantine of not less than ninety days under direction of Custom-house officers, and at the expense of parties interested in the shipment.

THE PIG TRADE.—Now let us see how we stand as to our imports of pigs.

From the ports of New York but few pigs have been shipped this year. The price of pork at New York has varied since 1st January from 4 cents to 6½ or 7 cents per lb.; but 5 cents would be a fair average (2½d.). The rate of freight is equal to about 1½ cents per lb., making the average price in Liverpool 6½ cents per lb. (3½d.). The average weight of pigs sent from this port for the European markets is 170lb. Larger animals are not shipped, being unsuitable for these markets. A pig of 170lbs. landed in Liverpool would cost £2 10s.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.—Pigs shipped weigh under 200lbs. Their prices range from 4c. to 4½c. per lb. (2½d.). The freight to Liverpool is 10s. a head, and the pig is landed there for 5½c. per lb. (or 2½d.). A pig of 180lb. would be then landed for the sum of 10 dols. 50c. (or £2 4s. 9d.)

FROM BALTIMORE.—Pigs landed in England cost, freight included, about 8c. or (4d.) per lb. A 170lb. pig from Baltimore would thus cost £2 17s. 8d.)

FROM BOSTON.—Pigs shipped cost 5½c. (or 2½d.) per lb. and freight 10s. a pig. The weight of pigs sent from Boston are given at 200lb. A 170lb. pig would cost landed in Liverpool £2 9s. 9d.

Pig exports from the United States during the fiscal year 1878 exceeded all other exports of domestic animal products more 36,000,000 of dollars. Thus:

PIG EXPORTS, 1878.		dols.
Bacon and hams	...	51,750,205
Lard	...	30,014,023
Pork	...	4,913,646
Lard oil	...	994,440
Live hogs	...	267,259
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>87,939,573</b>
ALL OTHER ANIMAL EXPORTS.		dols.
Cattle and cattle products	...	49,230,366
Horses	...	798,723
Mules	...	501,513
Sheep and their products	...	874,093
All other and fowls	...	46,841
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>51,453,536</b>

During the ten months of this present year to April 36th last the value of pig exports appear to have fallen off, owing to the small price they have brought. The quantity, on the other hand, was more than 100,000,000 larger. There was an increase in the demand, but the supply has been so large as to depress the market value.

This year the experiments made for the extraction of sugar from the Sorghum plant and Indian corn, and from the beet, will be known, and if any one of these is a success in sugar production and good profits, we may see a diminution in the growth of wheat in favour of the more profitable plants. Canada is also making experiments with the Sorghum cane. The statements given above I have every reason to feel are correct; if any errors are to be found, they will be so small that they may be forgiven.

VICTOR DRUMMOND,

H. B. M. Secretary of Legation at Washington.

Kissingen, Sept. 10.

### CLAIM FOR UNEXHAUSTED IMPROVEMENTS IN CHESHIRE.

A claim of great importance to agriculturists in Cheshire is under inquiry. Mr. Jepsou, the tenant under Mr. Cuthbert Simpson, of the Dromedary Lodge Farm, Gostrey, near Holmes Chapel, from Lady-day, 1870, to Lady-day, 1879, claimed on his leaving for unexhausted improvements under the Agricultural Holdings Act, the sum of £250. The amount was somewhat altered when particulars were delivered as requested. Thereupon Mr. Simpson determined on entering a counter-claim against Jepsou for breach and non-fulfilment of the covenants of his agreement—viz: selling off hay, straw, green crops, &c., amounting to £353. This was afterwards amended, and from valuations made on behalf of Mr. Simpson by Mr. John Myatt, of Southport, Mr. William Beckett, and Mr. William Wilson, of Manchester, new items were added for breaking up "old turl" lands amounting to 22½ acres at £10 per acre—£225; but it afterwards appeared this had been done by the consent of the landlord, and therefore the items were withdrawn, some other items being added, making the amount of the counter claim about £300.

An investigation as to the actual facts took place recently at the Angel Hotel, Knutsford, Mr. Thomas Speakman, of Stanthorpe, Middlewich, sitting as umpire; Mr. John Myatt, of Southport, as referee for Mr. Simpson, the landlord; and Mr. John Hornby, of Minshull Vernon, for Mr. Jepsou, the tenant. Owing to the difficulty the referees had had in agreeing on an umpire, the time of their appointment became expired, and, according to the Act, the appointment was vested in the registrar of the county, Mr. Christopher Cheshire, who appointed Mr. Speakman.

Mr. J. H. Cooke, solicitor, of Middlewich, appeared for Mr. Jepsou; and Mr. Addison, barrister, (instructed by Messrs. Lingard and Newby, solicitors, of Manchester), appeared on behalf of Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Cooke called Mr. John Hornby, farmer, of Minshull Vernon, who stated he had known the farm during the whole of Mr. Jepsou's tenancy, and considered it greatly improved. He had acted as judge in awarding prizes offered by the Cheshire Agricultural Society, and in 1875 had given Jepsou the first prize for the best cultivated farm, in 1876 had awarded him a prize given by the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society, and again in 1878 had awarded him the first prize for the best potatoes and green crops. He knew the farm when occupied by the late owner, Mr. Knowles, who purchased it some years ago from the late Sir Henry Mainwaring. When the rent was £150 a year, Mr. Jepsou gave Mr. Simpson £270. It was formerly weak and sandy land with no "heart" in it. He considered the farm had been well and judiciously managed as much to the interest of the landlord as the tenant. In cross-examination by Mr. Addison the witnesses in a very mild form confirmed these statements.

The tenant (Mr. Jepsou) produced vouchers of the bones, artificial manures, and feeding stuffs claimed for, and pointed to the land on which the manures had been applied. It transpired that before the bones were used no notice had been given to Mr. Simpson, therefore it was argued they could not be claimed for as pointed out in class 2 improvements. Mr. Cooke contended this did not exclude him from claiming under class 3, which does not make this a condition, hence a little difficulty had to be encountered as to whether it could under the circumstances be transferred from class 2 which requires notice to class 3 which does not require notice. The item being a considerable one in the claim, great importance had to be attached to the legal rendering of the Act on this point. Class 2 gives seven years' benefit to the tenant, whereas class 3 only gives two years'.

Mr. Samuel Howard, Dunham Massey, and formerly agent for Mr. Simpson, was called on behalf of Mr. Jepsou, and confirmed the evidence given by Mr. John Hornby.

Mr. Addison next called Mr. Simpson, who stated that Jepsou not agreeing to some alterations proposed to be made in his agreement, he gave him notice to quit in March, 1878, and in the autumn (early in November) he sold his stock and immediately afterwards wanted to continue on the farm, but Mr. Simpson would not allow him after the sale of his stock, and also of all hay, straw, and green crops produced on the farm.

The present tenant confirmed Mr. Simpson in his estimate that not more than 40 to 50 tons of farmyard dung were on the premises when he entered there; and that Mr. Simpson had given him upwards of 100 tons of horse dung from Manchester to supplement this deficiency.

Mr. Egerton, a neighbouring farmer, was called, and stated that Jepsou had been in the habit of selling off his hay and straw. Other witnesses, including Mr. William Beckett, secretary to the County Agricultural Society, and Mr. Wilson surveyor, Manchester, gave evidence in support of Mr. Myatt's valuation of the annual loss to the farm by the hay, straw, and green crops being sold off the premises, depasturing seeds after the customary date, and paid for by the incoming tenant, loss in the wheat crop by the land not being previously ploughed and properly prepared for the seeds, and other elements of depreciation to the farm by non-fulfilment of the covenants of agreement.

With reference to the quantity of manure a ton of straw is calculated to make under certain conditions, a wide difference of opinion was expressed. Probably in the prospect of the many cases which are sure to arise under the Agricultural Holdings Act, some special attention will be paid to, and a reliable data arrived at, on this important matter. Mr. Speakman expressed his intention of inspecting the farm before making his award, which is looked forward to by both parties interested with some solicitude.—*Staffordshire Advertiser*.

WELL STRICKEN IN YEARS.—Margaret Robertson, or Duncan, said to be the oldest woman in Scotland, died at Cupar Angus on Tuesday. She was born in 1773. Her husband, a weaver, died fifty years ago and left her with a daughter, who is still alive and over sixty. Mrs. Duncan was a heavy smoker, and until recently, when she became blind, was in possession of all her faculties. Her last illness was of a week's duration.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.  
THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

On Wednesday, Aug. 27, the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was opened at Sheffield, the inaugural address being delivered by Professor G. J. Allmann, F.R.S., the President of the year. It was devoted to the subject of Protoplasm "as the most generalised expression of living matter."

More than forty years ago, said the Professor, the French naturalist Dujardin drew attention to the fact that the bodies of some of the lowest members of the animal kingdom consist of a structureless semi-fluid, contractile substance, to which he gave the name of sarcode. A similar substance occurring in the cells of plants was afterwards studied by Hugo von Mohl, and named by him protoplasm. It remained for Max Schultze to demonstrate that the sarcode of animals and the protoplasm of plants were identical. The conclusions of Max Schultze have been in all respects confirmed by subsequent research; and it has further been rendered certain that this same protoplasm lies at the base of all the phenomena of life, whether in the animal or the vegetable kingdom. Thus has arisen the most important and significant generalisation in the whole domain of biological science. Protoplasm lies at the base of every vital phenomenon. It is, as Huxley has well expressed it, "the physical basis of life." Wherever there is life, from its lowest to its highest manifestations, there is protoplasm; wherever there is protoplasm, there, too, is life. Its chemical composition is very complex. It may, however, be stated that protoplasm is essentially a combination of albuminoid bodies, and that its principal elements are, therefore, oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen. In its typical state it presents the condition of a semi-fluid substance—a tenacious, glairy liquid, with a consistence somewhat like that of the white of an unboiled egg. But its movements are not those of a simply physical fluid—they are spontaneous movements, resulting from its proper irritability, from its essential constitution as living matter. No one who contemplates this spontaneously living matter can deny that it is alive. Liquid as it is, it is a living liquid; organic and structureless as it is, it manifests the essential phenomena of life. The president reviewed the researches of Haeckel and Huxley, which resulted in the conviction that the slime at the bottom of the Atlantic, and named bathybus (lowest life), was protoplasm. Haeckel found near Jena simple sarcode creatures with no apparent organisation of a lower rank than the simple amœba, which has been examined by the microscope for 200 years. The amœba was, however, all important to biologists, for it affords the simplest form of nucleated cell, which is the basis of all physiological structure. In the most complex animals, however, even in man himself, the component cells, notwithstanding their frequent modification, are far from losing their individuality. Under the microscope a drop of blood freshly taken from the human subject, is seen to be composed of a multitude of red corpuscles, swimming in a nearly colourless liquid, and along with these, but in much smaller numbers, somewhat larger colourless corpuscles. The red corpuscles are modified cells, while the colourless corpuscles are cells—little masses of protoplasm. They will be seen to change their shape; they will project and withdraw pseudopodia (feelers), and creep about like an amœba. But, more than this, like an amœba they will take in solid matter as nutriment. They may be fed with coloured food, which may then be seen to have accumulated in the interior of their soft transparent protoplasm; and in some cases the colourless blood corpuscles have actually been seen to devour their more diminutive companions, the red ones. The animal egg is a true cell, consisting essentially of a lump of protoplasm enclosing a nucleus. The president then showed that it results from the researches of Mr. Geddes, Mr. Francis Darwin, Nägeli, and other investigators that there is no essential difference between this physical basis of life in plants and animals. In composition, process of growth, and development, no distinction is possible. He also recited some interesting experiments of Claude Bernard, testing the effect of chloroform and ether on plants and seeds. Bernard exposed to the vapour of ether a healthy and vigorous sensitive plant, by confining it under a bell-glass into which he introduced a sponge filled with ether. In less than half an hour the plant was in a state of anæsthesia; all its leaflets remained fully

extended, but they showed no tendency to shrink when touched. It was then withdrawn from the influence of the ether, when it gradually recovered irritability, and finally responded, as before, to the touch. It is obvious that the irritability of the protoplasm was here arrested by the anæsthetic, so that the plant became unable to give a response to the action of an external stimulus. Seeds of cress, a plant whose germination is very rapid, were placed in conditions favourable to a speedy germination, and while thus placed were exposed to the vapour of ether. The germination, which would otherwise have shown itself by the next day, was arrested. For five or six days the seeds were kept under the influence of the ether, and showed during this time no disposition to germinate. They were not killed, however, they only slept, for on the substitution of common air for the etherised air with which they had been surrounded, germination at once set in and proceeded with activity. The same great physiologist has also investigated the action of anæsthetics on fermentation. It is well known that alcoholic fermentation is due to the presence of a minute fungus, the yeast fungus, the living protoplasm of whose cells has the property of separating solutions of sugar into alcohol, which remains in the liquid, and carbonic acid, which escapes into the air. Schützenberger has shown that fresh yeast, placed in water, breathes like an aquatic animal, disengaging carbonic acid, and causing the oxygen contained in the water to disappear. That this phenomenon is a function of the living cell is proved by the fact that, if the yeast be first heated to 60° C., and then placed in the oxygenated water, the quantity of oxygen in the water remains unchanged—in other words, the yeast ceases to breathe. All this proves that the respiration of living beings is identical, whether manifested in the plant or in the animal. It is essentially a destructive phenomenon—as much so as the burning of a piece of charcoal in the open air, and, like it, is characterised by the disappearance of oxygen and the formation of carbonic acid. One of the most valuable results of the recent careful application of the experimental method of research to the life phenomena of plants is thus the complete demolition of the supposed antagonism between respiration in plants and that of animals. We have seen how little mere form has to do with the essential properties of protoplasm; but we must still go back to protoplasm as a naked formless plasma if we would find the agent to which has been assigned the duty of building up structure and of transforming the energy of lifeless matter into that of living. To suppose, however, that all protoplasm is identical where no difference cognisable by any means at our disposal can be detected would be an error. Of two particles of protoplasm, between which we may defy all the power of the microscope, all the resources of the laboratory, to detect a difference, one can develop only to a jelly-fish, the other only to a man, and one conclusion alone is here possible—that deep within them there must be a fundamental difference which thus determines their inevitable destiny, but of which we know nothing, and can assert nothing beyond the statement that it must depend on their hidden molecular constitution. It is quite true that between lifeless and living matter there is a vast difference, a difference greater far than any which can be found between the most diverse manifestations of lifeless matter. Though the refined synthesis of modern chemistry may have succeeded in forming a few principles which until lately had been deemed the proper product of vitality, the fact yet remains that no one has ever yet built up one particle of living matter out of lifeless elements—that every living creature, from the simplest dweller on the confines of organisation up to the highest and most complex organism, has its origin in pre-existent living matter—that the protoplasm of to-day is but the continuation of the protoplasm of other ages, handed down to us through periods of indefinable and indeterminable time. Yet with all this, vast as the difference may be, there is nothing which precludes a comparison of the properties of living matter with those of lifeless. When, however, we say that life is a property of protoplasm, we assert as much as we are justified in doing. Here we stand upon the boundary between life in its proper conception, as a group of phenomena which we designate a consciousness or thought, and which, however intimately connected with those of life, are yet essentially distinct from them. When the heart of a recently killed frog is separated from its body and touched with the point of a needle, it be-

gins to beat under the excitation of the stimulus, and we believe ourselves justified in referring the contraction of the cardiac fibres to the irritability of their protoplasm as its proper cause. We see in it a remarkable phenomenon, but one, nevertheless, in which we can see unmistakable analogies with phenomena purely physical. There is no greater difficulty in conceiving of contractility as a property of protoplasm than there is in conceiving of attraction as a property of the magnet. When a thought passes through the mind, it is associated, as we have now abundant reason for believing, with some change in the protoplasm of the cerebral cells. Are we, therefore justified in regarding thought as a protoplasm of these cells, in the sense in which we regard muscular contraction as a property of the protoplasm of muscle? or is it merely a property residing in something far different, but which may yet need for its manifestation the activity of cerebral protoplasm? If we could see any analogy between thought and any one of the admitted phenomena of matter, we should be bound to accept the first of these conclusions as the simplest, and as affording an hypothesis most in accordance with the comprehensiveness of natural laws; but between thought and the physical phenomena of matter there is not only no analogy, but there is no conceivable analogy; and the obvious and continuous path which we have hitherto followed up in our reasonings, from the phenomena of lifeless matter through those of living matter here comes suddenly to an end. The chasm between unconscious life and thought is deep and impassable, and no transitional phenomena can be found by which as by a bridge we may span it over; for even from irritability, to which, on a superficial view, consciousness may seem related, it is as absolutely distinct as it is from any of the ordinary phenomena of matter. That consciousness never manifest except in the presence of cerebral matter or of something like it, there cannot be a question; but this is a very different thing from its being a property in such matter in the sense in which polarity is a property of the magnet, or irritability of protoplasm. I know that there is a special charm in those broad generalisations which would refer many very different phenomena to a common source. But in this very charm there is undoubtedly a danger, and we must be all the more careful lest it should exert an influence in arresting the progress of truth, just as at an earlier period traditional beliefs exerted an authority from which the mind but slowly and with difficulty succeeded in emancipating itself. But have we, it may be asked, made in all this one step forward towards an explanation of the phenomena of consciousness or the discovery of its source? Assuredly not. The power of conceiving of a substance different from that of matter is still beyond the limits of human intelligence, and the physical of objective conditions which are the concomitants of thought are the only ones of which it is possible to know anything, and the only ones where study is of value. We are not, however, on that account forced to the conclusion that there is nothing in the universe but matter and force. The simplest physical law is absolutely inconceivable by the highest of the brutes, and no one would be justified in assuming that man had already attained the limits of his powers. Whatever may be that mysterious bond which connects organisation with mental endowments, the one great fact—a fact of inestimable importance—stands out clear and freed from all obscurity and doubt, that from the first dawn of intelligence there is with every advance in organisation a corresponding advance in mind. Mind as well as body is thus travelling onwards through higher and still higher phases; the great law of evolution is shaping the destiny of our race; and though now we may at most but indicate some weak point in the generalisation which would refer consciousness as well as life to a common material source, who can say that in the far-off future there may not yet be evolved other and higher faculties from which light may stream in upon the darkness, and reveal to man the great mystery of thought.

The address, which was delivered in Albert Hall, was well received, and, on the motion of Mr. Mark Firth, seconded by Professor Huxley, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the President. Amongst the members and visitors present were: Professor Newton, of Yale College; Viscount Duprat, Consul-General of Portugal; Commander Clement Markham, Commander Cameron, Major Serpo Pinto, Lieutenant Myles, Sir Douglas Forsyth, Abbe Renard, Mr. G. Shaw-Lefevre, LL.P., Mr. Mandella, M.P., Professor Williamson, Professor

W. Smith, Professor Hughes, and Dr. Spottiswoode, the retiring president.

The only business before the general meeting held during the afternoon was the memorial of the association to Lord Beaconsfield approving of the removal of the natural history collection to South Kensington, and of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Scientific Instruction that, together with the removal of the site, there should be a change of administration. Lord Beaconsfield, in his reply to the memorial, intimates that it is not intended to propose to Parliament any immediate change in the management of the natural history collection.

## ENGLISH AND AMERICAN FARMERS.

It was no doubt natural for an English farmer, speaking of America, to exclaim, in his perplexity, as a member of Parliament, in a speech on the motion of a Royal Commission to inquire into Agricultural depression, describes him to have done; "I wish that cursed country had never been discovered." Likewise, when printed matter of the trashiest sort is eagerly devoured by a heedless and ignorant multitude, many wise men have been tempted to wish that printing had never been discovered. But English farmers know, as well as moralists and philosophers, that every great good has its drawbacks, and that there is a remedy to each of the latter in each man's individual use of such weapons as circumstances may put within his reach. No man is really tied hand and foot—even if he be a tenant farmer under the most nefarious conditions of tenure. Emigration is a resource not less available for a farmer than for a labourer. Hitherto, two classes have especially furnished emigrants to the Colonies and other countries—the very poor, and younger sons of gentlemen, whether landowners or professional men. There is no reason why the *bona fide* farmer should not emigrate. He has the advantage which other emigrants seldom possess, that of a thorough practical knowledge of his business on a large scale. He generally has as much available capital as a younger son. What he lacks is the go-aheadness that distinguishes the latter, and the endurance which distinguishes both. The two extremes of social life are productive of harder and more Radical specimens of humanity than the middle region. Still, physical hardships are less of a burden than hopeless prospects, accumulating debts and losses, and restrictions of which it will take at least a generation to get rid, even if legislation has the courage to attack vested rights and time-honoured customs. The greatest immediate relief that will come to the farmers—and none but immediate relief is of much consequence in nine out of ten cases—will prove to be the personal friendliness and consideration of their landlords. The question that troubles real farmers most seriously, next to their present distress and indebtedness, is the likelihood of the American importations continuing or increasing. Everything seems to point to increase. Unless the wording of the new Californian Constitution should break up some of the hitherto untaxed ranches in that State, there is nothing at present that threatens to trammel the meat business. Passenger traffic is so fluctuating a source of profit that many Atlantic steam-ships largely supplement it by carrying cattle, and some, formerly passenger-ships, have taken exclusively to the latter business. The English farmer, if he cannot compete with the American, will not do wisely to rely upon time. Everything goes to show that American enterprise will make a new market for itself every season, or stimulate a new want, to create even a temporary trade. Not only are the essentials imported, such as fresh and salt meat, wheat, flour, and cheese, but apples, honey, and preserved food of all kinds; cattle food might also be imported in the future. My experience of the canned goods, English and American, is that the American are superior, and, if so, they are likely to command better prices in England. The number of articles canned is much greater in America than in England; half-tropical fruits and vegetables are available at all times of the year, and though such things will never become as important as the staple articles of food, even they make some difference in the English market. Hitherto, the enterprise of English farmers and merchants has not been equal to that of Americans; they have not been quick to turn everything and anything to account, and to shift from one line of production to the other, as popular needs or fancies shifted. In many cases the farmers have

been—and are—hampered by agreements with their landlords, but, even where this was not so, there has been a general lack of versatility and alertness, which almost amounts to a national failing. To remedy the agricultural depression as far as it is produced by American importations seems an impossibility, for it is out of the question to levy duties on the food of the masses. The personal condition of the farmer is the only point in the matter that can be touched or bettered by legislation. This must, necessarily, take time before it works a practical change in the farmer's commercial position. Meanwhile, the unpleasant circumstances of to-day have almost ruined him. Very great privations and retrenchments at home may help him a little, or he may take a new start, and throw up his farm altogether. He is seldom fit to go into business, and probably his realizable capital would only set him up in a very humble way. If he has to retrench at all, why not entertain the thought of doing so for a purpose likely to end in independence, content, and, at any rate, comparative prosperity, instead of retrenching with a blush and a consciousness of shame and defeat, as of one who has made the first step towards inevitable social extinction? If he emigrates, he goes where retrenchment is the rule, and economy so much a matter of course that social status and silver forks have no connection with each other; he will find that, in many cases, even rich men rather affect roughness of life than the reverse; if he stays at home, it is most likely that he will go steadily down, never retrieving his losses, never regaining his position, and sinking the little money he had left after giving up farming. I do not know what the conditions of acquiring land in the Colonies are, they have been often loosely described in popular literature, and we know that class disputes have arisen very similar to those beginning in California; but it is certain that the ownership of land in the Colonies is easy, whereas in England it is next to impossible, and will remain so for at least half-a-century, no matter what agitation may be raised, and what means legally resorted to to lay it open to more general competition. The climate in some parts of Australia is not suitable to some English constitutions. Canada, as a rule, though healthy, is less productive. However, the range is wide, and some suitable spot in the Colonies is easily found where Government land can be procured for a trifling money outlay. The United States has almost a new world of unclaimed lands within itself. Why should not English farmers turn Western cattle-raisers and wheat-growers themselves, and make the meat importation, that so disturbs them now, their own profitable business? Government will be grateful for an accession as responsible and respectable citizens; the land will repay them, not only in money profits, but in the consciousness and dignity of independent land-ownership, which its possession will give them. Wildernesses will be improved, and the neighbouring populations excited to a wholesome rivalry.

The laws for the acquiring of land are very liberal. The Homestead Law enables one to enter 160 acres of land, 10 miles distance from any railroad, for a registration fee of from 10 to 14 dol. (£2 to £3 sterling), on condition of residing upon and cultivating it within six months. Five years' residence upon it transfers the title to the occupier. The Timber Culture Act entitles one to acquire 40, 80, or 160 acres of Government land, on condition of setting out and nourishing a certain number of trees. This is a wise encouragement for the formation of groves on the prairies, where trees are a valuable protection from the winds, and a natural regulator of moisture.

The Pre-emption Law, which is anterior to the Homestead Law, but of which one may still avail oneself separately, enables a man to enter 80 acres within 10 miles of the railroad line, or 160 beyond that limit, on payment of 2 dol. 50 cents (about 10s.) an acre for the 80 acres, or 1 dol. 25 cents an acre for the 160, within two years from his pre-emption, provided he has lived upon the land and improved it.

The Homestead Law requires a *bona fide* intention of naturalisation. I am not certain whether the other laws do so. The railroad lands are tolerably cheap also, and in most States the law allows of aliens possessing property. Even private and partly improved lands, with dwellings and buildings on them, are cheaper at present than they have been for twenty years, land having greatly declined in value during and in consequence of the commercial depression which has only just begun to lessen.

However it is not the value of land in the Eastern and

more civilised States that is in question. The Western unimproved, cheap, and productive lands are the true field for future immigration and success. Northern Virginia also is an unparalleled wheat country, and about equally good for stock-raising, the Kentucky blue grass growing there as freely as in Kentucky itself, and the climate generally allowing cattle, on an emergency, to feed out all winter, or at least not necessitating very expensive protection from the weather. The prices of land are, however, higher than the amount of farms for sale would seem to justify. Last year a rich Englishman went to settle there, and has since induced several rich families to join him, besides organising a society for further immigration. This matter of settling in small or large colonies in an organised way, and with some kind of co-operation, is not an unimportant item in the scheme of relieving present agricultural distress by emigration of the tenant farmer class.

One thing more. The style of living among American farmers as compared with that of English farmers is very economical. Wheat bread, though common in the East, is not so much the universal rule as in England, Indian corn-flour being the most commonly used for domestic purposes, even in wheat growing States, and certainly all over the South. Many of the Eastern States have given up wheat-growing, and depend entirely on potato, hay, and Indian corn crops, besides dairying. Indian corn, in endless forms, is a chief staple of the country people. Baked potatoes and salt pork are essentials, and the fare in the Eastern States, especially, is varied by many more combinations of pastry than are common in England. Living in Texas is what Englishmen would call very rough. It is not unusual to find owners of thousands of cattle doing voluntarily without milk and butter, because "it is too much trouble to milk and churn." (Before the war this was the usual thing, and milk in Austin, the capital of Texas, came from New York, unless residents preferred to pay more than freight charges for the fresh milk within reach.) If there are farm hands to be fed, they dine with the family, and live on an equality with it. Very often there are none; the farmer and his sons do the work, and his wife and daughters *everything* about the house. Almost every article grown or made is sold, and of extravagance you seldom see any outward sign. Tobacco is one of the few luxuries bought, and the purchase of this as well as of most groceries is oftener effected by exchanging farm produce for them than by money payments. Farmers, as a rule, are a very economical class, very different from most other classes in moderate circumstances. An English traveller several years ago remarked to me that he had found the miners in Nevada, and most nondescript men he had met in country taverns among the Rocky Mountains, very fastidious and discriminating about their food, and a contrast to the generality of Englishmen in the same rank of life. I have seen carters in the Eastern cities just as difficult to please, and requiring great variety of food—as well as the best quality and a large quantity—at their meals; the same with shopmen, mechanics, and so on, and though they were not invariably as particular about the cooking, yet many were very critical. Farmers, however, whether rich or poor, are much more saving, and scarcely know what "tall" luxuries mean. Naturally the hard life they lead must be taken into account when a comparison is made between the cost of their producing marketable and exportable articles, and the corresponding cost of such produce in England, where a farmer's expenses, irrespective of rent, rates, and taxes, are more than three times as high. Whether or no the English farmer can, in England, reduce or alter his standard of domestic expenses, only himself can decide. In America this low standard of household expenditure is a decided advantage in the production of saleable food.—B. M.—Graphic.

**REDUCTION OF RENTS.**—Mr. Andrew Montague, until recently the owner of the Whiteford estate in North Cornwall, has remitted 40 per cent. of his last year's rent. The property has been purchased by the Duchy of Cornwall, which now owns most of the surrounding land.

**REMISSION OF RENTS.**—The Marquis of Cholmondeley has again made an abatement of ten per cent. on the rents of his tenantry in Norfolk. Mr. Magniac, of Colworth, Beds., has remitted 25 per cent. of the half year's rent due on Lady-day last by the farm tenants of the Colworth and Tost estates.

## HODGE'S MASTERS.

The doorway of the Jason Inn at Woolb—y had nothing particular to distinguish it from the other doorways of the same extremely narrow street. There was no porch, nor could there possibly be one, for an ordinary porch would reach half-across the roadway. There were no steps to go up, there was no entrance hall, no space specially provided for crowds of visitors; simply nothing but an ordinary street-door opening directly on the street, and very little, if any, broader or higher than those of the private houses adjacent. There was not even the usual covered way or archway leading into the yard behind, so often found at old country inns; the approach to the stables and coach-houses was through a separate and even more narrow and winding street, necessitating a detour of some quarter of a mile. The dead, dull wall was worn smooth in places by the involuntary rubbings it had received from the shoulders of foot passengers thrust rudely against it as the market people came pouring in or out or both together. Had the spot been in the most crowded district of the busiest part of the metropolis, where every inch of ground is worth an enormous sum, the buildings could not have been more jammed together, nor the inconvenience greater. Yet the little town was in the very midst of one of the most purely agricultural counties, where land, to all appearance, was plentiful, and where there was ample room and "venge enough" to build fifty such places. The pavement in front of the inn was barely eighteen inches wide, two persons could not pass each other on it, nor walk abreast. If a cart came along the roadway, and a trap had to go by it, the foot passengers had to squeeze up against the wall, lest the box of the wheel projecting over the kerb should push them down. If a great waggon came loaded with wool, the chances were whether a carriage could pass it or not; as for a waggon-load of straw that projected from the sides, nothing could get by, but all must wait—crowned panel or plain fourwheel—till the huge mass had rumbled and jolted into the more open market-place. But hard indeed must have been the flagstones to withstand the wear and tear of the endless iron-shod shoes that tramped to and fro these mere ribbons of pavements. For besides the through traffic, out from the market-place to the broad macadamised road that had taken the place and the route of an ancient Roman road, there were customers to the shops that lined each side of the street. Into some of these you stepped from the pavement down, as it were, into a cave, the level of the shop being eight or ten inches below the street, while the first floor projected over the pavement quite the edge of the kerb. To enter these shops it was necessary to stoop, and when you were inside there was barely room to turn round. Other shops were, indeed, level with the street, but you had to be careful, because the threshold was not flush with the pavement, but rose a couple of inches and then fell again, a very trap to the toe of the unwary. Many had no glass at all, but were open like a butcher's or fishmonger's. Those that had glass were so restricted for space that, rich as they might be within in the good things of the earth, they could make no "display." All the genius of a West-end shopman could not have made an artistic arrangement in that narrow space and in that bad light; for though so small below, the houses rose high, and the street being so narrow the sunshine rarely penetrated into it.

But mean as a metropolitan shopman might have thought the spot, the business done there was large, and, more than that, it was genuine. The trade of a country market town, especially when that market town, like Woolb—y, dates from the earliest days of English history, is hereditary. It flows to the same store and to the same shop year after year, generation after generation, century after century. The farmer who walks into the saddler's here goes in because his father went there before him. His father went in because his father dealt there, and so on farther back than memory can trace. It might almost be said that whole villages go to particular shops. You may see the agricultural labourers' wives, for instance, on a Saturday leave the village in a bevy of ten or a dozen, and all march in to the same tradesman. Of course in those latter days speculative men and "co-operative" prices industriously placarded, have sapped and undermined this old-fashioned system. Yet even now it retains sufficient hold to be a marked feature of country-life. To the thorough traffic, therefore, had to be added the steady

flow of customers to the shops. On a market-day like this there is, of course, the incessant entry and exit of carts, waggons, traps, gigs, four-wheels, and a large number of private carriages. The number of private carriages is, indeed, very remarkable, as also the succession of gentlemen on thoroughbred horses, a proof of the number of resident gentry in the neighbourhood, and of its general prosperity. Cart horses furnished up for sale, with straw-bound tails and glistening skins; "baaing" flocks of sheep; squealing pigs; bullocks with their heads held ominously low, some going, some returning, from the auction yard; shouting drovers; lads rushing hither and thither; dogs barking; everything and everybody crushing, jostling, pushing through the narrow street. An old shepherd who has done his master's business comes along the pavement, trudging thoughtful and slow, with ashén staff. One hand is in his pocket, the elbow of the arm projecting; he is feeling a fourpenny piece, and deliberating at which "tap" he shall spend it. He fills up the entire pavement, and stolidly plods on, turning ladies and all into the roadway; not from intentional rudeness but from sheer inability to perceive that he is causing inconvenience.

Unless you know the exact spot it is difficult in all this crowd and pushing, with a nervous dread of being gored from behind by a bull, or thrown off your feet by a sudden charge of sheep, to discover the door of the Jason Inn. That door has been open every legitimate and lawful hour this hundred years; but you will very likely be carried past it and have to struggle back. Then it is not easy to enter, for half a dozen stalwart farmers and farmers' sons are coming out; while two young fellows stand just inside, close to the sliding bar-window, blocking up the passage, to exchange occasional nods and smiles with the barmaid. However, by degrees you shuffle along the sanded passage, and past the door of the bar, which is full of farmers as thick as they can stand, or sit. The rattle of glasses, the clink of spoons, the hum of voices, the stamping of feet, the calls and orders, and sounds of laughter mingle in confusion. Cigar smoke and the steam from the glasses fill the room—all too small—with a thick white mist, through which rubicund faces dimly shine like the red sun through a fog. Some at the table are struggling to write cheques with continual jogs at the elbow, with ink that will not flow, pens that scratch and splutter, blotting paper that smudges and blots. Some are examining cards of an auction, and discussing the prices which they have marked in the margin in pencil. The good-humoured uproar is beyond description, and is increased by more farmers forcing their way in from the rear, where are their horses or traps—by farmers eagerly inquiring for dealers or friends, and by messengers from the shops loaded with parcels to place in the customer's vehicle.

At last you get beyond the bar-room door and reach the end of the passage, where is a wide staircase, and at the foot a tall eight-day clock. A maid servant comes tripping down, and in answer to inquiry replies that this is the way up, and the room is ready, but she adds with a smile that there is no one up there yet. It is three-quarters of an hour after the time fixed for the reading of a most important paper before a meeting specially convened, before the assembled Parliament of Hodge's masters, and you thought you would be too late. A glance at the staircase proves the truth of the maid's story. It has no carpet, but it is as white as well-scrubbed wood could well be. There is no stain, no dust, no foot-mark on it; no heavy shoe that has been tramping about in the mud has been up there. But it is necessary to go on or go back, and of the two the first is the lesser evil. The staircase is guarded by carved bannisters, and after going up two flights you enter a large and vacant apartment prepared for the meeting of the farmers' club. At the further end is a small mahogany table, with an armchair for the president, paper, pens, ink, blotting-paper, and a wax candle and matches, in case he should want a light. Two less dignified chairs are for the secretary (whose box, containing the club records, books of reference, &c., is on the table), and for the secretary's clerk. Rows of plain chairs stretch across the room, rank after rank; these are for the audience. And last of all are two long forms as if for Hodge, if Hodge chooses to come. A gleam of the afternoon sun—as the clouds part awhile— attracts one naturally to the window. The thickness of the wall in which it is placed must be some two or three feet, so that there is a recess on which to put your arms if you do not mind the dust, and look out. The window is half open,

and the sounds of the street come up, "baaing" and bellowing and squeaking, the roll of wheels, the tramp of feet, and, more distant, the shouting of an auctioneer in the market place, whose stentorian tones come round the corner as he puts up rickcloths for sale. Noise of man and animal below; above, here is the chamber of science, vacancy, and silence. Looking upwards, a narrow streak of blue sky can be seen above the ancient house across the way.

After awhile there comes the mellow sound of bells from the church which is near by, though out of sight; bells with a soft, old world tone; bells that chime slowly and succeed each other without haste, ringing forth a holy melody composed centuries ago. It is as well to pause a minute and listen to their voice, even in this railroad age of hurry. Over the busy market place the notes go forth, and presently the hum comes back and dwells in the recess of the window. It is a full hour after the time fixed, and now at last, as the carillon finishes, there are sounds of heavy boots upon the staircase. Three or four farmers gather on the landing; they converse together just outside. The secretary's clerk comes, and walks to the table; more farmers, who, now they have company, boldly enter and take seats; still more farmers; the secretary arrives; finally the president appears, and with him the lecturer. There is a hum of greeting; the minutes are read; the President introduces the Professor, and the latter stands forth to read his paper—"Science, the Remedy for Agricultural Depression."

Farmers, he pointed out, had themselves only to blame for the present period of distress. For many years past science had been like the voice crying in the wilderness, and few, a very few only, had listened. Men had, indeed, come to the club, but they had gone away home again, and, as the swine of the proverb, returned to their wallowing in the mire. One blade of grass still grew where two or even three might be grown; he questioned whether farmers had any real desire to grow the extra blades. If they did, they had merely to employ the means provided for them. Everything had been literally put into their hands; but what was the result? Why nothing—in point of fact, nothing. The country at large was still undrained. The very A B C of progress had been neglected. He should be a raid to say what proportion of the land was yet undrained, for he should be contradicted, called ill names, and cried down. But if they would look around them they could see for themselves. They would see meadows full of rank, coarse grass in the furrows, which neither horse nor cattle would touch. They would see in the wheat fields patches of the crop sickly, weak, feeble, and altogether poor; that was where the water had stood and destroyed the natural power of the seed. The same cause gave origin to that mass of weeds which was the standing disgrace of arable districts. But men shut their eyes wilfully to these plain facts, and cried out that the rain had ruined them. It was not the rain—it was their own intense dislike of making any improvement. The *vis inertia* of the agricultural class was beyond the limit of language to describe. Why, if the land had been drained the rain would have done comparatively little damage, and thus they would have been independent of the seasons. Look, again, at the crop; how many thousand tons of hay had been wasted because men would not believe that anything would answer which had not been done by their forefathers. The hay might have been saved by three methods. The grass might have been piled against hurdles or light frame work and so dried by the wind. It might have been pitted in the earth and preserved still green, or it might have been dried by machinery and the hot blast. A gentleman had invented a machine, the utility of which had been demonstrated beyond all doubt. But no; farmers folded their hands and watched their hay rot. As for the wheat crop, how could they expect a wheat crop? They had not cleaned the soil—there were horse hoes, and every species of contrivances for the purpose; but they would not use them. They had not ploughed deeply; they had merely scratched the surface as if with a pin. How could the thin upper crust of the earth—the mere rind three inches thick—be expected to yield crop after crop for the next hundred years? Deep ploughing could only be done by steam: now how many farmers possessed or used steam ploughs? Why, there were whole districts where such a thing was unknown. They had neglected to manure the soil; to restore to it the chemical constituents of the crops. But to speak upon artificial manure was enough to drive any man who had any power of thought into temporary insanity. It

was so utterly dispiriting to see men positively turning away from the means of obtaining good crops, and then crying out that they were ruined. With drains, steam ploughs, and artificial manure, a farmer might defy the weather.

Of course, continued the Professor, it was assumed that the farmer had good substantial buildings and sufficient capital. The first he could get if he chose, and without the second, without capital, he had no business to be farming at all. He was simply stopping the road of a better man, and the sooner he was driven out of the way the better. The neglect of machinery was most disheartening. A farmer bought one machine, perhaps a reaping machine, and because that solitary article did not immediately make his fortune he declared that machinery was useless. Could the force of folly further go? With machinery they could do just as they liked. They could compel the earth to yield, and smile at the most tropical rain or the most continuous drought. If only the voice of science had been listened to there would have been no depression at all. Even now it was not too late. Those who were wise would at once set to work to drain, to purchase artificial manure, and set up steam power, and thereby to provide themselves with the means of stemming the tide of depression. By these means they could maintain a head of stock that would be more than double what was now kept upon equal acreage. He knew full well one of the objections that would be made against these statements. It would be said that certain individuals had done all this, had deep ploughed, had manured, had kept a great head of valuable stock, had used every resource and yet had suffered. This was true. He deeply regretted to say it was true. But why had they suffered? Not because of the steam, the machinery, the artificial manure, the improvements they had set on foot; but because of the folly of their neighbours, of the agricultural class generally. The great mass of farmers had made no improvements, and, when the time of distress came, they were beaten down at every point. It was through these men and their failures that the price of stock and of produce fell, and that so much stress was put upon the said individuals through no fault of their own. He would go farther, and he would say that had it not been for the noble efforts of such individuals—the pioneers of agriculture and its main props and stays—the condition of farming would have been simply fifty times worse than it was. They, and they alone, had enabled it to bear up so long against calamity. They had resources; the agricultural class, as a rule, had none. Those resources were the manure they had put into the soil, the deep ploughing they had accomplished, the great head of stock they had got together, and so on. These enabled them to weather the storm. The cry for a reduction of rent was an irresistible proof of what he had put forth; that it was the farmers themselves who were to blame. This cry was a confession of their own incompetency. If you analysed it—if you traced the general cry home to particular people, you always found that those people were incapables. The fact was, farming as a rule was conducted on the hand-to-mouth principle, and the least stress or strain caused an outcry. He must be forgiven if he seemed to speak with unusual acerbity. He intended no offence. But it was his duty. In such a condition of things it would be folly to mince matters, to speak softly while everything was going to pieces. He repeated, once for all, it was their own fault. Science could supply the remedy and science alone; if they would not call in the aid of science they must suffer, and their privations must be upon their own heads. Science said, drain, use artificial manure, plough deeply, keep the best breed of stock, put capital into the soil; call science to their aid, and they might defy the seasons.

The Professor sat down and thrust his hand through his hair. The President invited discussion. For some few minutes no one rose; presently after a whispered conversation with his friend, an elderly farmer stood up from the forms at the very back of the room. He made no pretence to round periods, but spoke much better than might have been expected; he had a small piece of paper in his hand, on which he had made notes as the lecture proceeded. He said that the lecturer had made out a very good case. He had proved to demonstration in the most logical manner that farmers were fools. Well, no doubt, all the world agreed with him, for everybody thought he could teach the farmer. The chemist, the grocer, the baker, the banker, the wine merchant, the lawyer, the doctor, the clerk, the mechanic, the merchant, the editor, the printer, the stockbroker, the colliery owner, the ironmaster, the

clergyman, and the Methodist preacher, the very cabmen and railway porters, policemen, and no doubt the crossing-sweepers, to use an expressive Americanism, all the whole "jing-bang" could teach the ignorant jackass of a farmer. Some few years ago he went into a draper's shop to bring home a parcel for his wife, and happened to enter into conversation with the draper himself. The draper said he was just going to sell off the business and go into dairy farming, which was the most paying thing out. That was just when there came over from America a patent machine for milking cows. The draper's idea was to milk all his cows by one of these articles, and so dispense with labour. He saw no more of him for a long time, but had heard that morning that he went into a dairy farm, got rid of all his money, and was now tramping the country as a pedlar with a pack at his back. Everybody thought he could teach the farmer till he tried farming himself, and then he found his mistake. One remark of the lecturer, if he might venture to say so, seemed to him, a poor ignorant farmer of sixty years standing, not only uncalled for and priggish, but downright brutal. It was that the man with little capital ought to be driven out of farming, and the sooner he went to the wall the better. Now, how would all the grocers and other tradesmen whom he had just enumerated like to be told that if they had not got £10,000 each they ought to go at once to the workhouse? That would be a fine remedy for the depression of trade. He always thought it was considered rather meritorious if a man with small capital, by hard work, honest dealing, and self-denial, managed to raise himself and get up in the world. But, oh no; nothing of the kind; the small man was the greatest sinner, and must be eradicated. Well, he did not hesitate to say that he had been a small man himself, and began in a very small way. Perhaps the lecturer would think him a small man still, as he was not a millionaire; but he could pay his way, which went for something in the eyes of old-fashioned people, and perhaps he had a pound or two over. He should say but one word more, for he was aware that there was a thunderstorm rapidly coming up, and he supposed science would not prevent him from getting a wet jacket. He should like to ask the lecturer if he could give the name of one single scientific farmer who had prospered?

Having said this much the old gentleman put on his overcoat, and bustled out of the room, and several others followed him, for the rain was already splashing against the window panes. Others looked at their watches and seeing it was late rose one by one and slipped off. The President asked if any one would continue the discussion, and as no one rose, invited the Professor to reply. The Professor gathered his papers and stood up. Then there came a heavy rolling sound—the unmistakable boom of distant thunder. He said that the gentleman who had left so abruptly had quite misconstrued the tenour of his paper. So far from intending to describe farmers as lacking in intelligence, all he wished to show was that they did not use their natural abilities, from a certain traditional bowing to custom. They did not like their neighbours to think that they were doing anything novel. No one respected the feelings that had grown up and strengthened from childhood; no one respected the habits of our ancestors more than he did; no one knew better the solid virtues that adorned the homes of agriculturists. Far indeed be it from him to say aught—[Boom! and the rattling of rain against the windows]—aught that could—but he saw that gentlemen were anxious to get home, and would conclude. "A vote of thanks was hurriedly got over, and the assembly broke up and hastened down the staircase. They found the passage below so blocked with farmers who had crowded in out of the storm that movement was impossible. The place was darkened by the overhanging clouds, the atmosphere thick and close with the smoke and the crush. Flashes of brilliant lightning seemed to sweep down the narrow street, which ran like a brook with the storm water, the thunder seemed to descend and shake the solid walls. "It's rather hard on the Professor," said one farmer to another. "What would science do in a thunderstorm?" He had hardly spoken when the hail suddenly came down, and the round white globules rebounding from the pavement rolled in at the open door. Each paused as he lifted his glass and thought of the harvest. As for Hodge, who was reaping, he had to take shelter how he might in the open fields. Boom! flash! boom!—splash and hiss, as the hail rushed along the narrow street.—*Standard.*

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT LEEK.

A public meeting was held in the large room of Union Buildings, Leek, on Wednesday, Aug. 27, under the auspices of the recently-formed Farmers' Alliance. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Nicholson, of Leek; and there were on the platform Mr. G. W. Latham (Sandbach), Mr. J. Howard (Bedford), Mr. W. E. Bear (London), Mr. J. O. Nicholson (Macclesfield), Mr. W. S. Brough, Mr. John Hall, Mr. A. Nicholson, &c. There was a large attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said that, though not a tenant-farmer, he was not entirely out of place there, because he was a small landowner and fully sympathised with the objects sought to be obtained by the Alliance (Hear, hear). At the present time agriculture, like every other interest, was in a condition of distress, and it was evident that in more senses than one it was under the influence of bad weather. In all probability the gentlemen on the platform would point out what they conceived to be remedies for this condition of things. In the first place everybody felt the necessity of personal economy; manufacturers as well as agriculturists acknowledge this. But, beyond personal economy, it was indispensable that they should seek to secure some degree of freedom from poverty by watching with care the public expenditure (Hear, hear). They had had for five years a state of declining prosperity and there had been a large public expenditure during that time. They had in fact been spending ten millions per annum in excess of what they ought to have spent. That was a serious sum, and it was difficult for them to comprehend it, but it was easy enough for them to feel the effects of it in various ways—in the payment of income-tax, which they did not make, for instance (Hear, hear). If it be evident that there had been an extravagant expenditure it was for the tenant farmers and others to remember that the remedy rested largely with themselves at the next election (Hear, hear). It was the voter and the voter alone who would be able to turn the scales so that they could have an economical Government (Hear, hear). He trusted that whatever Government was in power they would be conservative of the pockets of the ratepayers of the country (Hear, hear).

Mr. G. W. LATHAM proposed the first resolution, as follows:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the attainment of the objects put forward by the Farmers' Alliance would be beneficial to agriculture and advantageous to the nation at large, and that for these reasons the association deserves the support not only of the farmers but of all classes of the people." He said he was no novice in the question which the resolution and the programme of the Alliance embraced. For more years than he cared to count he had been hammering at this question before Chambers of Agriculture and public meetings; and he was glad to see that the proposition which he ventured to make some 15 years ago had gone through the stage which all reforms seemed to do. The propositions were first laughed at as ridiculous, and now there were some few people who deemed them worthy of consideration; and he believed that in a few years—it might be in a few months—the great measures of reform would be carried with the universal consent of the people, the only wonder being how it was that they were not thought of 25 years ago. That was the way in which, history told them, all great reforms were carried, and he should not be surprised if land reforms, amounting practically to a revolution, should be carried to an issue with as little discussion as was bestowed on an ordinary turnpike bill in the House of Commons (Hear, hear). Now, if he wanted a text for his subject he could find one in a declaration of a noble lord who was recently president at an agricultural meeting held in his own county of Chester. He had not the noble lord's exact words, but they ran to this effect.—"Stick to your landlords; don't listen to those who are going amongst you and trying to set class against class." He believed the noble lord was thinking of and referring to the Alliance of which he (Mr. Latham) was the representative as a member of its committee; but he would tell the noble lord and those who venture to think with him that the members of the Farmers' Alliance had no desire to set class against class. Their object was to work for the good of all classes who made up the agricultural world; to benefit the landlord, the tenant-farmer, and the farm labourer; to make the income of each more certain and sure, leaving each class in its own position to rise higher and higher (Hear, hear). It was true that the immediate interests of the landlord and

tenant were often different, but their ultimate and material interests were the same, and if either of them took advantage of the other it would in the end be to his disadvantage also. To put the matter plainly, take the case of a Liverpool merchant who had to sell cotton, and the man in Manchester who had to buy it. It was manifestly to the interest of both that the cotton trade should be good, so that the purchaser of the raw cotton should be able to pay his bills and deal more largely in cotton, and that was plainly the interest of the cotton seller. The immediate interest of one was to sell at a dear price, and the other to buy at a cheap price; and he could imagine some men being shortsighted enough to sacrifice future trade for immediate interests by making a sharp bargain. That was exactly the case between landlord and tenant-farmers occasionally. The landlord in his desire to get higher rent, armed with legal presumptions which gave him the power, often collared from the tenant more than he ought to pay for the land, and this the landlord was able to do because certain laws, enacted by past generations of landowners in the House of Commons, gave the landlord an unfair advantage over the tenant, which re-acted upon the landlord, and decreased the security which those very laws were supposed to give him. What would they think if a man who sold raw cotton had the power to go after that cotton when it had gone through several processes of manufacture, and at short notice turn the man out of the property which he had improved by the manufacture, depriving him of the fruit of his money, his time, and his labour? Should they say that was fair to the other creditors? Yet it was exactly the same thing that happened in the matter of land. The landowner had, by what was called the law of hypothec in Scotland, and the law of distress in England, a right to go on a farm, in case rent was a short time overdue, and, to the exclusion of all other creditors, take the tenant's goods to satisfy himself, leaving nothing but a dividend to the other creditors. The Alliance wanted to abolish the Scotch law of hypothec and the English law of distress, because they gave an unfair advantage to landlords, and they destroyed the general confidence between the public and the tenant by giving that unfair advantage to landlords. There was an old presumption of law that whatever was put into the soil clung to the soil; that if a man built on a brick foundation, mixed up artificial manures with the soil, or enriched the land by feeding cattle liberally on cake, the landlord had a right—which, unfortunately, he frequently exercised—of giving that man notice to quit and entering into his place, without compensating him for the improvements which he had made. When a landlord took a farm from a tenant who had made these improvements, in order to let it to another for a higher rent, it was a confiscation which would not be allowed in any other trade in the world (Hear, hear). The majority of landowners would shrink from such a practice; but he would ask them if they did not know instances in which such an injustice had been done. (A VOICE: Plenty). And when it occurred it bighted the enterprise of the farmers of a whole neighbourhood (Hear, hear). Such a law ought to be swept away from the statute book (Hear, hear). Referring to the programme of the Alliance, he said the first object they should aim at was to secure a better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament. No class ever had its interests looked after till it got directly represented in the House of Commons (Hear, hear). He had observed that since Mr. Burt and Mr. Macdonald had been in Parliament as the direct representatives of working men, there had been greater interest taken in questions relating to working men, and so would the tenant farmers benefit by direct representation. The infusion of a few tenant farmers into the House of Commons would ensure their grievances being considered, and they would be very foolish not to unite and vote for tenant farmer candidates irrespective of party politics (Hear, hear). The landlords need not shrink from the discussion of questions affecting the farmers, because of course anything weak or foolish would be rejected. Since the inaugural meeting the Alliance had advanced in an extraordinary degree. Some few nights after that meeting Mr. Chaplin brought forward a proposal for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the state of Agriculture, and, with the consent of the Government, that Commission had been appointed. He trusted the results would be satisfactory, but he thought that little could be added to what they already knew. For several years the stars had been against the farmers, and the land had been less productive; trade had been bad, and corn and stock from America had been sold at

prices below those which were necessary to allow the English farmer to obtain a profit. In the progress of the debate as to the appointment of the Royal Commission, Lord Hartington said if the Commission proved that agriculture was unprofitable under the present condition, it would be necessary to inquire whether there were any other conditions under which it would be likely to be profitable; and his lordship instanced as parts of the change which would probably be considered desirable, a change in the law of entail and the law of distress. Lord Hartington was the prospective heir to 238,000 acres of land in five counties, besides other property, and did they think that his lordship would recommend those changes if he believed they were detrimental to the landlord? (A VOICE: We do not want politics). He was not speaking of Lord Hartington as leader of the House of Commons, but as heir to vast estates, who would not be likely to do anything which would injure the landlords (Hear, hear, and interruption). The difficulty in reference to these proposals had been that the great aristocracy had always mistakenly been opposed to them, and had been content with the existing state of things; but now Lord Hartington had intimated that there could be no objection to the change, and Lord Suffolk and Col. Kingscote, large landowners, had followed Lord Hartington in saying the time had come for these changes (Hear, hear). He (Mr. Latham) then referred to the question of the devolution of land under the present laws of settlement, which he contended would have to be considered before very long. He pointed out the disadvantage of the present system of entail in discouraging the owner of the soil from spending money upon it for the benefit of his eldest son at the expense of his other children. He observed that Mr. Mundella, the other day at Sheffield, gave a strong illustration of the evil of the present law. He said a baronet had recently told him that his rent roll was £40,000, but his ancestors had mortgaged the estate, and he had charges to pay to his mother and his younger brother, so that little really remained to him of the £40,000. The baronet added if he could sell one-half he could do justice to the other half of the estate, and live comfortably. He (Mr. Latham) hoped Mr. Mundella would have the baronet examined before the Royal Commission, for his testimony would be more valuable than any statistics which could be brought forward (Hear, hear). In order that justice might be done the farmers should be encouraged to return candidates of their own. As a rule, the tenant farmer did not care about politics. He followed his landlord, and exercised no independence (No, no). It was often the case. It might not be in wise Staffordshire, but it was in benighted Cheshire (laughter, and Hear, hear). He knew an estate in the county of Cheshire, the mass of tenants of which went up with the agent to vote at one election. The estate having subsequently changed hands, at the next election the same tenants went with the agent to vote for another tenant of different politics (laughter). He concluded by urging the importance of having a direct representation of candidate farmers, regardless of the opinions of the candidate on general subjects.

Mr. JOHN HALL seconded the resolution, expressing his belief that though the times were bad the farmers would go through the ordeal successfully. There were certain unjust laws which operated prejudicially to the farmers, and if they could get those laws abrogated the farmers of England would be able to compete successfully against all comers (Hear, hear).

The CHAIRMAN gave a general invitation to anyone to go on the platform to oppose the resolution, observing that a little opposition would do good; and Mr. GEORGE BRADFORD (Hanley) intimated, amidst laughter, that the opposition would come "just now." Only three hands, however, were held up against the resolution when it was put to the meeting. It was consequently carried.

Mr. JAMES HOWARD, in an able speech, proposed the next resolution—"That the farmers of this country are inadequately represented in Parliament, and that, therefore, immediate steps should be taken in every county to bring forward at least one tenant farmer as a candidate to stand at the next election." He observed that while the depression of manufactures and commerce arose from over-production the depression in agriculture arose from under-production, and their fields were languishing for the want of some of the wealth which was squandered on other countries. Agriculture was so essential to the well-being of the whole community that they could no longer afford to neglect that

great and important interest. The annual value of the produce of the farmers was from £250,000,000 to £300,000,000 sterling, and every impediment to the improvement of that interest should be swept away (Hear, hear). He reviewed the laws which had been passed from time to time affecting the agricultural interest, argued that those who cultivated the soil should have a share in making the laws for regulating the management of the soil, and urged them to vote at the next election for a tenant farmer, or some one who sympathised with tenant farmers (applause). Mr. Hantury, M.P., had that week expressed a belief that the Royal Commission would tend to the amelioration of the condition of the farmer, and that the prospects of agriculture were brightening. He (Mr. Howard) had not met with a single practical farmer whose spirits had been at all elated by the appointment of the Commission, nor did he think there was a practical man who believed the Commission would be able to throw additional light on the present condition of agriculture. The Royal Commission was a subterfuge, and it would end, as all farmers' inquiries of the same sort had ended, in the publication of blue books two or three years hence, which very few people would take the trouble to read (laughter, and Hear, hear). Still he had confidence in the future of agriculture in England.

Mr. W. S. BROUGH said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution, because he believed the prosperity of the country largely depended on the prosperity of the agricultural interest. He believed also that the tenant farmers had grievances, and that the programme of the Alliance, if carried out in its entirety, would do more than anything he knew of to remove those grievances. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the result of the meeting would be that many, like himself would be induced to join the Alliance. Then when such proposals as the Alliance put forth to stimulate the improved cultivation of land, especially the proposal for obtaining security for capital, was carried, there would be a brighter day for agriculturists. (Applause.) He trusted that that day would come before long. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BEAR (London) supported the resolution, expressing the opinion that British farmers would be able to hold their own against competition abroad if they had a fair field and equitable laws.

Mr. GEORGE BRADFORD (Hanley) then ascended the platform, and announced that he was not like the previous speakers, but he was a tenant farmer, and he would tell them that agricultural depression and the poverty of farmers constituted too sacred a matter to be bandied about by politicians. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The first thing the chairman said had reference to the coming election. He respected the chairman in his private capacity, but took exception to his political life. Then as to public expenditure, he was not aware that public expenditure had anything to do with the agriculture of England. (Oh, oh, and laughter.) The farmers had nobody there to speak for them, and he took upon himself to advocate their cause. He wanted to know how it was possible for the tenant farmers to sell articles below their cost price? (Hear, hear.) They were suffering from depression brought about by various causes, one of which was the particularly bad seasons they had had of late years. (Hear, hear.) But there was another cause: a farmer could not get the cost price of the articles he produced. The manufacturers would soon come to grief if they sold their articles at less than they cost them. (Hear, hear.) And agriculturists must soon come to grief unless they could compete with those who at present undersold them. With excellent cheese at 2d. per lb., and beef at 7½d. per lb., imported from foreign countries, he would ask the Alliance how the English farmers were to make profit. (Hear, hear.) There would be something practical in that, and it would be better than coming and speaking about faults and failings of a political body. With regard to the landowner, he ought not to be held up to scorn because he took advantage, as other people did, of the law. It was just the same in the commercial as in the agricultural world. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Bradford went on to refer to the Agricultural Holdings Bill, which, he said, would have been carried if the Radicals had had the slightest wish to have supported it.

Mr. HOWARD.—It is law. (Laughter and applause.) It shows the gentleman does not understand what he is talking about. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BRADFORD.—It is not compulsory.

Mr. LATHAM.—That is what we complain of. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Bradford said he was not going to contend that the landlords had no faults; but there was no difference between Whigs, Tories, and Radicals. (Laughter and applause.) What he objected to was that the Alliance should hold Conservative landlords up to ridicule.

The CHAIRMAN protested that that was not the object of the Alliance, and he called upon Mr. Bradford to keep to the mark.

Mr. BRADFORD said he had heard so many points not to the mark that he did not know which to select from. The Alliance was allied to the National Reform Union.

Mr. HOWARD said that was a libel on the Farmers' Alliance. The Alliance had no more to do with the Reform Association than with Timbuctoo. (Hear, hear.) It was clear that the gentleman was speaking on a subject that he did not understand. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. BRADFORD.—If I have made a mistake I will apologise —(hear, hear)—but I don't think I have. (Laughter.) Mr. Bradford went on to speak as to the value of the agricultural produce and the farmers' capital; and he asked what did Mr. Read say in the House of Commons when he was insulted by the friend of this Alliance, Mr. John Bright. Mr. Read was a farmer's friend, and he liked farmers' friends of the right sort, not like Mr. Latham, who, if he got into Parliament, would do something else than what would be for the best interest of the farmer. (Laughter, and hear, hear.) The farmers required friends, and not secret enemies. That was what they had to guard against. (Applause and interruption.)

Mr. BEAR said Mr. Latham had for many years been one of the ablest and most earnest champions of the tenant farmers' interests he had ever known, and it was a gross and unwarrantable insult to accuse him of being their secret enemy. (Applause.)

The resolution was put and carried, only five hands being held up against it.

Mr. BRADFORD proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Mr. HOWARD in seconding the resolution, said: I affirm that the Farmers' Alliance is not party-political in any sense. Our motto is "Agriculture first; politics after." It is not our business to come here to tell farmers how to conduct their business, but to express our views that the farmers of England have not been held in sufficient respect by the Government of the country.

The motion was carried with acclamation, and the proceedings terminated.

TWO NEW METALS.—A correspondent writes:—"The discovery of two new metals is announced, named Samarium and Norwegium. Paradoxical as it may sound to speak of the finding and christening of a hitherto unknown metal before it has been either seen or handled, yet such is the case with Samarium. As happened in the instance of the metal Gallium, it has first become known to science by means of the spectrum analysis alone; nor can it be doubted that in the verification of its existence by the senses it will in due time follow the same precedent. It is well known that by means of the characteristic rays which are seen in the luminous spectrum produced by the combustion of any substance it is possible to single out the known or unknown bodies which enter into the combination. As are the rays, such are the elements producing them. When rays are found answering to no substance already catalogued, the existence of some new body is naturally inferred from the fact. That was how Gallium was first brought to light, and now we have a like history for Samarium. M. Lecco de Boisbaudran, who has greatly distinguished himself by his researches in this branch of science, found, as he was examining a mineral known under the name of Samarkite, an emission of unfamiliar rays. He has inferred thence the existence in this mineral of a new metal which he has accordingly named Samarium, and all he has now to do is to isolate it from the other elements with which it is as yet combined. This has already been done for the other new metal, Norwegium, patriotically so named after his fatherland by its discoverer, Professor Tellef-Dahl, of the University of Norway, who detected it in a metallic compound of arsenic and nickel. The professor has even determined the principal properties of his new metal, which he describes as being white, slightly malleable, of about the hardness of copper, and fusible at a dull red heat. Its density is represented by 9.44, and its chemical equivalent is 145."

## MR SHAW LEFEVRE ON AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

At the Meeting of the British Association on August 26, in the Economic Science Section,

Mr. MUNDELLA, M.P. took the chair, and read the address which Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., had prepared before the lamented death of his father which has prevented his assuming the presidency of this section. In his paper, Mr. Lefevre said:—"There can scarcely be a more interesting economic question at the present time than the state of agriculture and the causes of its present depression. How deeply important is it that we should be able to trace the causes of that depression, to analyse how far they are of a climatic and temporary character, and how far they are due to the competition of foreign produce; to what extent also the low prices are due to the alteration in value of gold; and having ascertained this, to discuss how far we may expect these causes, or any of them, to continue or to diminish in their effect, and to estimate their ultimate effects upon rents, on wages, and on the profits of farmers, and indirectly upon other interests of the community. Pending the investigations of the Royal Commission recently appointed to consider the subject, it may seem almost an act of temerity to venture upon it; but the report of the Commission will probably not be forthcoming for two years; in the meantime events will not wait for it, and it is desirable that every light should be thrown upon the subject by independent criticism and observation. I feel also that I owe no apology for so doing, for although the community in which we meet is essentially a manufacturing one, yet it will be admitted that the depression of a great interest like that of agriculture has a serious import and effect upon every other interest in the country, and is probably at this moment one of the causes of the stagnation which is so much complained of in the manufacturing world. It must be admitted most freely that the agricultural interest, or at least a large part of it, has suffered severely during the last few years from a combination of bad harvests and low prices. These phenomena are especially to be noted since the year 1873; of the six years including and following that year four have been years of exceptionally bad harvests, giving results of from 20 to 25 per cent. below the average, and for the whole period the average production of cereals has been 13 per cent. below the average. In the memory of living men there has been no such concurrence of bad seasons. Bad harvests, however, in previous years were generally followed by higher prices, which recouped the producers to a great extent for the deficient quantity; but bad harvests during the last six years have not only not been followed by higher prices, but, in the case of wheat at least, prices have fallen still lower, and the consequence has been most serious to those who rely mainly on this cereal. But when, in addition to the low price of wheat, we take into account the reduced acreage of corn cultivation, the reduced number of cattle owned in the country, notwithstanding the greatly increased price of meat, and the rise of wages of agricultural labourers which occurred in 1872, we can easily realise the great losses of those farmers who rely mainly upon corn for their returns, and who cultivate the heavy and inferior lands of this country. The produce of wheat is so important a part of the agricultural industry of so large a proportion of the country, that it may be taken as to a great extent an index of the position of agriculture; its abundance and price are also of not less interest to the bulk of the population of this country, who rely upon it mainly for their food. It is worth while, therefore, to pay special attention to this product. The position of the producer with respect to it may best be estimated by multiplying the known average produce per acre in each year by the average price obtained for it in the twelve months succeeding the harvest. I have before me a table constructed on this basis, showing the average product in money per acre of wheat for each year since 1849. It shows that for the first four of these years following shortly after the repeal of the Corn laws the production of wheat must have been anything but profitable to farmers; the harvests were somewhat above the average, but the prices were very low, averaging only 41s. per quarter, and the result in money to the farmer for an average acre of produce was only £7 9s.; after that year prices again rose, and for the next twenty years the average product per acre in money

was £0 13s., or £2 4s. per acre above that of the four years succeeding 1849. During these twenty years it is to be observed that the price of wheat as a general rule varied inversely as the quantity produced. In other words a very good harvest was succeeded by lower prices than the average, a bad harvest was followed by higher prices, and the farmer was compensated in a great degree by a higher price for the deficiency of the harvest. Thus in 1863, the best harvest of the period, the production was 41 per cent. in excess of the average, and the price fell to 40s. 11d. per quarter, the result to the farmer being £10 0s. 6d. per acre; and in 1867 the harvest was the worst of the period, 28 per cent. below the average, but the price rose to 65s. 4d. per quarter, giving a result to the farmer of £8 17s. per acre. In 1873 we observed a marked change in this relation between quantity and price, and it is obvious that some causes must have operated from that time to depress prices to a very marked degree. Unfortunately for the producers, the six years which followed 1873 have been years of very serious deficiency of production; as already shown, the harvests have been 13 per cent. below the average. In lieu, however, of rising in proportion to this deficiency, the price of wheat has fallen somewhat lower than on the average of previous years. It has been 49s. 7d. per quarter, as compared with 55s. 5d., the average of the previous six years of good harvests; the result, therefore, in product per acre has been an average for the six years of only £7 9s., or exactly the average of the four years 1849-52, while the average of the last four years has been even lower, namely, £7 4s. 5d. per acre, or £2 8s. 6d. per acre below the average of the twenty years from 1853 to 1872. It is obvious from these figures that the reduced product per acre is due, not merely to the deficient quantity, but also to a fall of prices; and so far from the prices having risen in inverse proportion to the bad harvests, there has been a distinct tendency to fall in spite of the bad harvests. From these figures it is easy to estimate how great has been the deficiency to the producers of wheat upon their average crops of the last six years. The present extent of wheat production in the United Kingdom is about 3,300,000 acres, and compared with the average of the previous twenty-four years, including the bad years succeeding 1849, the last six show a reduction of gross product of about £2 per acre, equal to an annual reduced gross return of £6,600,000. For the six years, then, the reduced return to the producers of this cereal has been £9,600,000. It is quite clear, then, that the position of those farmers who rely upon wheat for their main profit, and who have suffered most from the wet seasons of the last few years, has been very serious, and the prospect of another bad harvest must be most discouraging to them. Before, however, we examine the causes of this, and speculate as to the future, let us look at the question from the point of view of the consumers. To the public, who are the consumers, the failure of the harvest is a matter of as much regret as to the producers. It is the interest of all that the product should be plentiful. It cannot, however, be said to be equally the interest of all that the price of wheat should be high, or even that it should rise in proportion to the deficiency of harvest. If the increased price were paid wholly to the producers of this country, the money would at least remain here and be circulated again among the community; but as the greater part of the wheat consumed now comes from abroad, a rise in value not only raises the price to the home producer but also to the foreign producer, and the increased price paid by the consumer is so much loss to the country as a whole. For many years past the proportion of importations to the home production of wheat has been increasing. Thirty years ago we imported little more than one-fourth of our total consumption; during the last six years we have imported considerably more than the half our total wants. Comparing the last six years with the previous six years, it will be observed that the proportions of home growth and foreign imports have been reversed; in the first period we produced 12,000,000 qrs. and imported 10,000,000; in the second period we produced 10,000,000 and imported 13,000,000 qrs. The price of wheat has averaged during the last six years 6s. per quarter less than the previous six years. The consumer, therefore, has been saved that much on each year on the total average consumption of 23,000,000 quarters, or a sum of £6,900,000 a year, a saving nearly sufficient to pay for the excess importations,

a comparison with the previous six years. But this is not the whole of the case; if the price of wheat had risen during the last six years in inverse proportion to the deficiency of product, as it has already been pointed out was generally the case in the previous twenty years, it is easy to show that the average price during the six years would have been 62s. 6d. per quarter, in lieu of 49s. 6d., a difference of 13s. per qr. This increase would have been paid by the consumer upon the average consumption during the six years of 23,139,000 quarters, making an increased charge to the community of about £15,000,000 in each year; and of this £6,550,000 would have gone to the home producer in each year, and £8,450,000 to the foreign producer. For the six years, therefore, the home producer would have gained £39,000,000, and nearly £51,000,000 would have been paid away to the foreign producer in excess of what was actually paid. It is clear, therefore, that the country, as a whole, has very greatly benefited by the low price of wheat: and it is not too much to say that had this additional sum been paid away for wheat during the last few years of depression, in addition to proportional increased payments for other food supplies, the commercial depression would have been greatly aggravated. The low price of food has unquestionably been the chief cause that the working classes have passed through the period of commercial depression with so little general suffering. It has also been the cause that one of the three great classes which make up the agricultural community, namely, the labourers, have been better off during the last six years than they have been during any period in the last century. Not only did they succeed, in 1872, in asserting a rise of wages, but their money wages have, owing to the low price of wheat, gone much further. A rise of 13s. per quarter of wheat would have almost neutralised the rise of money wages. A consideration of these facts will, I think, show how immensely the country gains by the low price of wheat, and that such gain is altogether out of proportion to any loss which may be incurred by the producers in this country of that proportion of the consumption which they are able to produce. It will also show how impossible must be the attempt to revert to any expedient for artificially raising the price of wheat in the interest of the home producers. Any arguments there may have been 30 years ago in favour of such a course are multiplied tenfold at the present time, when the proportion of imports to home produce is so greatly altered. The great surplus of unemployed labour has during the last five years been transferred from the manufacturing districts and great towns in the Atlantic States to the new districts opened out by the railway extension of the previous years. The cultivation, therefore, of corn in these newly opened out fields has increased at a ratio never before experienced. The new railways, constructed before there was population or trade to supply them, stimulated this new settlement by lowering their traffic rates to a minimum; the commercial depression operated upon the steam-carrying trade across the Atlantic in the same manner, and greatly lowered freights; coincident with this movement there has been a succession of abundant harvests in America, while this country was suffering from such deficient harvests. So great a movement in the direction of increased cultivation of the surface of the earth has probably never been yet experienced in so short a period, nor has there ever been so rapid and great a reduction of the cost of transit, both by land and sea. The excess production of the American States and Canada beyond the wants of their own population is at the present time sufficient, in average harvests on both sides of the Atlantic, to supply the whole excess wants of this country; and the actual acreage under wheat cultivation is nearly ten times the extent under similar cultivation in this country. In view of these facts, who can be surprised that the price of wheat in this country should have been so profoundly affected? The result of the movement in the States during the last eight years, of the vast extension of cultivation, combined with the cheapening of the cost of transit, has been almost to annihilate the distance between the two countries, and to subordinate the production in this country to the vastly greater production on the other side of the Atlantic. It has rendered us comparatively indifferent, so far as our interests as consumers are concerned, whether we have good or bad harvests in this country, and a complete command over the markets here has been given to the vastly greater production of the Far West. Is it, then, to follow that the cultivation of wheat in this country is, in the future, to become impossible, because unprofitable? Is the

price to be so permanently reduced as to prevent its cultivation upon any but the very best soils? It is, I think, premature to form any such conclusion. If I were to venture a prediction on so difficult and obscure a question, I would incline to the opinion that wheat has during the past year reached its lowest point; that we have felt the maximum of the effect of the recent great extension of corn production in the Far West; that with the revival of trade, the increase of population both here and in the States, and the tendency to reduced cultivation of wheat in this country, there will be a rise in the price of wheat; and that, coupled with better harvests in this country, or, at least, a return to average harvests, we may find the product to the farmer in money such that the difference as compared with the past is capable of adjustment by a comparatively slight reduction of rent and wages. It may be worth while to point out that the competition of the Far West has told upon other lands much nearer to it than our own country. The farming interest of the New England States, and even of some of the other Atlantic States, has been much affected by it during the last few years. If the competition of the great corn-fields of the Far West has thus told upon States so near at hand, it is to be expected that some of its effects would be felt in this country. Although the position of the farming interest for the twenty years preceding 1873 was satisfactory and fairly prosperous, yet it was certainly not progressive. The cultivation of wheat has gradually diminished and the breeding and feeding of cattle has been substituted for it; the dependence of this country upon foreign produce for its food has every year become greater; the number of persons employed in agriculture has remained stationary, and their proportion to the rest of the population has been continually diminished. The whole increase of population during the last forty years has been absorbed in other pursuits than agriculture. In 1831 23 per cent. of the population of England and Wales was occupied in the business of agriculture; the proportion is now less than one-tenth; and great as still is the importance of the agricultural interest as compared with any other, its relative importance to the whole manufacturing and commercial interests of this country is greatly changed. That, notwithstanding this, the wealth of the country has increased by enormous leaps and bounds in the interval is indisputable, and especially was this the case in the few years preceding 1873. That we have been able to provide for a population increasing by about three millions in every ten years, without any increase of territory, and with a somewhat reduced agricultural industry; that we have been able to turn the tide of pauperism, and to reduce it considerably as compared with the past, is a most striking fact, and strong testimony to the soundness of our general system. It may be that the enormous agricultural development in America will drive us further on the same road; but that it will permanently injure the economic condition of this country as a whole is not to be believed. If, then, I am right in my explanation of the agricultural depression, it may be connected not remotely with the depression which has weighed so heavily upon commerce and manufactures also during the last five years. Both are probably due, in the main, to causes operating over a great area and over a long period, and are indications of the flow of the great tide of population and cultivation advancing over the great plains of America. The collapse of credit in 1873, and the consequent discredit and depression, has been much more felt on the other side of the Atlantic than on this. The imports of the States fell off enormously; the investment there of foreign capital wholly ceased. In this country we have felt severely the temporary loss of our largest customer for our exports; but our other customers in every part of the world have made up for the bulk of our exports though not for their value. I am confident, however, it will be found, on making a comparison between this country and others, that we have passed through the period of depression with infinitely less suffering to the bulk of the people, and with less real loss of capital, than in any other part of the world—excepting, perhaps, France, which has been saved by the extraordinary thrift of her working population; and that free imports and consequent low prices have saved the labouring classes from what would otherwise have been a period of far greater distress to them. Already there are symptoms of revival in that quarter from whence the principal cause of the depression issued. All accounts from America testify to the improved condition of trade, to the

fact that the immense extension of agriculture is producing its natural effect in reviving a demand for manufacturing products which her own workshops will soon be unable to supply. It appears to me, then, that it would be a most useless waste of time and energy to expend efforts in trying to reverse the commercial system established by Sir Robert Peel in 1846, or in making inquiries with a view to return to exploded fallacies and obsolete systems; but it is a time when attention having been so much directed to the condition of agriculture, we may with great advantage inquire whether the conditions under which it is carried on in this country are such as to attract and encourage to the utmost the application of capital and labour to the land; whether a system of tenure which seems calculated to forbid the combination of ownership and occupation, to prevent security for improvements effected by the occupier, and to accumulate land in the hands of persons who are frequently unable to afford capital for its improvement, is the best suited for the development of agricultural industry. Although changes in such a system may not be fraught with immediate remedies for present depression, and may not affect the price of produce, yet they may tend ultimately to place the cultivators in a better position to meet the varying conditions of the future which in agriculture, as in other trades, must be expected to present alternate periods of prosperity and loss."

At the conclusion of the reading of this address, a discussion took place. It was opened by Mr. F. BRITAIN (Sheffield), who, alluding to the painful circumstances which had caused the absence of the author, moved a vote of thanks. The paper was most valuable, and furnished material for much thought. Sheffield was under great obligations to Mr. Lefevre, and Mr. Mundella also, for their services in Parliament with respect to the preservation of Maitby-common for the recreation of the people.

Mr. J. BRYWOOD, in seconding the motion, remarked that the paper refuted the idea that its author had deserted the principles of Free Trade.

Mr. HERWORTH DIXON supported the motion on the ground that years ago Mr. Lefevre and himself had travelled largely in America, living in the same tent, lodging now with manufacturers, and now with outlying miners. On one occasion they nearly fell into a trap, which, however, turned out quite the reverse. They fell in with a powerful Congressional Board, bent upon demolishing the whole fabric of Free Trade, of which Mr. Lefevre and himself were earnest advocates. They were invited to go up into the great iron district of Pennsylvania, to see for themselves the material reasons why that State at least could never be converted to the doctrines of Free Trade. They were hospitably treated, they were regaled with good dinners, and made, as they thought, excellent speeches. They stood manfully by their flag, and he believed dropped some good seed, the results of which lasted to this day in those great iron manufacturing districts of Pennsylvania. He expressed great gratification that his young companion of that day was now president of this section of the British Association and also president of the Statistical Society.

### IMPROVED AGRICULTURE.

Although, as agents for the sale of land, we have a natural sympathy with the landowner, we cannot agree with landlords' agents who, in the face of present difficulties, will make no effort to improve the system of agriculture, but who continue to think that good seasons alone are a sufficient remedy, and so persevere in the old paths of restrictive covenants and the ancient style of farming. We must advance with the times; and while improvements are effected in the conduct of every manufacture, trade, and, we may say, profession, why should it be thought that no improvement is possible in agriculture?

We believe that landowners are best served by those who advocate a reform, or, in other words, improvements in the style of cultivation; for what enhances production enhances the rental value, and, consequently, the selling value.

We believe that in the long run the agricultural troubles will be a great advantage to the landowner. The first step of the Royal Commission, in sending immediately Mr. Clare Sewell Read and Mr. Albert Pell to the United States of America and Canada, will no doubt be a means of affording us information of immense importance, and, in the meantime, the consultation of the various Chambers of Agriculture

throughout the country are continually supplying interesting information and strongly expressed opinions bearing evidence corroborative of the suggestion made by Mr. W. E. Bear, in his paper in the *Nineteenth Century*, that the solution of the difficulty lies in agricultural reform.

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We believe the present agricultural troubles will result in much benefit to the agricultural interest generally. Adverse seasons, occurring simultaneously with the discovery that much of our grain produce can be grown cheaper abroad, is stirring up thoughtful men to advocate such changes in the system of agriculture as to meet the variances of necessity, and thus an all-wise Providence is preparing for a future blessing by the only way in which men will learn. Necessity has ever been, and ever will be, the mother of invention. A ship wrecked on our rocks is the cause of the erection of a lighthouse, whereby many shipwrecks are avoided; a famine in India, through want of rain, causes the formation of canals and aqueducts, which are of untold value to many thousands; a ship in distress off our shores causes the creation of the Lifeboat Institution, with a supply of lifeboats and life-saving apparatus all round our coasts, whereby many valuable lives are saved every year. The sacrifice of life and the endurance of suffering, throughout all history, whether personal or national, has been afterwards recognised as a necessity, because of the blessing it has brought about. It has been through hardship, trial, and great difficulties that the most momentous works for the good of the world have been accomplished, alike in social, religious, and national life.—*Estates Roll*.

### IRISH BUTTER PRODUCTION.

The production of fine butter requires a combination of natural and artificial advantages. The natural ones are in the soil and climate, and whatever country possesses certain conditions in the greatest degree must be *par excellence* the best butter producing country. The finest butter can only be made when the cattle are fully grass fed, and when they are in good health and condition, not exposed to great heat or to great cold. The effect of great heat is to put the cattle out of condition, to parch up the grass, and to rapidly decompose the milk. Extreme cold, on the other hand, even if it does not cause the pastures to be covered with snow, which of course stops all grass feeding, has the effect of reducing the supply of milk, and stops vegetation. It follows, then, that for the production of fine butter the country that possesses a climate the most moderate and equable is the best.

In this respect Ireland, particularly the Southern or Munster portion, has an exceptionally favourable position, in fact one that is unique in the physical geography of the world. The climate of Munster is kept at a higher temperature in winter, and at a lower temperature in summer than places in the same latitude, and this effect is produced by one and the same cause, paradoxical as this may seem. The warm vapours from the Gulf Stream which breaks on its southern shores raise the winter temperature, and the copious rains and fog which proceed from them in summer reduce it, thus giving to Munster the most equable climate and the longest period of the year for grass feeding.

The best pasture is the moderately dry, friable soil, not over rich, and certainly not too poor. Land that is too rich produces over rich butter, and some of the virgin soils of America where the accumulated decaying vegetation of ages has formed a depth of rich soil that never requires manure, produce butter of an oily richness and of that peculiar taste that is a characteristic of American butter. When butter is of extreme richness it will not keep well, and soon becomes rancid. The sweetest butter, and that which retains its fine taste longest unimpaired, is that produced on well drained upland pastures. A great part of the Munster butter district is of this nature, and the tourist who goes from Cork to Killarney by Glengarriffe or up the beautiful Blackwater—the Irish Rhine—or on many a less frequented route, may see the dairies perched upon the hill sides and the green pastures spread out like a vast map before his eyes, dotted with cattle, which in many a sheltered dell or southern hillside, protected from the northern blast, can remain out nearly the whole winter through.

In these mountain dairies of Munster is made some of the finest butter in the world, possessing a peculiarly delicious flavour which is at once appreciated by the refined palate as

the true butter flavour so rare nowadays, and not to be found on the overworked and negatively tasted foreign butters, or on the excessively rich produce of fat lowland soils. This butter, when well and closely packed and moderately salted, keeps fine for a long time, and can be sent to all parts of the world, retaining its good quality in all climates. It was this butter, exhibited by Mr. T. J. Clanchy, of Cork, under the red star brand, that won the only Gold Medal for salt butter at the great Concours de Laitière of all nations held in the Universal Exhibition of Paris, 1873, the French jury selecting it for their highest prize in preference to all other exhibits of salt butter, either French or foreign. There could not possibly be a more conclusive testimony to its excellence than the unbiased verdict of these well-trained experts, among whom were some of the best judges and of the foremost leaders of the French butter industry.—*Grocers' Journal*.

**THE LARGEST TREE IN THE WORLD.**—There is at present on exhibition in New York a section of an immense tree which has been brought from California. The *New York Herald* says:—"The wonderful specimen of nature's handiwork was discovered in 1874. It was growing in a grove near Tule River, Tulare county, California, about 75 miles from Visalia. Its top had been broken off, probably at some remote period, and when discovered it was still 240 ft. high. The body of the tree where it was broken was 12 ft. in diameter, and had two limbs measuring respectively 9 ft. and 10 ft. in diameter. The trunk measured below 111 ft. This ancient monarch of the forest is called "Old Moses," after a mountain near which it stood. It is supposed to be 4,840 years old, and it is the largest tree that has ever been discovered. The section on exhibition is 75 ft. in circumference, and 25 ft. across. It is capable of holding 150 people in its interior. The interior, as it is now fitted up, is arranged like a drawing room. A carpet has been laid down; there is a piano, sofa, tables and chairs, with scenes from California hung around, and people move about quite freely."

**KILLING THE DEVIL.**—A young girl from the country on a visit to Mr. H.—, a Quaker, was prevailed on to accompany him to the meeting. It happened to be a silent one, none of the brethren being moved by the spirit to utter a syllable. When Mr. H. left the meeting house with his young friend he asked her, "How dost thou like the meeting?" To which she pettishly replied, "Like it, why, I can see no sense in it; to go and sit for whole hours together, without speaking a word—it is enough to kill the devil." "Yes, my dear," rejoined the Quaker, "that is just what we want."

**PRESENCE OF MIND.**—Under this heading the *Scientific American* quotes the following short rules given by Professor Wilder for action in the case of accidents:—"For dust in the eyes—avoid rubbing, dash water into them. Remove cinders, &c., with the round point of a lead pencil. Remove insects from the ear by tepid water; never put a hard instrument into the ear. If any artery is cut, compress above the wound. If a vein is cut, compress below. If choked get upon all fours and cough. For light burns, dip the part in cold water; if the skin is destroyed cover with varnish. Before passing through smoke, take a full breath, and then stoop down; but if carbon is suspected—walk erect. Suck a poisoned wound, unless your mouth is sore; enlarge the wound, or better, cut out the part without delay. Hold the wounded part, as long as can be borne, to a hot coal, or end of a cigar. In case of poisoning, excite vomiting by tickling the throat, or by water or mustard. In case of poison poison, give strong coffee and keep moving. If in the water, float on the back, with the nose and mouth projecting. For apoplexy raise the head and body. For fainting, lay the person flat. "Brevity is the soul of wit," so the professor's maxims have, at least, the merit of being short; and perhaps many will think that some of them are more easily preached than practised—to wit, floating on your back in the water when you cannot swim, and cutting off your own finger, or putting into the wound a live coal, when you have been bitten by a mad dog.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

**MR. PROUT'S HUSBANDRY.**

SAWBIDGEWORTH, August 25.

Five years, including four deficient harvests, having passed since the *Times* published a report of Mr. Prout's remarkable experience in continuous corn-growing, I have visited Blount's Farm, near this place, for the purpose of judging whether or not his system can really be maintained in the face of cheap imports and through a succession of adverse seasons. It is true that experimental half-acre plots at Rothamsted have proved with scientific precision the practicability of taking perpetual wheat or barley crops on a loamy soil fed with artificial manures without any aid from farmyard dung, any resting of the land by fallow, or restoration of fertility through the intervention of green crops; but here it is not experiment; it is business; hundreds of acres of corn at a time follow after corn, and we have before us the commercial results for 18 years.

Four years—namely, 1862 to 1865—were occupied in the execution of permanent improvements, draining, making outfalls, reservoirs, and roads, and in the removal of miles of internal hedgerows, throwing the farm of 450 acres into nine principal fields; and the cropping was only such as gave full scope for cleansing the land, at that time in a very foul condition, and for deep steam tillage and sub-soiling. Then came 14 years—namely, 1866 to 1879—in which on an average about six-sevenths of the whole surface have been annually under corn, and about one seventh clover or sainfoin hay, the crop, both grain and straw and hay, being sold off the farm by public auction. On the first four years there was a small loss; but the 13 years ending 1878 have yielded a very good return for tenants' capital engaged.

The average yearly expenditure stands thus:—

Rent, 3½ per cent. on £16,000 purchase money, legal expenses, &c. ....	£560
Landlord's improvements, interest 5 per cent. on £1,500 .....	225
Tenant's improvements, interest 5 per cent. on £2,700 .....	135
Title rent charge, rates, taxes .....	220
Seed corn .....	172
Clover, sainfoin, ryegrass, and other seeds .....	25
Manures .....	1,081
Manual labour .....	501
Bailiff's salary .....	100
Keep of six farm horses, at £30 .....	180
Wear and tear and interest on ditto, at 10 per cent. on £240 .....	24
Implements, harness, &c., for horse and hand work, interest and wear and tear at 10 per cent. on £680 .....	68
Steam engine, and cultivating tackle, interest 5 per cent. on £1,065 .....	53
Wear and tear and depreciation at 10 per cent. on ditto .....	106
Coal, oil, &c. ....	50
Auction sale expenses, including auctioneer's commission .....	200
<b>Yearly expenditure .....</b>	<b>£3,708</b>

The returns from produce sold in each year were as follow:—

1866 .....	£3,330	1873 .....	£4,570
1867 .....	2,423	1874 .....	4,628
1868 .....	4,726	1875 .....	4,548
1869 .....	3,712	1876 .....	4,468
1870 .....	5,232	1877 .....	4,450
1871 .....	4,626	1878 .....	4,528
1872 .....	4,744		

Average of 13 years, £4,308.

Thus the average yearly profit has been £600, which is 16 per cent. upon the yearly outlay.

It is satisfactory to find that the history has not been one of diminishing proceeds, and of increase in the cost of obtaining them. The husbandry, owing to the ameliorated texture as well as clean condition of the land, has become a simple process of only one heavy tillage operation for each crop; so that the labour bill for the last five years—namely, 1874 to 1878—averages only £160 a year, or about £50 less than the average for the whole series of 13 years. The outlay for manures again has averaged £1,030 a year during the last five

years, which is about £50 less than the 13 years' average. The total yearly expenditure for the last five years has been fully £100 less than the average for the whole period, while the returns from produce sold in the years 1874 to 1878 have averaged £4,522, or £214 more than the average for the 13 years. Hence the important fact that, in spite of several bad seasons, and more than one year of very low prices, the tenant's profit from 1874 to 1878 has averaged about £914 a year, or 25 per cent. upon the outlay. Even were the rent charged at the high figure of £2 an acre, the profit would come out £800 a year.

This is not only remarkable; it is surprising. For where are the heavy lands under an ordinary system of arable culture which have yielded anything like £2 an acre yearly profit to the occupier during the last five seasons, and from which a nearly equal amount was realised in the specially low year 1878?

What the returns may be for the present harvest will appear at the auction sale on Tuesday (September 2); but from inspection of the now nearly matured crops (not merely viewing them from the roads, but penetrating into the middle of the spacious fields) I discover no sign of diminution in produce as compared with previous years. The "Home Field," 60 acres in extent, carries the grandest crop of wheat I have seen anywhere this year; a portion of it Borwick red, another portion square-headed or white-chaff red; all standing well, though very thick and bulky, the strong straw bearing good heavy heads. To a slight extent the ears show the defects common to the crops of the present year, and the grains are not sufficiently numerous in the ranks to warrant expectation of a great yield. Were this an ordinary season, I should estimate the produce at fully six quarters per acre; practical farmers from Kent, who were viewing the piece at the same time as myself, put it at five quarters and a half. Other wheats look exceedingly well, with the exception of a part of one field, in which many barren or defective heads appear: the oat crops are heavy and must yield abundantly; and the barleys, which occupy a larger area than the wheats, are certainly good, though not to be described as very heavy; it is only in a few places that they are somewhat thin and short; they are ripening kindly, and promise to be of fair malting quality. I am inclined to value the barleys all round at five quarters per acre. As a whole, the crops are fully equal to those of last year. Considering that Mr. Prout, like other farmers, was prevented from using the horse hoe and accomplished hand-hoeing and weeding with great difficulty and partial success, it is remarkable that sowthistles, wild oats, daisy-weed, and grass show themselves in so few places—a result of many years' practice of clean farming. The snuffin gave a heavy first cut of well-got hay, which is now in stack.

Looking at present prices of grain and straw, it may be expected that the crops of 1879 will realise about the average of late years; and, therefore, Mr. Prout, instead of being a heavy loser, like most occupiers of strong arable land, will probably still keep up his handsome average rate of profit. Of course, a rise of 10s. per qr. in wheat and barley would improve the profit by several hundreds of pounds.

The great fact being that crops of such value are produced in what now looks like unfailling perpetuity, it is no objection to the system to say that, were teas, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of acres of strong loam and clay cropped in the same way, there would not be a sale at equally good prices for the enormous quantity of straw which would then be marketable. Selling off the straw is not at all an essential of the system. It may be true that the barley, oat, and wheat straw, varying from perhaps 1½ up to 3½ loads per acre, and now saleable at about 2s. per load of 36 trusses of 86lb. each, realises £2 to £4 per acre, and that this amount is more than the straw would be worth if kept on the farm for fodder and litter. The price named is equivalent to over 40s. per ton, which is much higher than chemists have reckoned as the feeding value to the farmer; but it cannot be doubted that if Mr. Prout modified his procedure so far as to convert his great mass of straw into dung by cattle consuming roots and cake, and applied that dung to a portion of the farm, he might show quite as ample a balance of profit as he does now. For example, farmyard manure could be applied upon the clover crop, or for beans, greatly lessening the present bill for artificial manure; and it would be no extraordinary thing if, say, 50 acres of mangold, carrots, and cabbage were to realize

£1,000 at market, besides supplying roots for the winter-fed cattle.

One main cause of success is the economy and completeness of the tillage. A perfect drainage, together with a deep sub-soiling of the whole farm, have ameliorated the mechanical texture of the staple soil, heightened its mean temperature by diminishing surface evaporation, and promoted its atmospheric enrichment; and the action of the steam-driven plough without the pugging of horses' feet continually preserves in the seed-bed for each crop that lightness and pulverization most favourable for the penetration of the rootlets, and also for admixture and incorporation of manures with the soil in which they feed. The steam-engine performs at a cheap rate all the principal tillage operations; and these have been so reduced in number that while the yearly steam work averaged 938 acres in the first four years, 1862 to 1865, it had sunk to an average of 404 acres in the four years 1871 to 1874, and only 301 acres per annum for the four years 1875 to 1878. Mr. Prout still executes his ploughing and scarifying with the self-same engine, travelling anchor, and implements which he bought of Mr. John Fowler at Leeds in 1861; a new fire-box and tubes have been required in the time, but the wear and tear and depreciation are sufficiently allowed for in the figures I have given, and the engine is probably good for a period of ten or a dozen years more. Mr. Prout saves money by being prompt in his treatment of weeds; and, indeed, seedlings are discouraged by the very circumstance of the small total length, the close limits, and neat trimming of the hedges.

Depending upon 50s. worth of artificial manure per acre for procuring his crops, Mr. Prout is exceedingly particular in his purchases of bones and guano and nitrate of soda, buying of eminent manufacturers or merchants, and subject to analysis by Dr. Voelcker. His favourite application, drilled in with the seed, is a compound prepared in his own barn, consisting of ground bones wetted and then mixed with half their weight of mineral superphosphate. The heap turns warm, and in three months' time the free acid of the phosphate is found to have softened all the bone.

The endurance of the system, at any rate upon a calcareous clay, or strong loam naturally of poor or moderate fertility, may be exemplified by the cropping and product of two fields. The magnificent wheat crop now standing on the "Home Field" has had no manure; for, following after clover, which, though mown twice for hay, was highly manured, the wheat was able to do without. The cropping and the money realized per acre on this field of 60 acres have been for ten years as follow:—

Year.	Crop.	Sum per acre.	Year.	Crop.	Sum per acre.
1870...	Wheat	£ s.	1876...	Oats	£ s.
1871...	Barley	14 14	1877...	Oats	8 6
1872...	Wheat	9 3	1878...	Oats	8 0
1873...	Wheat	7 2	1879...	Clover, twice	—
1874...	Wheat	10 2	1879...	hay	14 5
1875...	Oats	9 16	1879...	Wheat	—
				Average of nine years	10 7

On another piece of 16 acres—namely, "Brook Field"—the following severe course has been taken, and other parts of the farm have been cropped also in a similar manner:—

Year.	Crop.	Sum per acre.	Year.	Crop.	Sum per acre.
1873...	Wheat	£ s.	1877...	Barley	£ s.
1874...	Wheat	9 14	1878...	Wheat	8 6
1875...	Barley	10 0	1879...	Wheat	8 12
1876...	Barley	8 17	1879...	Wheat	—
				Average for six years	9 0

An excellent crop of wheat on this field now waiting for harvest will no doubt quite maintain this average.

No fallow has been made on the farm for ten years; and should the extraordinary growth of weeds and grass in the past summer render cleaning necessary in parts of some of the fields, it can be easily done by an autumn tith to be sown with tares.

I come to the conclusion that Mr. Prout's continuous corn-growing without doubt possesses the element of stability, as well as of profitable economy; and, this being so, it behoves all persons interested in the strong lands of this country to inquire what hindrances prevent the adoption of the system on soils now, under antiquated management, threatening the occupiers with starvation.—*Times.*

## EMIGRATION OF FARMERS TO CANADA.

The following letter has been sent to us for publication:—

Having been instructed by the Hon. J. H. Pope, Canadian Minister of Agriculture, to place myself in communication with English tenant farmers in various localities, with the object of ascertaining their views on the subject of emigration, for themselves or their sons, and, where so inclined, to offer facilities of a special kind for obtaining information, I beg respectfully to communicate with you on the subject.

The *Times* of the 14th of August explains the present proposals of the Canadian minister, as follows:—

"EMIGRATION TO CANADA.—The Hon. J. H. Pope, Canadian Minister of Agriculture, has communicated with Mr. Dyke, the Dominion Agent at Liverpool, instructing him to place himself in communication with tenant farmers in various localities, and authorising him on proof that a certain number possessed of moderate means will fairly entertain the idea of emigrating, to send out to Canada, at the expense of the Dominion Government, a delegate appointed by each body of not less than 25 such farmers. This delegate will be received by the Government Agents on his arrival, and will be afforded every facility for reporting to his constituents as regards the country itself, the terms upon which improved farms may be acquired, or any other matters that may guide them to a decision."

After quoting some press comments, Mr. Dyke proceeds:—

If farmers are forced to try emigration, it is desirable that the changes which follow any movement of the kind should be attended with as little of the severing of old associations as possible. Now, in the older Provinces of Canada, the system of farming, if somewhat rougher, is very much on the same lines as here; and the surplus products, whether cereal, dairy, or live stock, are destined for the British markets. The consequence would be a closer adherence to the old order of things than would be possible in any other field for emigration, with this consideration, that English farmers, with the superior skill, acknowledged industry, and moderate capital, are able to make a far better thing out of the land than are those who have been accustomed mainly to the rough-and-ready systems of pioneer farming, and who are often only too ready to give up the labour of years to seek again the adventurous life of the backwoods and prairies.

Last, but not least, to men with the loyal and patriotic feelings which so eminently distinguish the British yeoman, the fact that they remain under the old flag, and retain all the proud time-honoured privileges of Englishmen, will be no small consideration.

Canada is, practically speaking, as near to the English markets in point of cost, and nearly so of expedition, as back-lying farms at home were twenty years ago. In fact, to-day produce may be conveyed from the Canadian homestead to the market in England at less expense than that at which English farmers of the last generation could get their produce to the leading markets.

Another most important consideration is that, owing to the shorter distance, and little expense of travelling, the Canadian farmer must be unfortunate indeed who cannot afford both time and money once at least every two or three years to visit the old friends at home, and spend a few weeks with them. What is practically impossible in the case of any of the more distant colonies is a matter of very little difficulty in Canada.

Improved farms may be bought in many parts of the Dominion at very moderate prices by tenant farmers from the United Kingdom who have a little capital, and it is

this class specially that is invited to settle. The actual purchase-money of an improved farm is about the same as the rent of a good farm in England. The soil itself of the Canadian farm and the Canadian climate are actually superior to those found in England. By the term "improved farm" is meant a farm with a house, barn, stables, fences, and cultivation, ready at once to enter upon.

The reason why such improved farms in Canada may be acquired, is due to the tendency of many of the population to obtain the special advantages of pioneer life, and in many cases for the purpose of getting a larger scope for the settlement of rising families, coupled with the love of this kind of adventure.

Probably no part of the world has been so persistently decried by interested parties as the Dominion of Canada; and I therefore make no apology for asking your attention to the following opinion of the Hon. David A. Wells, an eminent American Statesman: It is needless to say that United States citizens are not wont to dwell unduly on the excellencies of their great northern rival.

In the *North American Review* for September, 1877, the Hon. David A. Wells writes as follows:—

"North of Lakes Erie and Ontario and the River St. Lawrence, east of Lake Huron, south of the 45th parallel, and included mainly with the present Dominion Province of Ontario, there is as fair a country as exists on the North American Continent, nearly as large as Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio combined, and equal, if not superior, to these States in its agricultural capacity. It is the natural habitation on this Continent of the combing wool sheep, without a full, cheap, and reliable supply of the wool of which species our great worsted-manufacturing interest cannot prosper or, we should rather say, exist. It is the land where grows the finest barley, which the brewing interest of the United States must have if it ever expects to rival Great Britain in its present annual export of over 11,000,000 dols. of malt products. It raises and grazes the finest of cattle, with qualities especially desirable to make good the deterioration of stock in other sections; and its climatic conditions, created by an almost encirclement of the Great Lakes, especially fit it to grow men. Such a country is one of the greatest gifts of Providence to the human race—better than Bonanzas of silver, or rivers whose sands contain gold."

The like indeed may be said of the splendid lands in the Eastern Townships, the home of the world-renowned Hillhurst Shorthorns, and several other extensive sections of the Dominion.

You will hear in mind that I am prepared to visit your district, and if so many as twenty-five farmers within a reasonable area, say the electoral division, are ready to give me their word that they will fairly entertain the question, and are really disposed to settle in Canada, provided they can be satisfied as to the *bona fide* character of their chances there, I am prepared to authorise any one of their number whom they may select to go out to Canada at once at the Government expense, and to report to them his own candid opinion. As I am well aware that the farmer's most leisure time will be immediately after harvest, the preliminary arrangements should be made as soon as possible, in order that the delegates, when appointed, may proceed without delay upon their mission.

Will you, therefore, kindly see your friends and neighbours at once, and acquaint me with the result?

I have the honour to be,

Yours most obediently,

JOHN DYKE.

Canadian Government Agency,  
15, Water-street, Liverpool,  
August 19, 1878.

## THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—It was very kind of Mr. Chaplin to move the House of Commons for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the causes of the agricultural depression. Of course, the same Government that passed that great sham—the Agricultural Holdings Act—were glad to shelve the many notorious grievances under which farmers labour, and to put aside such questions as the Game Laws, Compulsory Compensation for Unexhausted Improvement, Abolition of the Laws of Distress and Hypothec, and economy in spending the public money, all which are well-known aristocratic abuses, and to appoint a sham commission to search for minor grievances, the removal or reduction of which may keep the gigantic and increasing evils above-named out of sight. To one extravagant and incompetent Government the appointment of such a useless commission is a complete Godsend. They will, when the general election comes, point with all possible effrontery to this wonderful commission as a proof of their anxiety to discover and remove the burdens which press on the poor long-suffering farmer, and Mr. Chaplin will be created a peer in recognition of his valuable and timely services.

Some 35 years since a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to consider the question of the right of a tenant-farmer, his family, or his creditors, to a compensation for unexhausted improvements in the event of disturbance in the possession of his holding. This committee, after a searching inquiry, made their report recommending the passing of an Act to give a tenant, who might be quitting his farm, something like such a compensation as the Irish farmers are now entitled to receive under Mr. Gladstone's Irish Land Act. But the Bill brought in by Mr. Pusey, the excellent member for Berkshire, to give effect to this report was repeatedly thrown out by large majorities, and it being supposed that the farmers would swallow anything, the farce, called the Agricultural Holdings Act, was thrust down their throats in 1875 by Mr. Disraeli's Government, the Duke of Richmond having had the *honour* of introducing the Bill. The farmers had asked for bread and he gave them a stone; they had asked for a fish and he gave them a serpent. And now, while the Irish farmers on leaving their holdings are entitled to be fairly remunerated for the property they have invested in their landlord's farms, the English farmers have no such right, but much of their property is, and as been, confiscated for the benefit of the landed aristocracy who have so often boasted of being—*par excellence*—the farmers' friends.

The Game Laws, than which no more oppressive code was ever enacted, and which have always pressed most cruelly on the farmers and their labourers, had long been complained of in various quarters as very hurtful to the agricultural interest and to the community at large, when a committee was appointed in 1845 to inquire into their operation. This committee made their report on the 27th of June, 1846, in which they recommended that great ameliorations in the Game Laws should be made by which their stringency and oppressiveness would have been lessened, but although more than 30 years have since elapsed, the only alterations that have been made in these enactments have made them more stringent and more oppressive. Among other Acts, the Poaching Prevention Act, passed in 1862, converted the hitherto efficient rural police into assistant gamekeepers, and very greatly reduced their value as thief-catchers. And now the over-preservation is largely accelerated by the police, and the number of gamekeepers has been, and is being, largely diminished, so that the cost of such over-preservation is very greatly borne by the ratepayers at large.

Complaints still continuing of the oppressiveness of the Game Laws, another committee of the House of Commons was appointed in 1872 to inquire into the reason of these complaints. This committee was a most partial and over-sided one, but in their report, dated 8th July, 1873, they recommended that the Laws should be considerably modified, and their stringency relaxed. Six years have since passed and no attempt has been made to carry their recommendations into effect, the Laws continuing to retain all their oppressiveness and hardship, and while the number of Game Law convictions amounted in 1839 to only 2,942, it had, in 37 years, increased nearly five-fold, and in the year 1876 amounted to 13,315. And this, while almost every description of crime has been materially decreasing, as is proved by the diminution in the amount of prison accommodation required.

Of the 20 commissioners appointed to inquire into the causes of the agricultural depression, unfortunately now in existence, only two of these possess the confidence of the public, and this is the body who are to throw dust in the eyes of the farmers and labourers, who will by-and-by make a report not worth the paper it is printed on, and will be pointed at on the eve of the general election as a proof of the anxiety of the Government to assist in removing the distress of the agriculturists.

Shall we swallow the bait? If so, the British farmers deserve what was formerly said of them by Sir Robert Walpole—"Bless them," he said; "they submit to be fleeced as placidly as their own sheep."

I am, Sir, &amp;c.,

ROBERT HAWARD.

*Manor House, Bramfield, Saxmundham, August 27.*

## MINNESOTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit according to provisions of law, the following tables showing the acreage and yield of the principal cereals and the sugar cane of the state for the year 1878; also, the acreage of some crops growing in 1879, as compiled from official returns of the town assessors and county auditors.

Le Sueur county, and some of the less important agricultural counties (as shown on table), and seventeen townships in the reported counties have not made returns at this date, and are therefore included in the estimated amounts, which are based upon the reported acreage of 1878 and the general average yield and per cent. of increase, and will closely approximate the true amounts which the Commissioner hopes to obtain before the publication of the annual report.

Recollecting the blight that struck the wheat crop at its most critical stage in the season of 1878, it will not be surprising to notice that the yield falls considerably below the general average. The damage sustained from this cause was, however, comparatively small in the north-western counties, increasing in regular ratio towards the southern, where, in many localities, it was very serious. The quality was therefore materially better and larger in the north-western part of the State. As will be seen from the tables, the largest wheat-growing counties, viz., Dakota, Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Mower, Rice, Steel, Wabasha, and Winona, which in 1877 produced from 1,300,000 to 3,700,000 bushels each, and together over twenty and one quarter million bushels of the first quality of wheat were reduced in 1878 to 12,419,536 bushels and this mostly of lower grade, although grown upon an augmented acreage.

An increase in the wheat acreage for the current year will be noticed in nearly every county, but more especially in the new western and north-western counties when it

reaches to from 50 to over 100 per cent. The total acreage of the State is 2,755,996, an increase of more than 16 per cent. over that of 1878; and the reports of the crops harvested therefrom are generally highly favourable, although some localities in the southern counties are said to have suffered from the drouth in the early spring and also from chintz bugs. The yield will probably fall considerably below the general average, but the quality is said to be very good throughout the State. In the north-western counties the usual high average seems to be maintained both as to yield and quality. Owing to the vast extent of the wheat acreage and the many peculiarities of the season and circumstances of farming (many farms in the same locality vary in yield from 10 to 20 bushels per acre), a correct estimated yield per acre for the State is difficult to arrive at through the information received at present; suffice to say the yield will not fall short of from thirteen to fifteen bushels per acre, and the present crop will be by far the largest ever grown in Minnesota.

The crop of oats and corn of 1878 were the greatest ever produced in the State—the yield per acre of oats being larger than that of any year since 1860, and of corn the largest yield per acre since 1871. These crops participate largely in the general increase for 1879 as seen from the tables, oats being 17.40 per cent. and corn 18 per cent. larger than the acreage of 1878, and a heavy yield is promised.

Barley like wheat was badly affected by the blight in 1878, consequently a decrease in bushels produced from that of 1877 is shown in the table, an increased acreage for the present year of over 100 per cent. is also shown. The severe storms during the summer are reported to have lodged the barley crops to a considerable extent and this circumstance will probably materially lessen the large average yield which was expected.

The large additional acreage of sugar cane must be exceedingly gratifying to those interested in the progress of this new industry of the State, and it is therefore included in the following statement:—317,129 gallons of the syrup were produced in 1878 against 140,153 gallons in 1877, and the yield per acre for the latter season was 99 gallons. The increase of acreage reported this year over 1878 is 33 per cent. The introduction into the State of superior machinery for refining the raw material will aid largely in the development of this industry and in verifying the predictions of those who have claimed that amber cane sugar is destined to become one of our most important manufactures.

We give only the totals of a table appended:—

	Acre, 1878.	Bushels, 1878.	Acre, 1879
WHEAT ...	2,368,556 ...	29,285,990 ...	2,755,996
Per acre, } bushels... }	— ...	12.3 ...	—
Per cent. } in c rease } over 1878 }	16.35 ...	— ...	—
OATS ...	479,961 ...	16,928,659 ...	563,452
Per acre, } bushels... }	— ...	35.27 ...	—
Per cent. } in c rease } over 1878 }	17.40 ...	— ...	—
CORN ...	323,791 ...	11,027,743 ...	387,994
Per acre, } bushels... }	— ...	33.54 ...	—
per cent. } in c rease } over 1878 }	18.00 ...	— ...	—

	Acre, 1878.	Bushels, 1878.	Acre, 1879.
BARLEY ...	56,845 ...	1,422,294 ...	117,03
Per acre, } bushels... }	— ...	25.21 ...	—
Per cent. } in c rease } over 1878 }	100.00 ...	— ...	—
SUGAR CANE	3,104 ...	317,129 ...	4,134
Per acre, } bushels... }	— ...	— ...	—
Per cent. } in c rease } over 1878 }	33.00 ...	— ...	—

I am, Sir, &c.,

JOHN J. JACOBSON,

Assistant Secretary of State and Commissioner of  
Statistics.

Bureau of Statistics, St. Paul, August 11th, 1879.

**HAYING AT NINETY-TWO.**—Elizabeth Leibesberger, aged ninety-two, resides in Richmond township, this county, and is in all probability one of the richest maiden ladies in the county. She owns several beautiful farms in Richmond township, where she has lived nearly all her life. Her brother is also a large land owner. Miss Leibesberger is remarkably well preserved. She was never married, and has lived ninety-two years in single blessedness, without being dragged down by the cares of married life, domestic troubles and other vexatious and tribulations. She has silvery grey hair, is neat and trim in appearance, and considering her great age is quite active and alert. A few days ago her farm-hands commenced hay-making. To their great surprise, the aged lady and land-owner made her appearance in the field, rake in hand. She was suitably attired for the occasion, her skirt and dress being well gathered in and tucked back, so as not to drag or give her any trouble in moving freely over the field. She said she was going to show them how to work. This was greeted with clapping of hands and cheers. Miss Leibesberger went to work in good earnest, tossed the hay over and over, raked it into rows from one end of the field to the other, and then helped to rake it on piles, and finally assisted in loading and raking after the wagons. It was an exhibition of old time hay-making, the way "they use to do when she was a young girl," she said, "before the patent machinery was ever heard of." The lady worked in the field the entire day, and up her pluck remarkably well.—*Reading (Pa.) Eagle.*

**PUTTING A STOP TO IT.**—"I say George what makes you look so cheerful?" said one friend to another recently. "Why didn't you hear Bob? I'm going to be married next Wednesday!" "Well I must confess I see nothing in that to make you cheerful; I should think it would make you feel sad." "Why, no, my dear fellow, it will be the happiest day of my life. You see, Matilda is a very expensive luxury! She wants to go to the Opera every night; its cream on the way, a pound of candy while there, and soda-water on the way home; and I tell you it's a terrible drain on a fellow's pocket, and I'm going to put a stop to it! Come in and have a cigar."

**LORD TOLLEMACHE AND HIS TENANTRY.**—The *East Anglian Daily Times* says that Lord Tollemache, of Helmingham, has addressed a circular letter to his tenantry Suffolk, in which he says that, feeling deeply for them in the anxiety which the present unfavourable season and the low price of farm produce must bring upon them, he is anxious to prove his sympathy by taking some portion of the burden upon himself, and sharing their losses. His lordship proceeds:—"When losses are caused by bad farming the holder of that farm must naturally be held responsible, but the best farmer cannot control the weather, and I intend now and in the future, as long as wheat sells for not more than 50s. per qr., to return my tenants 10 per cent. of their rents."

## THE BRAILES HERD AND FLOCK.

In the foremost rank among those preserving the merits and breeding of agricultural live stock stands the hospitable owner of the Brailes House estates.

On my journey from Banbury to Brailes I arrive at the Gallows Hill Farm, also in its owner's occupation, where I soon make an acquaintance with the shepherd, whose care over the flock of Shropshires is fully attested, as well by the many prizes gained at the Royal, Birmingham Fat, and others, the best shows of the kingdom, as by the uniform characteristic merits of the fleecy tribes before me. Here, then, are thirty-five shearing rams, four of whom, recently drafted to contest the honours at Kilburn, did not fail to gain their distinctive reward. Of these, the sheep placed last by the judges is perhaps the best of the quartet, but, *humanum est errare*, I bow to the judicial fiat of better men, certain, however, that two, at least, better sheep than the ones exhibited were left at home. Rating myself as an authority on the subject, I am fully satisfied that Mr. Sheldon has an eye to the constitution of the animals he breeds, and hence the high excellence and repute of the live stock at Brailes House. The flock here, brought out regardless of expense, is of such a nature and quality that, *ex una disce omnes*, their faces and other characteristics render its members to each other "as like as beans." They have much good quality of touch and character, and, for food and clothing contingent, the lean flesh on their back, with depth through the heart, full fore-flank, and heavy legs of mutton, they are such as butchers will not fail to follow closely after. Several will weigh 50 lb., the average not being less than 45 lb. per quarter. Their wool, too, though now shorn, is both of a rare quality and abundant, the fleece of one weighing 15 lb.; the average would not be less than 12 lb.

Leaving these woolly sires, I am soon at the field where some 180 lambs are consuming a rather light crop of tares, much thinned by the severity of the frost during last winter. Here, again, the only difference is that the rams are stronger of feature than the ewes. In this portion of the flock the sweet, expressive face, the curled woolly forehead and scalp, and the general uniformity of type with superior quality, betoken much skill in the rearing and production of such specimens—worthy the high estimation in which the flock is held among those who have imported for the improvement of their flocks. In bringing out the flock, descendants of the purest and best strains, Mr. Sheldon has not scrupled to hold in service sires from the best selections of the home flock; for change of blood he has resorted to others, always certain the blood and merits he required were in the rams he introduced. Of such was the celebrated ram from the flock of Mr. G. Graham, of Oaklands, at 120 guineas; but this introduction, so recent as last year, was this spring abruptly checked by a rival in the pasture, who, at one fell blow, broke the neck of his intrusive and aristocratic associate. Lucky and precious purchases from Mr. Massen, Lord Chesham, and Mr. Mansell, at such prices as 120, 115 guineas, &c., have been more fortunate, longer lived, and have left their mark.

At the head of the private catalogue of the herd (a well-merited position) stands Princess of Geneva 3rd, one of the purest Princess cows in the kingdom, which I shall further note when her son, Prince of Brailes, stands up before me. Now, on a visit to the Duke of Dukes, at Uaderley, I had the honour of inspecting this famous cow, browsing the parks there, in company with Grand Duchess 31st, a worthy associate. Princess of Geneva 2nd is roan, having a complacent, handsome head, with open eye and nice flat horns, a clean-carved throat, very prominent brisket, a fine table-land of back, is tubular, having shoulders well-packed, and her legs stand wide

apart; she has grand style, and, for quality of touch, she is mellow, without underlaid flabbiness—is such that all pure Shorthorns should possess. Notwithstanding that the thighs are well-fleshed down to the twist, the hind-quarters may be considered slightly like her sire's. She is, however, on the whole, a very grand and stylish cow, who, bred by Mr. E. H. Cheney, is by that noted bull 9th Duke of Geneva (26391), her dam being Princess, by General Havelock (17952). Then, in the parks at Brailes House, studded here and there with clumps of trees affording summer shelter for the cattle, altogether a very famous Shorthorn nursery, from whose ranks very many animals, for the improvement of the herds to which they have been imported, have justly won a high appreciation. For the home stock I have Princess of the Valley 2nd, also of the Princess by Favourite Contingent, from whose family the renowned Belvedere (1706) was bred. This cow, imported from Canada by the Hon. H. M. Cochrane, and sold at the Millbeck stock sale, Windermere, on the 4th September, 1877, is by 2nd Baron Morley, bred by Mr. S. L. Harrison, Morley, U. S., his sire being Rosy Duke (6142), dam Tuberose 40th, by Zanon (15311), grandam Tuberose 4th, by Wolviston (1109), by 3rd Duke of Cambridge, &c. The next Transatlantic sire direct in this pedigree is Double Duke (1451½), a very famous bull and a good getter in America. He is bred by Mr. J. M. Sherwood, and his sire is 3rd Duke of Cambridge (5941), dam Red Rose 5th, by the same 3rd Duke of Cambridge, and her dam is Damask 2nd, by Millbrook bred by Mr. G. Brown, U. S., got by 6th Duke of Thornedale (23794), by Napier, by Mameluke. This roan cow whose American paternity will be registered in next vol. of the E. H. B., has a rare table-land of back, much grand style, as she paces the pasture, lowing and depressed at having been deprived of responsibility towards her first-born daughter. She is tubular, has long and level quarters, well-laid shoulders, the handsomest of heads, and a clean throat—a very fine young ewe, whose milking qualification is attested by her neatly-shaped udder. Here, too, we have Cherry Countess 3rd, from Cherry Countess 2nd, and by Duke of Charmingland 2nd (36477) whose family forms a very large contingent to the herd tracing back to the very famous cow Charmer 3rd, by Earl of Dublin, one of the purest of her family predecessors. Of the Charmers here, of which Coral Duchess, Charming Duchess 4th, 7th, 8th, and 15th, are amongst the best specimens of pure-bred Shorthorns—but more anon—who, with Coral Duchess 2nd, Coral Duchess 3rd, Charming Geneva 2nd, Charming Duchess 6th, Charming Geneva 3rd, and Coral Duchess 6th, with Charming Duchess 14th, are included in the sale to be conducted by Mr. Stafford on the 17th instant. Duke of Charmingland 2nd was by Messrs. Seacy's 6th Duke of Oncida (30997), a son of Lord Beehive's 10th Duchess of Geneva, and is, therefore, brother to the best Duchess sire in England—to wit, Duke of Uoderley the Red, and his dam is Twin Duchess 6th, by Grand Duke of Kent (26289), onwards to 4th Duke of Thorndale (17750), and other sires of like unsullied descent, making Duke of Charmingland 2nd of much purity of breeding, whose personal merits, put to the test, have, with his own very grand characteristics, transmitted to those of his descendants at Brailes, proved him to be a sire of no secondary order. Cherry Countess 3rd herself is more than an ordinary representative of Old Cherry, by Pirate. She has a handsome head, her shoulders are nicely laid and chine well-fleshed, she is tubular, stands near the ground, and has lengthy quarters; then again, she is a great depth through the heart, and is stylish—a very grand cow. Then I have the red Charmer in Coral Duchess, by 2nd Duke of Collingham (23730), dam Lucinda. This very famous four-year-old, having produced her fourth calf within her

fourth year, is, from her ever-yielding propensity, as may be supposed, lean; she has a handsome head, carried haughtily, and a clean-carved throat, is deep of chest, tubular, and has long quarters—a very grand young cow, whose skin and hair are superb. Then Cherry Duchess of Brailes, pacing along the brow of a hillock in the park in grand style, as though conscious of her superior descent, is roan, by Duke of Connaught (33604), and her dam is Cherry Duchess 22nd. This heifer, a proof of her progenitor's merits and breeding, has a lovely head; her houlders are neat and cushioned, blending beautifully with the neck, her ribs, too, are an arch, and her quarters lengthy—the best heifer seen. Though but two years old, Cherry Duchess of Brailes is breeding to Prince of Brailes.

Having sauntered to another pasture where some half-dozen matrons of the herd roam at leisure, we intrude our attention on Cherry Duchess 22nd, dam of the fine heifer Cherry Duchess of Brailes. This cow is by Grand Duke 11th, and her dam is Cherry Duchess by Duke of Geneva (19614), who breathed out his last reckoning at his Penrhyn Castle home some twelve years ago, when he was eight years old, and he was by 2nd Grand Duke (12961), from Duchess 71st. Of so high a paternity Cherry Duchess 22nd is a good representative: she is a great milker, and has much stylish appearance—a very grand cow, who, at the Penrhyn sale cost 900 guineas; she has lengthy and well filled quarter, a neat head, broad and well dropped bosom, shoulders packed, and considering that she has recently produced her second calf within a year, she is true of contour, and has a wrapper whose touch is exquisite. Countess of Darlington herself, too, is here who, in her 9th year is fresh and blooming as a May morning. This cow, with her sons Dukes of Darlington 6th and 7th is to come under the notice of the public timed by Mr. Strafford's sand-glass: she is by Duke of Brailes (23724), by 4th Duke of Thorndale, and her dam is Darlington 12th by Duke of Geneva (19614). This cow, who has a large and well formed udder and is true of contour is red and white, has produced six bull calves in succession. She is massive, has deep and prominent chest, an elastic wrapper, and an abundance of nice soft hair—a true representative of all the descendants of her sire, who never got an inferior animal at Brailes. Lady Florence 2nd, whose daughter Lady Florence 10th, and also Lady Florence 4th, with her son Lord Garland 8th by Duke of Rothsay—and also by the same sire the roan son of Lady Florence 7th—Lord Garland 7th—all to be noted hereafter, are booked for sale. Lady Florence 2nd is by 18th Duke of Oxford (25995), who was by that historical sire 10th Grand Duke, and her dam is Lady Florence by Duke of Brailes (23,724). This very fine cow, whose daily yield of milk is sufficient for two calves, is red and white; she has a picture head, is stylish, has lengthy quarters and arched ribs who, being difficult to dry before calving is lean. Melody, who, like all the matrons of the herd breeds every year, is a Furbelow: she is by Blue Gown (28051), and her dam is Harmony by Cherry Duke 3rd. This cow, who in spite of her ever yielding propensity, looks respectable without cake, has a handsome head, a strong loin, and is cylindrical, but has a slight droop of the loin. Then, again, Sunbeam, roan, bred by Mr. J. Fowler, and got by Hardicantte (26338), has no Bates; she has a clean throat, a broad tableland of back and loin, is cylindrical and encased in a soft wrapper; she is a great milker, and is a very grand cow. Gladys of the coarse horn is a Furbelow red and white; she has a clean throat, a nice head carried haughtily, an open placid eye, and a broad floor of chest; her back too is well fleshed, and her loin broad and strong—a very grand cow who, with her sisterhood reflects the

highest credit on her sire Duke of Brailes; her dam is Harebell by 4th Duke of Thorndale (17750).

Another change of position brings me to a gateway—a very slough of puddle—not unlike the Kilburn show ground, but here I durst not venture my aristocratic legs in corduroys, and being as yet a stranger to such modern knicker-knackers as knickerbockers I venture a scramble over a rail to an adjoining pasture, where the red, white, and roan are securely grazing. Here I am confronted by a descendant of Lady Barrington by Son of Herdsman (304), and Princess of Barrington by name; she is by Duke of Brailes—that noted sire—and her dam is Countess of Barrington 2nd by 9th Duke of Oxford (17738). This cow, who is red, and destined to take the lead in sale catalogue is well worthy of that honour, being the best of the many of her family I have seen; not only having been deprived of luxury, but has subsisted on what Mr. Sheldon very properly calls Starvation Commons—a field where in-calf cows inclined to gain too much beef are banished to do penance and earn their livelihood by guawing the sod. This is a massive cow due to calve ten days after the sale to Duke of Rothsay; she has wonderfully grand skin and hair, is tubular, and has well-fleshed crops; her shoulders too are inclined, she has a broad expanse of loin, and her chine for its whole length is well-fleshed—a very grand cow, if we do not take exception to her horns of the pitch-fork style. Fernande 2nd, a Bates on Knightley, who, with her relations Fanny, Fernande 4th and 5th, is catalogued for the sale; she is red and white, by Duke of Cerisia (30937), bred here and begotten of the 9th Duke of Geneva, his dam being that famous cow Cherry Countess, the progenitress of many fair sons and daughters, both here and elsewhere. This cow has handsome head and long level quarters, her thighs are well-fleshed down to the hoist—a very grand specimen. Then we have Charming Duchess 6th by 2nd Duke of Collingham (23730), and her dam is Twin Duchess 3rd by Knightley (22051), and she is roan, whose straight top, broad bosom, well sprung ribs, neat shoulders, full neck vein, handsome head, and superior quality all combining, render well worthy of her owner's high estimation. Then Lady Florence 6th by 2nd Duke of Collingham, dam Lady Florence by Duke of Brailes is lean, and at present looks rather depressed; she has correct contour, a capital skin, and nice soft hair—a rich roan. The half-sister to this last is Lady Florence 7th by Duke of Rosedale (33721), bred by Lord Braybroke and begotten of 9th Duke of Geneva through dams of pure Cambridge Rose strain, by sires of unsullied descent down to Cambridge Rose 6th, whom I remember as one of the finest cows of her day. Lady Florence 7th, rich roan, has a nice head, is stylish, a great milker, and has a profuse coat of nice soft hair. Charming Duchess 4th, who spurns our intrusion as she walks from us in good style, is by 17th Duke of Oxford (25994), bred at Holker and transferred to Killow, and her dam is Twin Duchess 3rd. This cow has not only the rectitude of form, but has also a good quality of flesh, evenly laid, so desirable; she has a neat head, with open eye, and has also long quarters. Then Lady Fawsley 3rd, roan, is by 18th Duke of Oxford, who also is sire of the Wetherley Duchess 118th, who is, perhaps, one of the most perfect heifers in the country, and is, we believe, very much thought of by Colonel Gunter, and her dam is Hyampea by Esop (19197). This cow, if big enough is good enough, breeds larger than herself; she is stylish, level, and has inclined shoulders and neat head, rendering her handsome indeed. Then Eria, roan, bred by Lord Braybroke, is by Thorndale Duke (27661), a Cambridge Rose bull and her dam is Emerald by 3rd Duke of Claro (21576), a very noted sire bred by Colonel Gunter, and got by 4th Duke of Oxford (11387)—a pure Oxford, dam

Duchess 79th by 6th Duke of Oxford (12765), also a pure Oxford. Though slightly bare of crops this cow is otherwise well-fleshed, she has an abundance of nice soft hair, a very pleasing countenance, good style, a grand cow. Coral Duchess 3rd, red, except the beauty little star spot is by Duke of Rosedale already noted, and her dam is Charming Maid by Lord Liverpool. Coral Duchess 3rd is straight above and beneath, having nice style, and is a great milker—lean, not having any indulgence. Then, crossing our path we have Coral Duchess 2nd by Duke of Rosedale, dam Lucinda by Priam (18567), whose influence is so creditably interwoven with the Oxfords to wit, the Grand Duchesses of that name. This cow has a perfect head, a deep chest, well-fleshed back, but she has a straight though flat horn. Charming Duchess 7th is wealthy of flesh, skin, and hair, into the bargain she is a good breeder as proved by her daughter, a grand specimen, to be noted hereafter, and also a charming red c.c. For ribs, hair, touch, quality of flesh and style she is a non-such, whose family at the Whitehall sale brought high prices. Charming Geneva 2nd is by Duke of Charming Land 2nd, and her dam is Charmer 20th by 3rd Duke of Geneva (23753), who is also sire of the well-known American bred 5th Duke of Geneva, whose influence in improving Shorthorns is much appreciated. This, too, is a wealthy heifer, round of frame; she has a handsome head, and her back and loins are level and wide—very grand, whose touch is exquisite. Coral Duchess 5th in this goodly company of heifers of two years old each is by Duke of Rothsay, and her dam is Coral Duchess; she has a haughty head, with brilliant and prominent eye, and her chine is well fleshed, quarters long and level, shoulders nicely inclined, of robust constitution, and her style is perfect. Fernande 4th, whose dam is the very grand cow Fernande 2nd, and sire Duke of Rothsay. This is not so grand a heifer as the last, but she has a fine coat of hair and a mellow skin, who is capable of much improvement. Here, too, we have the humiliating feature of a black nose in Holker Gwynne, whose three last Holker bred sires disclaim the taint. She is red, having broad and prominent chest, her skin is pleasing filling the hand, and under which any amount of beef might be laid. She is by Baron Oxford 7th (36199), and her dam is Rival Gwynne. This famous heifer is also included in the sale. Fanny is by George Frederick (34030), a Faggatherby by Coronation, who was by 3rd Duke of Claro, and her dam is Fernande 2nd. This heifer has a slight vacancy behind shoulders, and her hind quarters droop, she has also an upward curvature of the back—a neat head, good style and quality mark her merits. Lady Florence 4th is by 2nd Duke of Collingham, and her dam is Lady Florence. She is a fine young cow, who, like all the matrons of the herd is breeding every year, and is a deep milker; head handsome, cylindrical, hind quarters lengthy, and touch soft, with down hair, and good style are her merits.

Coming again to the homestead, I am introduced to a roan bull of nine months in Duke of Barrington 9th, whose dam is Princess of Barrington 3rd, remaining to be noted, and his sire is Duke of Rothsay, who, though dead a few weeks ago, still lives in the grand characteristics of his descendants. This very fine hopeful, who is also grandson of the red cow whom Mr. Strafford honours with first place in the sale catalogue, is roan, whose head and fore-quarters display much grand masculine character. He has a straight top, well fleshed, his quarters are angular and lengthy, well filled, and his flanks are deep dropped; then, as he paces round his littery reception room, his style is perfect. The very high lineage and personal merits of this young bull, with the extraordinary characteristics of his parentage, are sufficient to carry him to the ascendancy over any one of

the noted Shorthorn herds of the kingdom. The son of Gladys, a Furbelow cow, is by Duke of Rothsay, and six months old; he is straight, masculine, well fleshed, and has a rare back; he is red and white. The last hope of Erin, and by 5th Duke of Tregunter, is not so good as the last; he is roan, has good skin and hair, and is lengthy. Then a cow calf, from Melody and Duke of Rothsay, Lady Furbelow by name, is playful as a spaniel; she had a neat head, open eye, a great depth of ribs, and long quarters, with fleshy thighs. Then the daughter of Coral Duchess 3rd and Duke of Rothsay, as we have already remarked, is red, even Coral Duchess 7th, conspicuous by an abundance of nice hair, and certainly the best of the goodly company of calves. The daughter of Lady Florence 2nd and Duke of Rothsay is Lady Florence 10th, of five months old, and she has the same characteristic head with the rest, is lengthy of quarters, thighs well fleshed; her shoulders are nicely laid; a great grower not yet finished. On the opposite side of the yard are the last hope of Princess of Geneva 2nd in a white bull calf of three months, and of much promise, by Duke of Rothsay and a Princess bull, he has a fine masculine head; his skin, like that of his dam, is perfect, but crops might be a wee bit better fleshed; quarters are lengthy, top and underline straight, and he carries his head in good form. Then a roan cow calf, dam Fanny, whom we did not till now appreciate, and would fain even yet think that Duke of Rothsay is responsible for the grand specimen—pure blood will show its nobility. Fernande 5th, for such is the name of this calf, is of a superior style and quality; she has a broad loin, a very neat head and broad bosom; her quarters are long and flanks deep. Charming Duchess 16th, of last February, and from Charming Duchess 7th, has, in her dam's pedigree, a Barrington cross, which has done good and no harm, as my subject is perhaps the best calf I have seen, and she is red, whose style, quality, ribs, head, shoulders, and general contour are all that need be desired—quite fit for making her mark in the showyard. Duke of Charming Land 15th, born on last Christmas Day, is the son of Coral Duchess 2nd, roan, whose defiant head indicates the sex—a rare skin, top which is smooth and well fleshed, with underline straight, he has also soft hair; whose dam is a great milker. Duke of Charming Land 16th is roan, whose dam Charming Duchess 8th (to be sold) is proved by this son to be a good breeder. This calf has a mellow skin and down-like hair profusely curled; his back is broad and well fleshed, and for his age, ribs are well sprung. I thought him slightly short of hind quarters, but young calves can change form, and with good breeding improve what may appear a defect. The son of Cherry Duchess 22nd is red and white, as also is the daughter of Coral Duchess—both by Duke of Rothsay; but these, with other calves of the herd, being too young perhaps for distinctive and discriminate delineation, and being by Duke of Rothsay and other sires of the purest and best descent, I leave them unnoticed for the present, anticipating that they will redeem the merits of their progenitors, whose other descendants among the junior descendants of the herd mark Duke of Rothsay and, in fact, the whole herd as being of no secondary order.

Mounting the carriage, I am soon at a rattling pace through the park and on the road flanked right and left by oaks and other timber, our John for the nonce, who has been coachman to Mr. Sheldon for the last thirty-years, supplies me, a stranger in a strange land, with necessary information and many et ceteras; for as Cowper has it in his Epistle to Joseph Hill, Esq., so my guide and protector is—

“An honest man, close buttoned to the chin;  
Broadcloth without, and a warm heart within.”

Arrived a second time at the Gallows farm, I interview Duke of Cleveland 2nd, whose sire is 6th Duke of Oneida (30997), the very grand bull bred by Messrs. Walcott and Campbell, U.S.A., dam 10th Duchess of Geneva, the celebrated cow, and dam of the no less celebrated Duke of Underley; and his sire is 6th Duke of Geneva (30959). The dam of this very fine young bull is Aretusa, by Duke of Brailes. Duke of Cleveland 2nd is red, with open sparkling eye, waxy flat horns, and curled crest surmounting a fine masculine head; he has an abundant coat of hair, and his touch is soft, the skin being underlaid with a fine quality of flesh. Then again his chine is straight and well fleshed, and his flanks are low down; he is tubular, and his shoulders are fairly packed. At present I thought the hind quarters a trifle narrow. He is red and a year old. Close by are some eight heifers under one year old each and all, with one exception by Duke of Rothsay—consequently there is much similarity of character in the lot. The first of these to greet me with a very pleasing countenance is Charming Geneva 3rd, dam Charmer 20th, bred by Mr. McLutosh and begotten of 3rd Duke of Geneva (23753). This heifer is roan, whose head, like all her compeers, is handsome; she has a great length of loin, is tubular, and her shoulders are nicely laid; touch mellow and hair soft. Then again I have Charming Duchess 14th, from Duchess 2nd; and here too the shoulders are in good form; she is cylindrical, and her quarters are lengthy and level; style good, touch and hair mellow. Aurora's dam is Asenath, of the Acomb tribe, and she too, highly characteristic of her sire's handiwork, has grand style; her flanks are deep, quarters angular, and her back is broad and well fleshed; shoulders inclined, angular quarters—all surmounted by a beautiful picture head. Putting aside a half-bred Alderney, who has ventured her plebeian dignity just to show the potency of Duke of Charming Land 5th, her sire, I interview Coral Duchess 6th, the daughter of Charming Maid, and she has a broad floor of chest, deep and prominent; shoulders neat and packed, ribs an arch, loin lengthy and level—stylish. Then comes Charming Duchess 15th, who claims as her dam the very famous Charming Duchess 4th, and she is roan; shoulders are bolstered here; she is tubular, has a wonderful length of quarters, much grand style, a charming head, clean throat—one of the best and all but perfect. Lady Florence 9th, from the 6th, and right well does she deserve her need of praise, for she is near the ground, has exquisite quality, her shoulders are well laid, ribs an arch—or as a friend at my elbow sums her up: "The best and levellest of the lot." Cherry Duchess of Brailes 3rd, dam Cherry Duchess 22nd, is red and white, has crops and back well fleshed, flanks deep, and throat clean; is stylish and of good quality. Cherry Duchess of Brailes 2nd, from Cherry Countess 2nd, is a great grower, whose points are not yet furnished; she is of great length and is stylish, having also a clean carved throat, level top, and much fine character—who will come out a grand wealthy cow. Last to be noted here is Princess of Brailes 2nd, and she is white, has a picture head, a clean throat, broad table land of back, prominent brisket, arched ribs, long quarters, and good style; but she is a trifle on leg. The dam of this famous heifer is Princess of the Valley 2nd.

A short walk brings me to the abode of the young bulls, of whom the first to intrude his attention upon me is Duke of Charming Land 12th, from Coral Duchess and Duke of Rothsay; he is red, whose masculine head and fore-quarters and level well-fleshed back stamp him as a very good young bull. He has also a mellow skin and soft hair, but is a wee bit tucked of the flank. Under his chowl is the pendent skin indicating him a thriver, which truly is the fact. Lord Garland 7th is from Lady Florence 7th, a ruby. This young bull of nine months,

who walks in good style, has a strong loin, and is folded in an elastic wrapper, having a profusion of rich hair; he is roan, whose masculine head and grand character with good style render him a very valuable animal; he is also tubular, and, although like the rest, lean, he is a fine young bull whose symmetrical conformation is pleasing. Earl of Fawsley 8th, roan, dam Lady Fawsley 3rd, has a broad and well fleshed back, prominent brisket, a masculine head, long quarters, is deep of flanks, and walks in good form. Then the son of Countess of Darlington, even Duke of Darlington 6th, has also much grand masculine character; his back too is level and well fleshed, and his flanks deep, thighs well fleshed down to the twist. Then again in the adjoining box is another ruby in Lord Garland 8th, whose dam is Lady Florence 4th. Here again is the same masculine character and exquisite wrapper, broad chest, shoulders well laid—not too close, and flanks deep—stylish.

In another portion of the buildings we have other members of the herd of which Charming Duchess 10th, own sister to Charming Duchess 15th, the very grand heifer above noted. She has neat shoulders, a nice head, her neck vein blends beautifully—altogether a thick good one. Here also, with countenance beaming with every quality constituting beauty, and meeting me in all her gaiety of stye and grandeur of appearance, is Duchess of Barrington, roan, whose dam is Countess of Barrington 4th, and her sire Duke of Connaught (33604), who, at Dunmore, was sold for the unprecedented sum of 4,500 guineas, Lord Fitzhardinge, of Berkeley Castle, being the purchaser. This heifer has neat and closely laid shoulders, and for loin, ribs, crops, and breadth of back she has no superior, few equal to herself; then her hind-quarters are lengthy and massive, her tail being set on square; her brisket is prominent, hair soft, and skin mellow. Coming towards me in all her gaiety of form is another, and a show heifer no doubt (if her owner would admit of the dangerous luxury), even Charming Duchess 11th, whose dam is Twin Duchess 6th, and sire Duke of Rothsay. She is white, filling the hand with soft skin, a neat head, lengthy quarters, tubular, a broad expanse of loin and back, great depth of shoulders, are all hers. Of the Acomb contingent we have Augusta, dam Antonia, and sire Duke of Darlington (21886). This heifer is not one of the best, but, being in good company makes a difference; she has, however, a mellow skin and nice soft hair. Princess of Barrington 4th, dam Princess of Barrington and sire Duke of Rothsay, is red and white, whose handsome head, clean carved throat, inclined shoulders—a correct parallelogram—quality of touch, and mossy coat of hair render her also one of the best of the herd. Lady Rothsay Sweetheart, whose dam is Saturnia and sire Duke of Rothsay, has long and level quarters, ribs an arch—another show heifer, faultless at present—she is 19 months old. Yet another, and as good as the rest, in Lady Fawsley 6th, dam Lady Fawsley and sire Duke of Rothsay, is wealthy of flesh, being deep of flanks, broad and deep of her bosom, who makes good use of her time thriving well upon land worth not more than £1 per acre to rent. Yet another yearling in Gladys 3rd, whose dam, a Furbelow, is Gladys herself, and sire Duke of Rothsay. This heifer has grand style, a straight top and underline, with handsome head; she is a trifle raw, being a great grower. Charming Duchess 13th, from that famous cow Charming Duchess 6th, is by Duke of Rothsay; she also has a straight top, handsome head, well-fleshed thighs, ribs barrel shaped, and over the crops she is fleshy. Charming Duchess 12th, who, with an escort in the shape of a very pretty silver grey Alderney—a yearling who cost 25 guineas, approaches me from the lower corner of the pasture in all her gaiety of appear-

ance, as though conscious of her exalted lineage. The dam of this heifer is the very fine cow Twin Duchess 3rd, and her sire Duke of Rothsay; she—also a yearling—is tubular, has a broad nostril, and is well dished below the eye; her shoulders are nicely inclined, and flanks well dropped; she is stylish, and has an elastic wrapper covered with a profuse down-like coat of hair.

Through another gateway—puddley—and I am in what is properly called Starvation Commons, where cows in-calf and due to calve who have shown a tendency to gain too much beef are penned. Here we have Twin Duchess 6th, the daughter of that celebrated sire Duke of Charming Land 2nd. This cow, who is roan, has a handsome head, with open prominent eye; she is a great milker, whose top is as straight as a wand; she has rare flanks (fore and aft), and much grand symmetrical contour, whose dam is Twin Duchess 4th by 4th Duke of Thorndale, and her sire is Grand Duke of Kent (26289). Rival Gwynne, roan, bred at Killhow, has a steery head, which we do not like in any cow; her throat is clean, carved, ribs an arch, and long quarters are some of the best characteristics of this young cow, whose dam is Ross Gwynne, and sire the very noted bull 22nd Duke of Oxford (31000). Princess of Geneva 3rd is by Earl of Leicester 8th (38231), and her dam is Princess of Geneva 2nd; she is white, having a very sweet head, with open prominent eye and flat horns; her back is a small table land; she is tubular, has long hind quarters, and her shoulders are so placed as to give her the style of a real Princess—a very grand heifer. Then another ruby in Lady Florence 5th, by Duke of Charming Land 2nd; the contour of this heifer is correct, her ribs being an arch the key of which is well fleshed, shoulders neat, quarters lengthy—a strong heifer, though poor. Twin Duchess 3rd, who, bred by Messrs. Leney, found her way here from Killhow, is by Knightley, (22051) and her dam is Twin Duchess by 4th Duke of Thorndale. This cow, red and white, who, 12 years old, has bred her six heifers, in as many successive years, has ribs well up, shoulders in good form, skin and hair of the right sort. Taking this cow for all in all she is a very grand cow of her age, and in great condition—shaming the pasture. Charming Duchess 5th is by the Cherry bull Duke of Cerisia (30937), and her dam is the famous cow last noted; she is a gaudy red and white; has long angular quarters, her ribs are an arch, and she is a good breeder, having like many of her clan, sent victors to Bingley Hall. Duchess 2nd is own sister to the famous cow whose progeny, at the Whitehall sale, sold at high figures; she is by Grand Duke 15th, and her dam is Countess by Knightley Grand Duke. This is a massive cow of deep fine quality of flesh, who produced a calf on the 9th of August, 1878, and another, a bull, on July 31st. She has a prominent brisket and wide bosom, a capital skin, and is a good breeder, as proved by her very grand specimen, Charming Duchess 14th, seen at the buildings just left. Saturnia, a sweetheart, is by Cherry Grand Duke 2nd (25738), and her dam is Saturnella; she is red, who, bred at Lathom House, is massive, deep of flesh, and, notwithstanding her mixed breeding, is a fair cow. Asenath, another Acomb, is by Duke of Brailes (23721), and her dam is Acacia by Count de Gourey (17623). The horn here is coarse, but head handsome; she has a great depth of fore-quarters and of flesh, just the style of her sire, whose descendants here and elsewhere are all of the same massive character. Then Princess of Barrington 3rd, red and white, by Duke of Barrington 6th (33576), dam Princess of Barrington. This cow, who is the dam of the very grand young bull Duke of Barrington 9th, proves herself a capital breeder, and, being only three years old, will become a very famous animal; her dam is that deep-fleshed grand cow, the very first in the first rank line of the best Bar-

ringtons in England; she is straight, stylish, and tubular, her quarters are long, and she has a broad expanse of ribs and a mellow skin, covered with a mole-like coat of hair. Then Cherry Countess 2nd, with her beautiful calf at her udder, named Cherry Duchess of Brailes 4th by Duke of Rothsay, is by 2nd Duke of Collingham (23730), and her dam is Cherry Countess by Grand Duke 6th (19876). This cow, whose breeding is fully attested by her magnificent daughter Cherry Duchess of Brailes 2nd, has a great length of hind-quarters, a handsome head, deep frame, and her style is pleasing; she has wonderfully good skin, soft as a muff and nice mole-like hair whose legs stand well outside of her—a very grand cow similarly bred as the famous Cherry Queen purchased at the Underley sale for 1,200 guineas by Mr. Larking for his famous Ashdown herd. Then turning my attention to Africa, by Duke of Brailes, whose characteristics are of the same type as the rest of her sisterhood—very worthy and a great milker. Of the Acomb by Belvidere (1706) family she has a handsome head and well inclined shoulders, her chine is well fleshed, and for her 10th year she is true of contour, whose dam is America by Marmaduke (14597) who, bred by Mr. Tanqueray and got by the old Duke of Gloucester from Minerva 2nd of the Gwynne tribe was sold in 1857 for 500 guineas. Rounding the corner of another building we are soon at the place where Charming Maid's tied by the neck. This famous cow, the progenitress of many sons and daughters, though now in her 15th year; *stat magni nominis umbra* is a grand animal and a great milker. Her broad back, sprung ribs, depth of fore and length of hind quarters, render her, though lean, a very grand old cow whose handsome head and clean carved throat are worthy of admiration; she is by Lord Liverpool (22168) the pure Bates bull got by Duke of Wetherby, dam Fidget 4th by 4th Duke of York (10167), by Duke of Northumberland and her dam is Charming Girl by 9th Duke of Oxford. But *finis coronat opus* coming last to Prince of Brailes, also catalogued for sale, by the roan bull Duke of Rothsay (36534) by the very famous sire 6th Duke of Geneva (30959) who also is sire of Mr. Allsop's 3rd Duke of Hillhurst and others of equal merit. Sixth Duke of Geneva was bred by Mr. J. O. Sheldon and begotten of Baron Oxford, his dam being by Grand Duke of Oxford. But the dams of Duke of Rothsay of the third and fifth degree were Duchess 92nd from 84th, and Duchess 72nd were by 4th Duke of Oxford—a combination of the purest and best alliances. The story and descent of each Duchess in the pedigree of Duke of Rothsay would in itself occupy time and space too much—suffice it then that Duke of Rothsay was by no means an ordinary Duke as proved, not only by the individual merits of Prince of Brailes and his other descendants here, but also by his own intrinsic merits. Then Princess of Geneva 2nd, the dam of Prince of Brailes and bred by Mr. E. H. Chepey is amongst the purest of the Princess by Favourite (252) family, being the daughter of 9th Duke of Geneva (28391) who is also the sire of the famous young bull 7th Duke of Gloucester now in service at Holker. Ninth Duke of Geneva also combines the blood of pure Duchesses and Oxford, of the latter through Grand Duke of Oxford (16184) the sire of 4th Duchess of Geneva, so that I should from the result of the unerring judgment of Mr. Bates in crossing the Duchesses with the Princess bull Belvidere, the sire of the 41st and 33rd as also by the authoritative statement of Earl Ducie who, after a failing attempt to cross the Duchesses with alien blood is reported to have said to Mr. Strafford, the experienced and acknowledged all-round judge of live stock, "Well Stafford, Bates was right and I am wrong, I will never cross them (the Duchesses) with anything but themselves—namely the Duchesses and Oxfords," be justified in stating that Prince of Brailes from the roan

Princess of Geneva 2nd and Duke of Rothsay is a desirable animal, uniting the very best of the Duchess and Oxford blood, and is likely to prove himself a great acquisition to any first class herd. This fine young bull comes out of his box with some diffidence, probably from having stood outside in the sludge of the courtyard, rendering his feet soft and tender. After a slight hint to his leader I have the bull led out upon the grass when he draws himself up a very fine young animal. Now 18 months old the head here has all the most favourite characteristics, slightly dished in the forehead with prominent nostril and, though unmistakably masculine, it portrays great character, having the pendent pouch so necessary at the tongue root. His eye, too, is open and prominent, and he has flat waxy horns. Then, the fore quarters are masculine and, with the head, show the breeding. He has a broad floor of chest, and his brisket, like that of his dam, is prominent; the loin, too, is strong, and he has an uncommonly well fleshed back. He is tubular and his hind quarters, with thighs well fleshed down to the breech, are perfection. His skin, too, is soft and abundant, underlaid with that dainty cellular tissue which only is equalled by the very superior touch of his illustrious mother. Then again, his manner of walking, were he in better training, is such that as Shakespeare would have it "he is a fine young Prince," to whom most of the cows, since the unfortunate death of Duke of Rothsay, are breeding.

The herd here having increased to the extent of the capabilities of the farm of Mr. Sheldon has decided to dispose of some 35 of its members amongst which are Princess of Barrington, Countess of Darlington, and Gladys, all by one sire and any one of them fit to found a world of Shorthorns for substance, quality, and grandeur of character. Of the thirteen Charmers entered for public competition are some of the brightest jewels of the herd, as in Coral Duchess 6th, Charming Duchess 4th, 7th, 8th, and 15th, also two Rubies, two Cherry Duchesses and a Gwynne (all well-bred and grand animals), with one Sweetheart, the grandest of the family yet seen, and four Walnuts. The junior contingent to the sale are all by Duke of Rothsay, and all the animals to be offered are bred on the Brailes estate.

The whole herd brought out with an unerring aim and judgment is conspicuous for its deep flesh, dairying capabilities, hardy constitution, and, notwithstanding that the season and time of year, being confessedly the worst for showing hair—the herd, in which there are not more than three censurable animals, is conspicuous by its covering of rich soft hair. The Charmers here—30 or thereabouts—stand out in bold relief or, as their owner remarks, "are the pick of the basket." The production of such grand specimens, the result of skill and perseverance in the work, resulting in that uniformity of type, a great general sweetness of character, with a tendency to lay on flesh, are such that if collected as a family the more they are examined the more their excellencies would appear, forming a picture of living grandeur not easily effaced from the memory of a true connoisseur.

Then, the younger portion of the herd, and of every family represented in it, all begotten by Duke of Rothsay, with Prince of Brailes at their head, are of such character that to again quote the hackneyed phrase "*ex una disce omnes*," the beauty head, stylish appearance, deep and evenly laid flesh, and extraordinary quality as give but one cause for regret—the death of Duke of Rothsay just at the time when his descendants prove his great merits. Never, perhaps, did so many and so uniformly grand descendants of the same sire grow up in so short a time.

RAMBLER.

## MR. GLADSTONE ON GARDEN CULTIVATION.

Mrs. Gladstone distributed the prizes at the annual show of the Hawarden Horticultural Society on August 28, and in responding to the vote of thanks accorded to her and to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone for the use of the park in which the show was held, Mr. Gladstone, after referring to the satisfactory nature of the show, and to the general encouragement which it gave to cottage gardening, said—Although the present occasion was only an anniversary, yet he thought it something more than an anniversary; it was an anniversary marked with rather peculiar circumstances in the condition of the country at large, and in the condition of those who were connected with the cultivation of the soil; and he was very desirous to draw the attention of those present—not only the attention of cottagers, but the attention likewise of those who were farmers—to the great and increasing importance of what might be called garden cultivation. They knew that the present was a time of agricultural distress, and that there was considerable pressure upon the farmers of this country, particularly in some districts. It was not so great, he was glad to think, in that district, as it was in others, but nevertheless it was felt that it was not a time of prosperity; and not being a time of prosperity, it was one of those periods which sometimes were productive of a very great deal of good by leading people to consider more seriously than they did in times of prosperity what resources they possessed, what expedients could be resorted to, how they could better their position and struggle with the vicissitudes of the time and of the climate more effectually than on former occasions they had been able to do. He believed that one of the means by which cultivators of the soil in this country—and for the present he drew no distinction between small and large cultivators—might improve their position was to pay a greater amount of attention to what was called garden and spade cultivation. Probably some of them might be surprised if he was to tell them the value of the fruit and vegetables imported into this country from abroad. The value of the dried fruits imported into this country from abroad annually was £2,346,000. But he did not speak so much of these because a large portion of these consisted of products such as currants, figs, and raisins, which were not adapted to the latitude or this country, and to the climate of it. When he came to other fruits he found a vast quantity imported of raw fruit which consisted in a very great degree of what we grew among ourselves, such as apples, pears, stone fruit, and the like. Of this no less than £1,704,000 worth was imported into this country, and of nuts, of which we had great quantities among ourselves, £167,000 worth were imported. That was to say that £2,200,000 worth of fruit such as was grown in this country was imported into it, besides dried fruits. Then when he came to vegetables, he found a still larger proportion imported. Of onions we imported annually £14,000 worth, and he took it that there was no better country for the growth of onions than this country. Of potatoes we imported £2,386,000 worth, and about £300,000 worth of other kinds of vegetables, making nearly three million pounds' worth of vegetables imported from abroad. He was one of those who were very glad that the people of this country who wanted to eat fruit and vegetables should get them from abroad if they could not get them at home. He thought it was an excellent thing that the labour of this country was in some shape or other exchanged and employment given to the people in producing commodities to be given in return for the fruit and vegetables so imported. Still, on every ground he should like to see this fruit and these vegetables grown at home. There were three great chapters of this question. The first was a question of flowers, the second a question of vegetables, and the third a question of fruit; and all these were capable of being made lucrative industries, and, when pursued on a considerable scale, capable of yielding very large returns. Among the signs of growing interest in this question were the publications which were proceeding from the press. In the last number of *Macmillan's Magazine* there was a most interesting, and he had also seen what was apparently a most useful small publication called "Cottage Gardening," by Mr. Badger, which had gained a prize awarded by judges and given by Mr. Hubbard. The cost of

this publication was only threepence. A gentleman named Burbage had also written a small book on horticulture quite lately, and again he had in his hand a book upon "Town and Window Gardening," which had lately been published by a lady named Buckton. It showed the interest of the population in subjects of the kind. That book related how in the town of Leeds the children of Board schools competed for prizes for window gardening, which meant flowers that they could grow in the windows of their houses; for gardens generally speaking, they had none. Under those unfavourable circumstances more than one thousand children had actually competed for those prizes, showing that there was a foundation of natural taste for undertakings of the kind, and how ready they were to avail themselves of their opportunities. They wished to apply further stimulus by endeavouring to carry their minds to the proposition of how a vast and largely profitable industry might be set in motion by the extension of this cottage gardening, and by the introduction of spade cultivation where it was found suitable even by the larger farmers as well as by the cottagers. Perhaps they would say that was very surprising, but they did not understand how it could be; but the article in *Macmillan's Magazine* gave them an account of a gentleman named Peill, on the Hudson River, in North America, who had got an apple garden of two hundred acres, all full of apple trees—and not only so, but these apple trees, which were yielding now almost countless quantities of apples, to be imported into this country, were all direct descendants of trees which were exported to America from England—the grandchildren and great grandchildren, if they chose so to call them, of their own trees. In this same publication was a great deal of beneficial and practical information. There were some things which were very plain, but which were not so much taken to heart by the people as they ought to be. For example, in the book from which he was quoting on "Cottage Gardening," Mr. Badger described a weed as a thief and a robber, and it was a correct description for what was a weed? It was not merely a thing that was useless, but a thing that was destructive. It took away that which ought to go, and which was capable of going to something else that was useful. It not only took that to which it was not entitled, but took away from something else that to which it was entitled. As to robbers of another kind in flesh and blood, they looked to the police and other means to look after them; but these weeds were not a bit less truly robbers, and a sufficient number of weeds would rob them of a considerable sum. The probability was that the weeds in this country robbed the farmers and cottagers of a great deal more than all other robbers in the land put together. The same book said they should never let a weed go to seed, and that was a sensible observation, for it was said one year's seed seven year's weed. Whether or not that was the exact figure, he believed it was the truth. He hoped they would think more and more of this subject of garden and spade cultivation, for they might rely upon it there was a great deal to be done with it. They might say, perhaps, that they had no market for the increased produce which would thus be obtained, but markets would be found. There was an enormous mass of wealth in this country always looking out to purchase means of enjoyment, and they would never find a useful commodity come into existence without its very soon making a market. An instance was to be found which showed very forcibly the truth of this, and that was the ostrich farming which had latterly been started at the Cape of Good Hope. Ostrich feathers were an article of luxury of which the ladies were particularly fond, and that was a capital foundation for a good demand in the market. In a not very long time the ostrich farmers at the Cape sent over to this country ostrich feathers of the value of £500,000, and they might wonder where a market could be found for such a vast quantity, and think that ostrich feathers would have become almost as common as the feathers of cocks and hens. But nothing of the sort. Such was the wealth of this country, and the avidity and desire of the people to have these ostrich feathers to adorn themselves, and to add to the graces which nature had so liberally bestowed upon them, that the effect on the price of the article was very slight indeed, and as there were people ready to buy more ostrich feathers, there was a still larger number of people ready to buy more flowers, more pears and apples, more cabbages and potatoes—more of all those directly useful and necessary things which their gardens

produced. It was a mistake to suppose that everybody had got as much of these things as he wanted. We had got an enormous town population, which was too indifferently supplied with these things, and this he was able to prove by observations made with his own eyes. He saw a growing recognition of these things in London in the last few years. He had noticed a new kind of shop spring up in London which he called the nose-gay shop, and a prettier sight could nowhere be seen than these shops, which were to be found in Bond Street, Oxford Street, and in other places, where they saw the most beautiful bunches of flowers, large bunches for the ladies and small bunches for the gentlemen. This was a new method of administering to a want which was felt, and if they went to London in the early months of the year they would find quantities of violets sold in the streets for a penny a bunch. That had been going on for a good many years, but he recollected the time when there was no such thing. A new trade had sprung up, for there must be plenty of people to buy these violets or else the people would not sell them. They might depend upon it that there was an unbounded field for the production of these useful articles. Aye, and he was not at all sure that it was not in the power of many of the farmers of this country to materially improve their own position by introducing that kind of cultivation. He did not say so as to supersede other cultivation, nor yet to interfere with it materially, but as an auxiliary cultivation, and one of very great importance. They must not say that we had a bad climate for this purpose, for after all they would not like the climate of this country to be judged by the experience of the present year. They must hope that it might please the Almighty to send them many years very different from this one. This had been a sad and mournful year, and he did not know of one single year to equal it in his own recollection; but they might rely upon it this was a very good climate on the whole for the production of useful commodities in gardens, whether they were flowers, vegetables, or fruits. As an instance of this the right hon. gentleman referred to the large growth of strawberries in Aberdeenshire, and took the occasion to have a humorous fling at the long-headedness of the Aberdonians, and, indeed, of all Scotchmen. He also said they must remember that, despite the climate, they had one extraordinary advantage, namely, the advantage of easily procuring and applying artificial heat for the production of garden produce, and mentioned an ingenious device which he had seen a gardener adopt for giving his fruit the full benefit of the sun. In conclusion, he said there was no end to the ingenious contrivances which the practice of gardening would develop at once in improving their mental faculties, and as he hoped tending to increase their comforts and augment their honourable and useful gain. The subject on which he had spoken was one intimately connected with the comfort and advantage of the people, with the refinement of their taste, with the happiness of their homes, with the substantial well-being of their lives, and he was very glad to see that its importance was becoming more and more recognised, not only by writers, but by those who were actors, and by none more than the cottage gardeners.

## RAILWAY FREIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. E. C. Porter, of Lyon, writes to the *Daily News* :—

A letter appeared in the *Daily News* of August 23, signed "Sidney Smith," in which it was asserted that the freight from Chicago to New York for grain was one-sixth of a farthing per ton per mile. As this assertion has not been contradicted, it will be accepted by many as a fact. The actual rates from Chicago and Milwaukee to New York were at their lowest about June, and were then 2 dols. 90 cents per ton, or about 12s.; to Baltimore, 2 dols. 30 cents; and to Philadelphia, 2 dols. 50 cents per ton of 2,000 lb. The Lake and Canal freights at the same time from Milwaukee and Chicago to New York were 2 dols. 15 cents for maize, and 2 dols. 25 cents for wheat. The distance by rail from Chicago to New York is 988 miles, so that freights on the average were about half a farthing per ton (of 2,000 lb.) per mile, but were then ruinously low, and have since advanced considerably. The grain rates on English railways for distances of about 200 miles are about eight times as much per mile as the American rates quoted above.

## DR. BEGG ON HARVEST PROSPECTS.

A "Special meeting for humiliation and prayer" was held recently in Newington Free Church, Edinburgh (the Rev. Dr. Begg's). There was a numerous attendance, and the services were conducted by the pastor of the congregation, and the Rev. Dr. Mackay, Inverness. In the course of his address, Dr. Begg asked his hearers to take a glance at the present position and prospects of the country. On every side, he said, they saw great depression of trade, much suffering among the labouring classes, and, what was a remarkable phenomenon, the threatening of a great blight in the fruits of the earth. Some had calculated there would be an apparent loss to the extent of sixty millions sterling upon the fruits of the earth, and it might exceed that sum. Those were indications, no doubt, of judgment. Such things did not occur by mere accident. They were the result of the overruling providence of God, and they might well ask, "Is there not a cause?" They could not with confidence make statements in regard to the precise causes of the arrangements which God made. But at the same time, they knew in general that there was a cause, and they knew, moreover, that that cause was sin. No doubt there were national sins, and those of great magnitude, which had to do with the present threatening aspect of God's providence. Some of those were in our own land, and some in countries with which we had connection. For instance, in our land, the prevalence of infidelity—the attempting to prove that God did not exist, and that all things had sprung from nothing, or from something which we did not understand—infidelity, whether in the form of blank atheism, or in the milder form of attempting to undermine the Word of God, and set it aside. This land had prospered greatly since the Reformation, but we had recently forgotten whence our prosperity sprung, and had begun again to give power to that system which was the foe of liberty as well as of divine truth. Millions had recently been given by the Government, virtually to support that evil system. The very last act of the Legislature, or among the last, was to give a million and a quarter, nominally to retired teachers in Ireland, but they knew well enough that in Ireland the mass of those teachers were just the monks and nuns of the Roman system, and that grant was therefore given for the purpose of aggrandising the Church of Rome. That system had assumed a violent attitude in Parliament, in order that Legislation should be forcibly arrested till its demands were complied with. Those who spoke in his young days on that subject warned our statesmen about the result. But the latter were wiser than all that had gone before them, and imagined that they should be able to control that system, and that it would have no influence in the arrangements of Parliament. But they saw now that it was the very reverse. He had no doubt that this had something to do with the evils they deplored. The rev. doctor proceeded to speak at some length of the connection of this country with the opium trade of India and China, and asked whether they could for a moment suppose that God was indifferent to that. He also alluded to Egypt, and described the condition of the people there as most degraded. The startling exhibition in recent times of the complete destitution of principle in our mercantile world; dealings on the part of professing Christians, and even elders of the Church, which would have shamed the heathen; Sabbath-breaking and profane swearing, were also referred to as causes of the threatened danger. Some, the preacher remarked, were ready to say that there was no connection betwixt these things and judgment. That was a simple denial of God, and he cared not to answer such persons. He had a most

confident conviction that there was a connection; and, more than that, he believed that the nation would be brought to its knees before the judgement was fully removed. Having dwelt on the efficacy of prayer, he said he was glad to see there had been so much of it recently in England, which had been more smitten than Scotland by the threatened danger. He was glad to hear from a member of his own congregation that some young men in this city, who some weeks ago were ready to scoff, at all these things, were beginning to look serious, and to speak of Providence in a far more respectful way than they formerly did. These things were cheering; but, at the same time, the prospect was dark and threatening, and if God averted not His anger, we should find in the ensuing winter a state of things such as had not been seen in our day, and such as our fathers never saw.

## GREAT WHEAT FARMS.

Ninety years ago, Arthur Young, writing to President Washington, expressed considerable doubt whether agriculture would ever be a paying occupation in the United States. He elaborately calculated that the net profit from 300 acres of land in England, after the deduction of taxes and all other expenses, was £325 10s., or 5·15 per cent. on the combined capital of the landlord and tenant (£6,240); whilst in America the net profit, after similar deductions had been made, was £206 11s., or 10·55 per cent. on the capital of £1,951., the farmer being his own landlord. It is curious to study the figures in the light of present events, when the English farmer is making a very different complaint, and from causes of which the author of the "Agricultural Survey" never even dreamed. If any one had told Washington's correspondent of 1789 that in 1879 the American wheat growers would threaten ruin to the English farmers, he would doubtless have been considered a madman. Yet ninety years ago American agriculture was infinitely more promising than that of Australia less than twenty years back, though the Southern Continent now competes with the New World for the profits of feeding the old one. When the first Europeans landed in New Holland they found a land producing no vegetable fit for food, no animal akin to those in the regions they had left, and no domesticated cattle of any kind. Repeatedly the convicts were on the point of starving, and probably would have perished, had it not been for the abundance of kangaroos, and the fortunate arrival of a ship from Java. In 1804 flour was quoted in Van Dieman's Land at £112 per ton; three year later wheat was £4 a bushel, and appeared so likely to rise to a still higher price that a garrison order was issued making it a penal offence for the settlers to charge for it more than £32 a quarter. But times have changed. Last year New South Wales alone had feeding within its borders over twenty-seven millions of sheep, and four millions of horned cattle, while the colony of South Australia alone is this year prepared to export, after satisfying her own demands and those of her immediate neighbours, no less than one hundred and seventy thousand tons of wheat. In America, however, there was always some agriculture. The Indians cultivated maize from the earliest period, and among the first plunder of Miles Standish and his companions was the corn which the "red sons of Belial" had stored away for winter use. The Aborigines taught the Virginians and New Englanders to cultivate this grain, and, as mines were not worked in America for long after its first colonisation, the earliest settlers depended on farming as their main resource. Yet, for one century at least, wheat growing was on its trial in America, and so little progress did tillage make, that we find, as late as 1660, the Massachusetts townships paying a bounty to any one who would buy and keep a plough in repair for use of the neighbouring farmers. The stony New England clearings required all the aid of art; but they got so little that the narrow-minded Puritans looked upon a man who ventured to make improvements as a reckless innovator, certain to come to grief himself and bring ruin to the commonwealth. A century ago, if he did not plant just as many acres of corn as his father did, and that, too, "in the old of the moon," if he did not sow just as much rye to the acre, use the same number

of oxen to break up the soil; and to carry home the crops on exactly the same day as his neighbours did, he was shunned in company by old and young, as a visionary who imagined that the wisdom of his ancestors was not good enough for him.

Last year the United States sent to Europe over forty million bushels of maize, and this year the amount of wheat to be exported cannot amount to much less than one hundred million bushels. No sterile Northern State ever made much advance in grain growing, and though Virginia and Maryland were rich, the amount of land capable of raising wheat was but limited, and on the rich river "bottoms" the exhausting tobacco culture for a time paid much better. Even there the expense of clearing the soil was so great that the fact of its costing little to buy the freehold did not counter-balance this original disadvantage to the farmer. But when Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri became opened up, in the treeless prairies of this farther West the corn grower revelled. The soil was rich—there were no forests on it—and the plough was merely required to be run through its stoneless extent to prepare it for grain. When the Indians—who, it must be allowed, were a drawback to the delights of the new Cereal Paradise—were removed across the Mississippi, settlers and cultivation spread still more, and when railways were run through these Prairie States, it was not long before even the highly coloured advertisements of the Companies which had "donations" of land to induce them to build these iron roads could convince the most sanguine farmer that between the Ohio and the Platte there was much space for a new comer who was not enamoured of extracting grain out of sage brush and alkali wastes. Meantime, St. Louis and Chicago became great "wheat centres," and prospered as the cities of the middle men who tithe the farmers' grain before it reached the Eastern States and Europe. In some quarters, indeed, it was found that to grow a surplus crop would not pay. It is not thirty years since that, in some parts of Illinois, maize brought only five cents per bushel, so that, after all the pigs that could be purchased had been fed on it, the remainder was burnt as fuel.

But though this practice is now only traditional, it has been found by those who have carefully watched the progress of events that the "wheat centre"—or the central point round which cluster the largest production of that cereal—has been gradually shifting farther and farther West. Within this century, the six New England States grew the wheat for their own bread. They could not now, as Mr. Manegault has clearly demonstrated, feed themselves with wheat flour for a fortnight. Once the "wheat centre" stood in New York; then it migrated to Pennsylvania, a State which can now eat up all it can produce in ten months. Virginia was never a wheat centre, but in 1860 it produced twelve bushels for every person in it; whilst in 1870 it only raised six, and probably the return per head is at present very much lower. Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois were successively for a time the States in which wheat culture centred, but successively the yield fell off in these regions, until at the present time the "centre," is stationed somewhere between Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. There are, however, already signs that, true to its previous history, the farinaceous metropolis will not long stop there, but—as its migration has always been westward—that it will progress still further towards the setting sun. To do so it must take a long leap, a fact which those who have made their calculations as to the wheat producing capabilities of the States have generally failed to enlighten their victim regarding. The reason is this. East of the Rocky Mountains is a country comprising seven-sixteenths of the United States, which is a desert, with not five per cent of improvable land. The cold during the winter is intense, and the summer heats correspondingly great. During a short season it affords a little pasture for stock, but, as its capabilities for feeding cattle are only during the season of greatest plenty, not during that when other food is scarce, even as a grazing region it can never be of much value, and on its soilless surface the wheat culture will never linger. The reason for this migratory character of the "wheat centre" is plain. The soil is getting exhausted with continuous cropping. The same crop is grown year after year on the same fields, because it pays best. The land is rich, but it cannot bear this constant exhaustion. The farmer cannot afford to buy artificial manure to refertilise it; while this system of tillage allows of no domestic manure being made, so that in time everything is taken out of the soil and nothing put back into it. The end is a decreased yield of

wheat, and the necessity for the thriftless cultivator seeking fresh virgin soil on which to resume his old unscientific and wasteful but, for the time being, profitable agriculture. He is in a word, not charging to revenue alone the interest of his money; he is every year adding to it a part of the principal also, with the result that in time he finds he has no capital with which to work. If he sold every year an acre of his farm, and ate, drank, and dressed with the sum received, he could not more effectually accomplish his ruin than by the method he is adopting. However, this is not patent to him, for so long as land is plentiful in America—and in a few years tillable soil will be very scarce—the farmer, "moves West." This is no theory. New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, have been "worn out" as completely, as wheat-growing regions, as whole tracts of country along the Mississippi have been rendered useless by continued tobacco cropping. The early settlers in New England, and even in Maryland and Virginia, were not so thriftless, for though land in those days was cheaper than it is now, it cost too much labour to clear it for them to think of rendering their farms unfruitful by this modern fashion of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Their farms were, moreover, small, and their agriculture mixed. They consumed the straw grown on the soil and returned it again in the form of manure. Artificial manures were not then known, but the sea was not far off, and accordingly fish and seaweed supplied admirable fertilisers to the thin soil on which were reared the pioneers of the Great Republic, while rotation of crops allowed a field rest until it had again recuperated its feeding properties. Even the Indians knew better. They fertilised their maize crops with the horse foot or king crab, and until this crustacean became scarce the Massachusetts farmers followed their example so satisfactorily that, early in this century, ground which would ordinarily return only ten bushels of "corn" to the acre was stimulated by the free use of the crab and fish manure into yielding double that crop. The Virginians made much merriment out of this New England culture, but they have since discovered that it would have been better for them to have followed so good a practice.

What has been the result of this wearing out of the soil? In Illinois—no less an authority than Abraham Lincoln used to assert—the wheat fields of that once fertile State had sunk as early as 1863 to an average of eight bushels per acre. The wheat centre has thus travelled one thousand two hundred miles from the Atlantic sea board, but for the present has been stopped by the barren central deserts of the Continent. Even on the extreme confines of that region wheat is beginning to prove by no means such a profitable crop as it once did. The last four seasons' bad crops in England have stimulated wheat growing in the States to an abnormal extent. But when we reduce the boastfulness of the Western "rancher" to the hard prose of figures, we find that Great Britain, though not over one sixty-fourth part of the size of the United States, produced not much less than one-half as much wheat as did the States in 1870, and though this year the disproportion will be much higher, there is little ground for believing that it has not attained about its maximum. Even France, never looked upon as especially a wheat-growing country, has in twenty years contributed more of this grain to the world than the United States during the same period. The crops even in England are more certain than across the Atlantic. Droughts, grasshoppers, and rust seize the wheat of Western America something, on an average, like twice in five years; and, owing to the grain maturing so rapidly, it is rarely as heavy as that ripened more slowly in our milder climate. Maize is really the crop which suits North America best, and were it not for "corn," as the Indian grain is called, the United States would require to import part of its bread.

It may be said that in time the Americans will learn a better system of farming, and "feed the land," in order that the land may, according to the English axiom, feed them. But it is doubtful whether the average Western farmer will ever attain this stage of agricultural wisdom. In the first place, he will never bring himself to do so as long as waste land is to be had. He will rather sell out and "move West," or "go into business"—for agriculture is not the industry which the average energetic American effects. In the second place, he cannot for the present afford to manure his land. To bring fish refuse from the coast, or town sewage from the cities, would cost too much, while guano, superphosphates, and other artificial fertilisers—the use of

which at once abridge the English farmer's profits and keep his land in a condition fit to make these profits, such as they are, permanent—would be still further beyond the Illinois, Nebraska, and Missouri grain-grower's reach. To use them would so decrease his moderate returns as to put it out of his power to land wheat in England, even in the best of seasons, without a loss to himself, or to the exporter. But every year that he hesitates about putting back into the soil what he is taking out—and is content with the profit which the difference between these two extremes represents—will make it more and more difficult for him ever to do so.

Oregon and California have been represented as countries likely in time to be "wheat centres." This is perhaps a sanguine prospect. Oregon has no great extent of land capable of growing grains, except in the Willanette and a few other valleys, chiefly to the west of the Cascade Mountains, and in these regions the farms are all small, and devoted, luckily for their owners—to mixed agriculture. Hence the settlers are prosperous, though not very wealthy. In 1878 about seven millions of bushels of wheat were received in Liverpool from the country north of California. The best lands will yield thirty bushels to the acre. But the farmer is not content with this, for having reaped his thirty bushels at a profit of about ten dollars, he depends upon nature for returning him the next year a volunteer harvest of some eighteen bushels, in addition to the plentiful crop of weeds, which cost him double ploughing and absolute rest the third year, in order to extirpate them, and at the same time raise the soil to something like its old fertility. Still, owing to the use of manure, the Oregon and Washington territory farms have not been worn out to anything like the extent which the larger ones in California and the "Western States" proper have. The Californians love to do things on a grandiose scale—the greater the more pleasing to them. Hence large wheat "ranches" are the rule in that State, though the amount of soil capable of being tilled is much less than in many districts in the Mississippi Valley, and the cost of land very much higher. In consequence of the existence of old Mexican grants, there are still large tracts in California held in the hands of single proprietors. For instance Mr. Mitchell, in the San Joaquin Valley, has 90,000 acres under wheat, and is ambitious to have 100,000; and Dr. Glen, in Colusa county, has 45,000 acres under the same crop; and another tiller named Reavis has a modest little farm of 15,000 acres. But though these "ranchers" get eighty-five cents per bushels for their wheat, they do not find their business so profitable as is imagined. Indeed, some of them have in ten years cleared nothing, but have managed to get into debt on a scale quite as gigantic as their farms.

Large wheat farming does not pay. It is too precarious, as is proved by the failures of those who have tried it in Minnesota and other States. To use a familiar phrase, the large wheat grower puts his eggs all into one basket. If wheat is high, he makes a great profit; if, on the other hand, wheat—his only crop—falls, then he is ruined, for he has no reserve, as have those who practise mixed farming. These miles of wheat have a bare, ragged appearance. There are no barns or farm buildings. The ears are snipped off by a wonderful machine, which also threshes and sacks the dry grain on the field. The straw is then either burnt or disposed of in various ways, none of which allow of the soil reaping any advantage from it. The same plan is pursued in South Australia. In the colony there are no large farmers, but the "cockatoos," or little cultivators, are equally thrifless. They use no manure, but burn off the stubble, and, as a result, are so impoverishing the soil that in a few years its fertility will have greatly decreased. Of course, some soils, both in Australia and in America—but in America more than in Australia—will bear continual cropping for a long time. But the tales of eighty bushels to the acre must be received with many grains of salt, and—at best—as relating only to special patches of land, and not as anything like an average of even a single State. Even in California, all "pumpkins" are not so gigantic as those which about this time of the year begin their perennial rounds in the American newspapers. The truth is, that the average return of wheat land in America is only eleven bushels per acre, lower than in any country in Europe except Russia, where it is only five and a-half, and only one-third of what the little Danish farms, on which all the straw is

consumed, yield to the more thrifty cultivator. The outlook of the British farmer is not quite so bad as he imagines, or as some dubious friends of his would have him to believe. All things, it is said, come to the man who can wait; and if the English agriculturist has only sufficient staying power, the facts above narrated indicate that, in all likelihood, he will again have his day.—*Standard.*

## THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON ON AGRICULTURAL REFORM.

At the luncheon of the Radnorshire Agricultural Society on Friday, Sept 5.

LORD HARTINGTON, in proposing "Success to the Radnorshire Agricultural Society," said:—I do not think I should profitably occupy your time if I were to give any personal opinion as to the character of the show which has taken place to-day. I would rather leave it to more experienced and qualified persons, but judging from the attendance which we have witnessed, both on the show ground and in this room, whatever may be the state of agricultural depression in the country, there does not appear to be any falling off in the interest taken in this district and county in the success of the Radnorshire Agricultural Show. Of course it is impossible to speak at such a meeting as this, on such occasions as the present, without saying a few words upon the subject which has been already touched upon—in my opinion very well touched upon—by a previous speaker, namely, the subject of the present depressed state of the agricultural interests of the country. That is a subject in which the whole community is now taking a most lively interest. I saw not very long ago in the columns of a certain newspaper what appeared to me to be a very just remark. It is a very able newspaper, but at the same time one in whose opinion I do not always concur. I allude to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. The remark to which I have referred contains the lesser fact that farmers, unlike the case of many other classes, had more friends in distress than in prosperity. That struck me as a significant passage. No sooner is there much talk of depression in the interest to which I have alluded this evening than some one comes forward very well qualified to speak, and delivers an opinion upon it, and proposes these remedies which suggest themselves. Well, no doubt some very grand opinions have been delivered, but I do not know whether amongst the multitude of counsellors we have had on the subject we have been able to extract any practical results. It appears to me that this is not to be wondered at, because the depression is subject to two causes over which we have not the slightest control. The causes are, first, the bad seasons we have lately experienced, secondly, the almost unlimited competition which we meet with from abroad. No doubt there is very great interest felt in the proceedings of the Agricultural Commission by the whole nation. I have no doubt that this Commission will be able to collect a vast amount of varied and useful information, which will be useful not only to the agricultural interest, but to the community at large. It can obtain much information as to the different systems of agriculture both at home and abroad, and as to the profitableness and respective merits of high and low cultivation. Information may in this direction also be gleaned as to whether the causes of the present state of things are permanent or only temporary. The Commission can also give capitalists information as to whether the agricultural profession is one into which capital can be wisely put or not. Again, they can obtain some information as to the relative profits which are made on the small and large occupations. I am fully of opinion that there is a great deal of useful work with this Commission may do, but I still think that its appointment may do a great deal of harm if the scope of the possible results which may follow are to be misconstrued. The agricultural interest must recognise this fact clearly—that it stands in exactly the same position that any other does. Undoubtedly it is the largest and most important interest in the whole of the country. It is an interest to which the country looks for the supply of the most necessary of all the conveniences of life, for the supply of a great portion of its food. Therefore it is the most important of all the industries of the country, but still I say that we must recognise the fact that the country can only look at this industry from the same point of view

from which it looks at any other. The time has gone by when the State can attempt to bolster up this industry more than other by a special encouragement, or special protection. I believe that about half the food that is consumed in this country now comes to us from foreign States. Well, no one can for one moment believe that the country will even endure that the price of this most necessary article of consumption should be raised by the imposition of protective duties for the benefit of an interest, however important it may be. We must understand that if there are any changes which are to follow from the inquiries of this Commission, they must be changes which must take place in the relations of agriculturists to each other, and not of the agricultural interest to the whole community. What these changes may be I do not think this would be a proper time for me to enter into. The subject is too large, and, besides, it might be supposed if I were to touch upon some of them that I was entering upon the forbidden field of party controversy. But I may perhaps say that some remarks of mine which were made in the House of Commons upon the question have been very strangely misunderstood by some persons, and by those persons in a very important position. Some remarks of mine were thought worthy of the notice of the Prime Minister, and this was a speech made not upon a party occasion, or else I should not notice it here, but in a speech which the Prime Minister made at the dinner of the Lord Mayor of London. Lord Beaconsfield appeared to suppose that I had advocated in the House of Commons some alteration in the law for the purpose of altering the existing tenure of land and encouraging the growth of small or even peasant proprietors. I undoubtedly did refer in those remarks to peasant proprietors, and I believe there are a great many belonging to all sides of politics who think that the establishment among us of a considerable number of small proprietors would be a very great advantage. Certainly, however presumptuous many of us may be, I never have been so presumptuous—as presumption it would be with the imperfect consideration which I have yet been able to give to such an important subject—as to attempt to lay down the doctrine that the existing tenure of the land of this country ought to be altered, or that anything ought to be done for forcibly encouraging any other tenure. All I want to be done, all I want to be inquired into even, is that if there are any laws which produce among us a condition of things which is not natural, which tend to produce among us an artificial state of things, which tend artificially to aggregate vast properties in the hands of a few persons who perhaps have not capital enough to manage them—I say, if laws exist among us which have this effect, they are at all events as well worthy to be inquired into as any subject which this Commission can undertake. I am not an advocate for encouraging peasant proprietors, or any class, in an artificial manner, but I do say that if there exist among us laws which do tend to create such artificial results, then these laws ought to be very carefully examined. I do not think it is necessary that I should detain you any longer. I look forward, as you may gather, with the hope that a considerable amount of good will proceed from the inquiries of this Commission. But with regard to these inquiries, it must be a considerable time before a report is made, before the recommendations will be before us, and before they can be acted upon. Well then, is there nothing in the meantime which we can do to improve the existing state of things? I believe that the depression under which we are labouring will not be altogether thrown away if it induces landlords and tenants, without intervention on the part of the State, to reconsider for themselves their relations to each other. I believe most of us will agree that in this, as in many other cases, it is the weakest who go to the wall. I do not believe that we find that many tenants who are possessed of plenty of capital are obliged to give up their farms. It is those who have been farming too large occupations with insufficient capital who cannot resist the stress of the present depression. If I might give a piece of advice to tenant farmers it is that now, when in the unfortunate position in which we find ourselves there is a good deal of changing of holdings and plenty of farms to let, I should say, rather than struggle on in what must be an almost hopeless struggle in a farm too large for their capital, it is better to make up their minds at once to face the probability of smaller profits, and take smaller holdings, to which they can do justice; and if, as is the case with many landlords, they are not in possession of all the capital which it would be desirable to have to enable them to do full justice to their property, then the best course

they can take is to do everything in their power to induce tenants of larger capital to come and occupy their land. That, I think, may be to a great extent encouraged by the revision of the old leases and agreements, which now seem to be considered by many of the most eminent agriculturists somewhat antiquated, and calculated to keep capital away from land. I say it will be long before the Commission will recommend, even if it can recommend, anything; but that does not prevent us taking our own view of the case, and seeking together, landlords and tenants, the best means we can for helping each other, and for pulling through the emergency in which we find ourselves.

## AGRICULTURE IN GERMANY.

The Rev. Barham Zincke writes to *The Times* :—

I have now for some weeks been looking into the agriculture of the district around Dresden—on the west as far as Leipsic, and on the north as far as Berlin—with the thought of seeing whether it be capable of throwing any light on the present condition of English agriculture. The facts I have observed and the conclusions at which I have arrived may perhaps at the present time interest some of your readers.

To understand the agricultural position here we must go back a little. Thirty years ago no part of the world was prepared for the abolition of our corn laws; our near neighbours, therefore, were naturally the first to avail themselves of the new opening and to profit by the change. One effect of those laws, with our limited agricultural area and dense population, had been to make our prices higher than those ruling elsewhere, and our neighbours, not having at the time any considerable surplus for supplying our wants; our demand acting on their limited means of supply greatly raised the price of agricultural produce in this part of the world; for even in districts that had no immediate dealings with us, prices went up to the new level. This, of course, raised the value of land. The wages, too, of labour were in consequence of these changes greatly enhanced. Everybody, therefore, connected with the land—that is to say, far the greater part of the population—came to have a great deal more money to spend than they had ever had before; and this gave to manufacturers and trade an impulse they had never felt before. Every town began to expand; and the new houses were invariably and in a very conspicuous degree superior to those in the older parts of the towns with which the predecessors of the newly enriched generation had been content. This recent outgrowth and improvement of the towns is not more noticeable here in Dresden than it is in Leipsic, Hanover, and almost everywhere else. This came of continental prices having been raised to the English level, less the cost of the transport of the commodities.

In the meanwhile, however, the greater world beyond the oceans, the United States—themselves as large as Europe—Canada, India, and even parts of Australia were preparing to take part in the lucrative business of supplying the English market with the staff of life. Time was requisite for enabling them to do this. The wilderness had to be subdued; agricultural implements and machinery suitable to the new requirements to be invented and supplied; and means of transport to be created. All this has now been effected; and American wheat can now be sold in Europe at 20s. a sack. This is a heavy blow to European agriculture: we are all sensible of the degree to which it is depressing English agriculture; and the questions I have been looking into lately are how have the new conditions affected the agriculture of this part of Germany; and does the state of things here help us at all in understanding the state of things at home?

I find that, though the price of wheat is here reduced by the command America has obtained over the wheat market of the world, agriculture is not in the suffering condition to which it has been reduced in England. The reasons of this are what it would be useful for us to know. My observations and inquiries have brought me to believe that the simplest expression of these reasons is that the land here is for the most part cultivated in farms of about 50 acres by their owners. I will endeavour to point out some of the most obvious and noteworthy consequences of these two facts, (1.) As the farmer and his family generally work on the

farm (there are about 1,000,000 landowners in Prussia) there is comparatively little expended in hired labour. To understand how this acts we must suppose farms in England averaging about 50 acres, and that on these 50-acre farms the owner and his family in most cases take the lead in the work. On any thousand acres, then there might be 20 families working with the will of owners, not for wages, but supported by what they could themselves produce. (2.) What hired labour is required is more efficient than hired labour is with us, because the labourer works with, generally lives with and feels that he belongs to the same class as the farmer, and not to quite a different class made one in sentiment by the consciousness of all its members that they are all alike without property, all practically incapable of attaining to property, and that they all alike have nothing to fall back upon but the poor rate. (3.) The land is, I might almost say beyond comparison, kept cleaner here than it is in England. There are no hedges or ditches acting as nurseries for weeds and giving harbour to vermin. The heart of the owner is in his land, and every weed that appears upon the land is felt to be growing at the cost of the owner and of his family. (4.) The farmer has no rent to pay; that was paid once for all when the land was purchased, generally by some ancestor of the present owner. This, besides now annually securing to the farmer a higher reward for his labour, saves him in bad times from the anxieties and entanglements of having to borrow; advances, too, not being so readily obtainable here as they are with us. (5.) I will only mention one more cause, and I regard it as a very effective one, of the strength of the agricultural system that obtains in this part of the Continent—I might, indeed, say over the greater part of the Continent. The land being held in small farms, a far greater variety of produce is extracted from it than is possible under our system. Potatoes are produced to an extent that surprises even non-agricultural Englishmen. The same may be said of fruit, vegetables, poultry, milk, and butter. It would be interesting to know, if it could be ascertained, how many hundred—I might, indeed, say how many thousand—miles of fruit-trees decorate, and turn to good account, without the slightest protection, the margins of the roads and paths in this part of Germany. That this can be done is indicative of a very satisfactory trait in the character of the people, not only of this district, but of the Continent generally. Of course, it is easily explained by the general diffusion of property. In these small farms absolutely no space is wasted. In places where the surface appears to be pure sand and no agricultural plant could live, I have everywhere found plantations of Scotch fir and of birch, the only trees that could maintain themselves in such starving barrenness. It was necessary at first to set the young trees in deep furrows that they might not be blown out of the ground, and that the rain that fell might be conducted to their roots. In all the plantations of this kind I saw. I noticed that every individual tree was carefully forested, and that no briars nor nettles or undergrowth of any kind were allowed to spring up on the decaying leaves, and so rob the plantation. On land not yet good enough for producing grain, though somewhat better than that appropriated to Scotch fir and birch, the yellow lupine is grown for forage.

What, then, I have seen here disposes me to think that in English agriculture grass will not take the place of tillage, the course that is now very generally recommended. On the contrary, with our limited area for supplying the wants of so large a population, it will be the plough, well used and thoroughly preparing the land for a great variety of produce, and not the unbroken sward of nature that will triumph eventually. With our more numerous and better markets, our incomparably better soil (I never saw a poorer soil under cultivation than a great part of that between Dresden and Berlin), our moister climate—though this year perhaps that ought not to be insisted on—and our more widely diffused means of transport, there would, under the agricultural system of this part of Germany, be little or no agricultural suffering or depression in England. In these gloomy times, when so many things seem uncertain, we may comfort ourselves at all events with one certainty, that the agriculture of the sandy plains of Prussia is a demonstration that the land of England will never go out of cultivation. This, however, does not at all mean either that we are on the right tack already or that nothing need be done towards bringing us on the right tack. We did well to accept the competition of the world. The recent developments of commerce make it neces-

sary for us to accept the conditions that competition now imposes upon us.

I have not been looking here for facts and arguments in favour of peasant proprietorship, such as I described last year in the *Fortnightly Review* in two papers on the peasants of the Limagne. By peasant proprietors is generally understood—though this falls very far short of describing the class—owners of three or four acres who cultivate these small estates with the spade. What I have been inquiring into here is the work, the manner of life, and the position of the team-owning proprietors of about 50 acres. I this morning saw in the *Times* of the 18th inst. an interesting account of the extent and produce of some of the wheat farms in the Red River valley. Much as the extent of these New World farms will astonish some of your readers, I doubt not but that they will be still more astonished at hearing that in this time-out-of-mind settled, and not sparsely-peopled district of the Old World, there are farms not dissimilar in extent, and that require more capital, and that are not unprofitably worked. Mr. G. G. Richardson, in his work on the “Corn and Cattle Producing Districts of France,” tells us that at Salzmande, Mr. Zimmermann cultivates 12,500 acres, and that near Ochersleben, Messrs. Strauss cultivate 17,500 acres; and that each of these concerns employs a capital of not less than £400,000. And Mr. James Howard, the well-known agricultural implement maker of Bedford, of which place he was a representative in the last Parliament, in his book on “Continental Farming,” describes his visit to a farm near Cologne of the extent of 7,200 acres. Eight years ago I expressed the opinion that this is one of the forms the agriculture of the future will assume. In these days, when capital and labour can be commanded to any extent that may be required, and the means of transport have been thoroughly organized, it has become easy and profitable to carry on manufactures and trade upon a large scale, and one can see no reason why the same should not be done in agriculture.

What I am really desirous of suggesting is that the success of the French peasant, of the Prussian team-owning farmer, and of the monster agricultural establishments to which I have referred, and not only the success, but even the existence of all of them alike, depend on perfect freedom in dealing with the land. That alone it is which enables those who combine energy, knowledge, and capital freely to acquire the land they need for their respective purposes, and to improve it up to its highest powers of production. All these methods, too, of cultivating the land are cheaper than the one method English land-laws have imposed on English agriculture. This freedom, which is so highly beneficial to other countries, England alone does not possess, we may, however, I think, believe that the effective competition of the world which has at last overtaken us will soon enable us to see that the only way of meeting free trade in the productions of the soil from every part of the world is freedom in dealing with and employing our own soil.

JUST HIS LUCK.—One time Henry Ward Beecher went to Boston to lecture. In the afternoon he went into a barber shop of great tone and refinement to be shaved. The barber was a garrulous little fellow who entertained Mr. Beecher, while he lathered his face, with intellectual conversation. He asked, “Are you going to the lecture this evening? Going to the lecture?” “Oh,” Mr. Beecher, replied wearily, as a man who did not take much stock in lectures, “I don’t know whose going to lecture?” “Why,” the amazed barber exclaimed, “Rev. Henry Ward Beecher; Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, of Brooklyn. Going to lecture to-night in Music Hall.” Mr. Beecher roused up a little with an air of indifferent interest. “Oh, well,” he said, “if he is going to lecture, I guess I’ll have to go.” “Got your tickets?” The barber rattled on. “Got your tickets? Got your tickets?” “No.” Mr. Beecher replied, “I have no tickets.” The barber laughed merrily, “Ha, ha, ha, he shouted; “you’ll have to stand up; you’ll have to stand up! Seats all gone two days ago; you’ll have to stand up.” “Well, now,” said Mr. Beecher, with an air of grave vexation, “do you know, that is just my luck? I was in Brooklyn last Sunday, went over to Plymouth Church twice to hear that fellow preach, morning and evening, and both times I had to stand up all through the sermon.” And as he went away, the still unenlightened barber laughed at the man who would “have to stand up” at Mr. Beecher’s lecture.

## THE SUBDIVISION OF LAND.

Mr. G. M. Brodie, of Edinburgh, writes to the *Times* :—

It is generally admitted that the conditions under which land is held may be ameliorated greatly to the benefit both of agriculture and agriculturist. But there are differences of opinion as to the means of effecting this. At the present time there are several peripatetics who are making great endeavours to propagate the belief that nothing short of the condition in which, like Israel of old, every man will be able to betake himself to his own tent, will finally settle the question and stop all agitation. Now, both theory and practice are dead against this. Plato, in his treatise "De Legibus," proposed the subdivision of land into inalienable lots as a practical check against the accumulation of wealth, and the increase of population. Mr. Trench, than whom there is no better authority, has clearly established the fact that the endless subdivision of land in Ireland is the cause of the greater part of the poverty and misery of its agricultural population. And before political economy had any existence, before Stewart had hazily discerned its operations, and Adam Smith reduced them to systematic formulæ, the experience of agriculturists led to those innovations which have conferred on the agriculture of Scotland the high reputation it possesses at the present time. Those innovations consisted of the conversion of several small farms into one large farm. Thus, both the theory of the ancients and the practice of the moderns are equally opposed to the subdivision of land as being the condition most conducive to agricultural wealth. Notwithstanding this the subdivision of land as existing in other countries is frequently pointed to as a source of wealth. Let us look at France. In 1873 France had a population of 36 millions, of which number more than half were engaged in agriculture. Her cultivated area consists of 90 million acres with 5,550,000 distinct properties, of which 5,000,000 are under six acres. Her whole extent of territory is 201,900 English square miles, which, taking her population, gives a density of 150 to the square mile. The population of the United Kingdom is nearly 32 millions. Her cultivated area is 46½ million acres, of which 10,000,000 acres in Ireland and 12,435,442 acres in Great Britain are in permanent pasture. The density of the population is 265 per square mile. From these statistics it will be seen that the territory and cultivated area of France are nearly double those of the United Kingdom, while her population is only four millions more. There is no emigration from France. In the United Kingdom there is an average outflow of 200,000. Now, France, with double our cultivated area and a more favourable climate, has no corn to export in an average year, and has to buy in a bad year; and while we raise 28 bushels of wheat per acre, France, with all her advantages, can only raise 14 bushels per acre. These facts can hardly be considered as favourable to the subdivision of land.

Like all people enamoured of an idea, they who look to the subdivision of land as a panacea for all agricultural ills greatly overestimate its resources. Between the limits of agricultural and industrial wealth there is a wide gulf. The limits of agricultural wealth are fixed by its cultivated area. The cultivated area is determined by the character of the soil and climate. In our own country the utmost resources are nearly reached. It is ridiculous to preach of doubling the produce of the country by better cultivation. This will never be done. If all agriculturists were equally skilful and had full capital for the land they occupy, a great improvement would be made in the returns. But we will never add ten millions of quarters to our average production. When we know what the best land under the most favourable conditions will produce, and what second-rate and third-rate land will produce, and when the extent of both is known, no room is left for conjecture—or in other words, the agricultural wealth of the country is determined. It is quite otherwise with industrial wealth. Its limit is the amount of labour which can be employed at any given time. It is therefore the backbone of a nation, the sign of its progress, and the measure of its resource. Although agriculture is an interest of great importance, it is by no means of the same importance to a nation as its industries and no legislation will ever make it so.

It is a notorious fact that we do not find practical men clamouring for the subdivision of land. Why is this?

Simply because a large farm pays better than a small one. It can be worked more systematically, and therefore at less expense. If a farm of 500 acres were divided into ten farms these ten farms would be worked, relatively, at more expense and less systematically. On a small farm everything is at sixes and sevens. The most of the work is done out of season because the force is weakened through misdirection to other work and duties which are out of proportion to the diminished force. The like work has to be performed on the large and the small farm, but with this considerable difference in effect, that in the case of the large farm the main work can be carried on along with the minor, whereas, in order to overtake the minor work on a small farm, the main work is brought to a standstill. On the small farms there would be a greater number of men and a greater number of horses. And the loss would be as the greater number is, and it would fall both on the one and on the many. Such a system is in direct opposition to the principles of political economy. It is making the pinmaker make the whole pin. It is quite contrary to the system adopted in all manufactures, and it is difficult to understand how any one gifted with the faculty of comparison can advocate the system in the one case and pour forth studied declamation against it in the other. The power loom has superseded the hand loom, and the mule spinning-jenny; and the dark, unwholesome city has been exchanged for the homely sweet village, and all for what? For thrift. How is that concentration and aggregation are found squaring with the principles of political economy in the one case and not in the other, when their application is as necessary and as capable of being applied in the one case as in the other? Sentiment! Arcadian sentiment! Think of the trees and running brooks. What cause to contemplation after delving one's own estate all the day long. The shade of Milton will arise, and then the sweet contemplative dreamer will feel himself in Eden. What a fool's paradise! Sentiment nourishes poets, but it cannot make two blades of grass grow where formerly one grew. This achievement has been accomplished by skill and capital. But to answer the dream of the sentimentalists, the agents which accomplished this are to be withdrawn. For the two blades of grass we are to have one. In the place of the utmost that the earth can bring forth, in the place of intelligence, capital, and the amenities which are associated with them, we are to have ignorance, poverty, superstition, and filth, and lean ears of corn. This is no theory, for wherever small holdings are there are these things. May the shade of Tiberius Gracchus never fall upon our land! And if sentiment must have an outlet, may it provide a sweet retreat for the countless thousands who toil daily in the midst of an unwholesome atmosphere produced by those great manufacturing which have been constructed on the soundest principles of political economy.

## THE WEATHER IN 1860 AND IN 1879.

Mr. G. B. Edwards, of Addestone, Surrey, writing to the *Surrey Advertiser*, says:—A neighbour keeps a rain gauge, and he informs me that since the 1st of January over 25 inches of rain has fallen in this village, and as one inch of rain falling on an acre of land is equivalent to 70 tons weight, it seems almost incredible that within the last eight months each acre of land has had poured upon it 1,750 tons of water! No wonder, then, we have floods. I have been for over 20 years a daily traveller to London, but have never witnessed anything like the flooding of the Thames, the Wey, Mole, and Wandie, as in this year; but remembering that soon after I came to reside here we had a very wet season, I have searched a little diary I have kept for many years, and I find the year 1860 was in many respects similar to the present season, as a few extracts from my little book will testify:—April 25, 1860: The weather for several weeks has been very cold, wet, and unseasonable; things very backward, and great scarcity of feed in Ireland, and great loss of cattle in consequence. May: Continued rain and cold weather; could do nothing on the land. June 12: Cold driving rains and storms; floods out all over the meadows. June 19: Floods still out; raining in torrents; miserably cold. June 23: Fine day for a wonder; the Queen reviewed 23,000 volunteers in Hyde-park. June 24 and 27: Wet again, cold and stormy. July 1: Beautiful morning; first day of real summer; from that time till the 17th the weather was fine, and the hay was harvested; and then until

the 30th it rained daily, and was wretchedly cold. I have no record for the early part of August, but on the 12th, 16th, and 20th I have written rain in torrents, terribly wet, wind, and storms. August 31: Beautiful morning; really fine weather set in at last. September 2: Harvesting become general, and fears of scarcity of food vanishing. Fine weather then till the 22nd. On that day I wrote storms of rain and wind. 24th and 25th: Terrific rains; floods out all the way to London; gloomy times from wet weather; corn and flour very much advanced in price. Ordinary weather followed until 21st December, when snow fell in the southern counties to the depth of three and four feet.

To show the extraordinary variability of our climate and its seasons, I have written in my diary on 29th June, 1868, new peas and barley offered for sale at Mark-lane, and on the 14th of July in the same year wheat harvest nearly over; heat intense, 125 in the sun and 95 in the shade; no rain for many weeks; pasture all burnt up. Fortunately we have not the same cause to fear a scarcity of bread that existed in 1860, for America and Canada can grow sufficient wheat to feed the inhabitants of the United Kingdom, and providentially the weather has been fine and the crops abundant on the other side of the Atlantic and in the other large corn growing countries, and though we shall not starve the loaf may be dear. Therefore, with the prospect of winter, with depressed trade, and the precarious condition of our outstanding crops, it behoves all classes to be thoughtful and economical, and to prepare for a trying season.

### AGRICULTURE IN IRELAND.

Mr. Errington, M.P., for the county of Longford, has addressed the following letter to his tenants in Tipperary in reply to an application for remission of rent:—

“Dublin, Sept. 2.

“Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge a receipt of a letter dated August 6, and signed by some of you, asking for a temporary remission of rent on account of the reduced prices of agricultural produce, especially of butter.

“Though the rents of my tenants cannot, I think, in the circumstances of their farms, be considered generally high, I should be sorry to ask them to bear the whole burden of the present depression, and I am quite willing to help them to tide over what I hope will prove merely temporary difficulties. I propose, therefore, to make to all my yearly tenants a remission on the rents due and coming due May last and November next (when paid in regular course in October and April next) on the following scale—viz., 15 per cent. on rents below £50, and 10 per cent. on rents above £50. As for tenants who hold under lease, their positions differ among themselves, and they have not the same claims for a general remission as the yearly tenants; should there, however, be among them cases of distress, I shall be prepared to consider each case on its merits. In one or two special cases I have determined to make a remission of 20 per cent.

“Remissions of rent, however, are mere temporary palliatives for a great difficulty; what we must seek is a permanent remedy. This is only to be found, I believe, on the one hand, in improved methods of cultivation and management; and, on the other, in such a readjustment of the conditions of land tenure as may be suited to the changes going on around us.

“The first of these depends mainly on yourselves; the second, I shall endeavour to advance in two ways—first, by favouring arrangements on my own property by which the position of my tenants either by purchase or perpetuity leases, or otherwise, may be made more independent; and, secondly, by trying to promote legislation for effecting these changes generally throughout the country.

“The following appear to me the direct objects at which legislation should aim:—(1) The creation on a large scale of a peasant proprietary; (2) the extension of the system of perpetuity leases; (3) the cheapening and facilitating dealings in land; (4) considerable changes in the laws of settlement and entail. These are the immediate foundations I would lay for fixity of tenure at fair rents, the necessity of which circumstances now render so evident.

“Mr. Shaw-Lefevre has undertaken the first and third of these points; the second and fourth I propose to deal with next Session in a Bill of which I have given notice ‘to enable limited owners to give perpetuity leases.’

“On the other hand, I trust the farmers will see the necessity of adapting their modes of farming to the great changes through which agriculture is passing. Butter being the chief production of the rich dairy lands of Tipperary, should specially engage your attention.

“No one questions your industry; but there are important details of dairy management and butter-making at present too much neglected, a little attention to which would add immensely to the value of your produce.

“It may be that by rendering necessary, and I hope ultimately bringing about, these salutary changes, the present difficulties may prove in reality the beginning of an era of true prosperity and peace for the country.

“I am your faithful servant,

“G. ERRINGTON.”

Lord Dunally, in a letter addressed to the *Daily Express* on the subject of the present agitation on the land question in Ireland, says that there is “a great substratum of truth and justice upon which the edifice of complaint and disaffection is being rapidly accumulated.” He writes, he says, in the hope that the attention may not be drawn away by the discussions which are “now going on from other matters connected with land tenure, which are of as great or greater importance, and which have not been of late much considered, though appeals have been made with respect to them before and since the Union in vain.” The first of these is absenteeism, with which the other question of an increase in the number of holders in perpetuity was left untouched by Mr. Gladstone's Land Act. He says that even in the case of a proprietor of land in England, the man who never goes near his land, but spends all his income in extravagant living in England, is generally regarded as a nuisance. But “the tenants of such owners in England have many resources in comparison with tenants of an Irish absentee. They have plenty of good markets, valuable business connections, facilities for education, and a much greater share of the enjoyments and even elegances of life than fall to the lot of Irish country folks. They have often powerful and friendly neighbours, who are able and willing to assist in the advancement of their children, and they are not perpetually worried by clerical interference; or, if they are, they can choose their own advisers out of a great variety. These resources are all beyond the reach of the great body of tenants of Irish absentees, who it has been said, draw from this country an income of about two millions, for which they make no return. Political economists tell us that it does not signify where they spend their money—that the general level is maintained, and that is enough. So we are told that a vibration in the atmosphere or the impulse of a wave is never destroyed—that it is merely diffused, and that the general effect remains the same. So if a man squanders money at Naples that he ought to be spending in improvements, in genial hospitality, or in popular amusements in Connaught, we are told it is of no consequence. The money spent at Naples will react in some beneficial way to the advantage of his Connaught tenants. Poor, uneducated men, earning no wages, living on few and bad potatoes in those favoured islands of Arran, may be excused if they cannot see it.” Lord Dunally thinks that rather than a tax on absenteeism, there should be inducements held out to Irish landlords to become resident landlords, and he suggests a memorial to her Majesty, requesting her to express her desire that Irish landlords should reside among their tenantry, and that in the event of such an expression of her Majesty's wishes “it would then become the duty of the Government to act in uniformity with her Majesty's wishes, and to make it generally understood that no one who could not, in their opinion, show that he had endeavoured to comply with them, would be an acceptable candidate for Government favour, either here or in England.” On the subject of small perpetuities, Lord Dunally says that the number of these might be increased “without injury or violence to any one. The limitation of the length of leases in settlements was intended for the good of the family; but that would be as well secured (with the exception of some imaginary and very improbable future rise in the letting value of land and property) if the landlord in possession on was empowered, with the assent after full inquiry of a superior court, to sell a perpetuity to the tenant, and invests the money in the funds to the same uses as those in the settlement. This might be done with great advantage to both

landlord and tenant. The arrangement would be quite voluntary. Proper exceptions should be made as to demesne lands, and any other that may be thought necessary, and the consent of the next heir required in cases where the superior court thought it should be obtained."

### FOREIGN FARMING AND FARMERS' EDUCATION.

Mr. R. Jasper Moore writes to the *Times* :—

It seems generally admitted that the most interesting results of the Royal Commission on Agricultural Distress will be the information expected on farming abroad. I travelled with two inhabitants of Boston, U.S.A., to London in the week of the Kilburn Show and pressed them to attend the meeting of owners and occupiers of land, and speak there, which they would have done but for a pressing engagement in Paris. They were impressed, as most Americans are, with the excessive unacquaintance of English agriculturists generally with the state of things in any country but their own, and had they been present at that meeting they would have combated the derision with which Lord Derby's advice was received that some farmers should emigrate and share the fortunes made in farming abroad. I have frequently recommended a party to be formed of farmers, to visit Holland, and have offered to take such a party to Holland myself, and probably if one of the staff of Mr. Cook, or some other enterprising agency, would organise such parties, in future years, if not in this, a first step might be taken towards expanding the former insular self-satisfaction of the English farmer. The instructions to the assistant commissioners sent to America are reported to be to try to ascertain the amount of cattle and grain that may be expected to be imported to England during the next four years rather than to test the wisdom of Lord Derby's advice. A party of farmers who immediately after Lord Derby's Liverpool speech went to Minnesota, and another party who have just gone to Texas, will no doubt enlighten the public as to their experience whenever they return. But before this may happen the East, as well as the West, is likely to make itself felt, if not as a young, yet as a vigorous rival in the grain market. The question may well arise whether Turkey would not afford as good a field for English agricultural enterprise as America. Both possess the common advantages of land procurable at one year's purchase or a nominal rent, no rates, and no manure bill. If the Bulgarians, with all the disabilities of the now abolished tithing-farming, became rich enough to be objects of periodical pillage, it may seem strange that few Englishmen have thought of calculating what must be the probable profits of farming in the East, with no surcharge on fair taxation, such as must be the prospect now in the new Bulgaria. I have just been present at an examination of the details of eight years' management of a Turkish farm by a Shropshire family, taken by a member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, and I venture to suggest that if the researches of the Royal Commission do not extend to the Danube, one of the commissioners might examine this man before he returns to Turkey.

Closely connected with this question of food supply, the Royal Commission seems not inclined to overlook the important influence of a higher class education for the rising generation of farmers. Whatever may be the general outcome of the inquiry which is now about to be made, we may hope the Royal Commission will at any rate recommend that some assistance should be rendered by the Government in the establishment of one or more institutions for the promotion of instruction in agricultural science. The work which for many years past has been satisfactorily carried out in Ireland in the direct subvention of agricultural education, as the results of the Kensington examination of May last sufficiently show, may well be extended to England and Scotland. Professor Tanner, in his admirable introductory address to the 50 selected students at South Kensington, defines agricultural science in a spirit of true logical induction, as the scientific truths which are gathered from the practice of agriculture. Such truths are surely as much worth disseminating as the conjugation of Latin verbs among those who are not likely to pursue the language. There are three schools of agricultural science subsidised by the French Government, and several State colleges for the same object are maintained at the public

expense in America. If the same advantage should be extended to England, may we not hope that the fact of Shropshire supplying more members to the Royal Agricultural Society than any county, not excluding Yorkshire, may show it would be well adapted for such a national experiment? We have two buildings available for the purpose. The Cirencester School, however valuable it has been in giving good instruction in agricultural science to those who could afford to pay from £125 to £150 a year at least for it, is clearly prohibitive to the sons of the great bulk of the tenant farmers of the kingdom. I have reason to believe that at county schools like the Bedford the proportion of farmers' sons is exceedingly small, perhaps only 1 per cent. A school such as would meet the requirements of the tenant farmers of the kingdom must, therefore, either be subsidised by Government or largely assisted by the landowners in a county. Most of these have been sufficiently taxed to meet the requirements of the Elementary Education Act, while the rates, as we have seen, are raised in amount to supply a higher education than was at first contemplated, because we have no assistance given to intermediate education in England such as has been given with one stroke of the pen in Ireland. To meet the requirements of the sons of tenant farmers, such education should not ever exceed from £40 to £50 per annum. It would be interesting to know how many of the visitors to his experimental farm are, in Mr. Lawes's opinion, in a position thoroughly to appreciate his experiments, and what proportion of those best qualified to do so are found in his opinion among the English visitors, the Americans, Germans, or Danes, the latter being, I believe, considered the most scientific farmers of all.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.—The work of the Agricultural Commission bids fair to be a monster affair. The terms of the Commission were published on Saturday week, and authority is given in it to any "five or more" of the Commission to call before them such persons as they may judge necessary to give evidence, and also to call for such books and documents as may give useful information. Moreover, any five or more may report to the Queen as soon as they please their opinions on the subjects inquired into. And these bodies of five or more are to have power to continue their inquiry without formal adjournments. Hence it is clear that the Commission is really to do its principal work as a number of Sub-Commissions, for we are told that they have already had a preliminary meeting, and broken themselves up into smaller distinct bodies of inquiry; while Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., and Mr. Pell, M.P., are to proceed to the United States, to inquire into the bearing of American agriculture on the depression here, and will take their departure at the end of next week. Further, Mr. Cross said at Bootle, that there are to be a number of Assistant-Commissioners to help the Commission, and to collect information from the Continent of Europe. We may expect, then, a number of very divergent reports from the quinary Commissionlets into which the larger organisation will break up, and probably no joint report from the whole Commission, or none of any substantial value at all. We see with pleasure that the Earl of Suffolk and Colonel Kingscote, M.P., the latter of whom is a member of the Commission, warned the Kingscote Agricultural Association yesterday week that no return to Protection was possible, and that all that could be expected from the labours of the Commission was a large stock of valuable information.—*Spectator*.

AN ADVENTURE WITH AN OCTOPUS AT THE SCARBOROUGH AQUARIUM.—A rather amusing incident was witnessed in the Scarborough Aquarium recently. It appears that the keeper, whilst engaged in cleaning out the tank occupied by the octopodes, was suddenly seized by the leg (fortunately he had sea boots on) by the largest of the octopodes, which fastened four of his tentacles round the leg of the boot, and with the other four held firmly on to the rocks forming the back of the tank. A struggle took place, during which the man found he could not disengage himself without killing the animal, and finally hit upon the expedient of slipping his leg out, leaving the boot in the water and beating a retreat. The hungry octopus stuck to the boot for twenty minutes, when it relinquished its hold.

## MR. PROUT'S ANNUAL SALE.

The annual inspection and sale of Mr. John Prout's crops at Blount Farm, Sawbridge-worth, took place on Sept. 2.

As public interest is now turned towards questions concerning agriculture, it is not to be wondered at that more than usual importance was attached to the very novel plan of tillage which Mr. Prout has carried out with such marked success for some time, and by his being able to farm to considerable profit up to last year. The result of this year's farming may possibly be an exception, but at any rate that must depend in part upon the spirit and inclination of those who may be disposed to purchase the standing corn. Mr. Prout has done his part well, and shows as fine crops of wheat and barley as any in Herefordshire. It is even said, indeed, that they are superior to any in that county. We certainly have not seen anything like the same breadth of so good in this county. There was an unusual muster of strangers from different parts of England—in fact most of the principal agricultural counties were represented. Besides the usual large number of farmers, some landlords were present either in person or by their stewards.

Mr. Prout had provided an excellent luncheon in a large granary extending over the farm building. The chair was occupied by Mr. G. Hamden, a tenant farmer residing in the district, supported by Mr. Prout, Mr. Hanbury, of Poles, Herts, Mr. Sworder, Mr. Scott, Mr. Blunt, of Bishop Stortford, and others. After the usual loyal toasts had been disposed of the Chairman proposed the health of Mr. Prout. That gentleman, in responding, recommended a triple alliance of landlords, farmers, and labourers, all of whom should put their shoulders to the wheel, and, with proper land tenure and security for capital, they would, he thought, be able to defy the competition of the world. He rebutted the statement that Mr. Caird had made in the *Times* about him and his system, and said he thought the Royal Commission would be of little use to the present occupiers of land.—Mr. Prout, jun., proposed the health of "The visitors," coupling with the toast the names of Messrs. Hanbury, of Poles, Ware, and Mr. Blunt.

Mr. Hanbury said he spoke as a landlord and a farmer of 600 acres, which were not profitable. Indeed, were it not for a business in London, his banking account would be largest on the wrong side. He observed that he was a customer for barley to the extent of 130,000 quarters per annum. After the luncheon the sales commenced in the fields, where each lot was staked out, the auctioneer riding through the corn, the company following along up the roads which intersect the farm. Out of 200 acres of barley only 81 were sold, ranging from £4 15s. to £7 per acre; 33 acres of wheat, of 130 offered, varied from £9 10s. to £10 5s.; and 15 of oats (out of 40 catalogued) were sold at £4 7s. 6d. and £5 5s. The other lots were bought in or failed to find a bidder; in fact, the auctioneer (Mr. G. E. Sworder) finding the purchasing power was so weak, withdrew the major portion of the lots.—*Chelmsford Chronicle*.

## BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

Mr. James Lawes writes to the *Times*.—

In these times of difficulty and apprehension to the owners and occupiers of land in this country, crowned by a season which indicates, in the forlorn-looking, unripe crops, the worn of seven deficient harvests in a period of nine years, it is very necessary that we should not be led away by a false scent to follow a course which lead us into a still deeper slough of despond.

Mr. Prout's farming is impossible as an example for the whole country. So far as any credit of originality belongs to it, that is entirely due to Mr. Lawes's experiments. For the last 30 years these have been more and more followed by men of observation and intelligence in all parts of this country. Your own columns in 1850 and 1851 gave numerous examples of this, and not a year has passed since that time in which the lesson has not been enforced. The only difference between Mr. Prout and other farmers of intelligence and enterprize is that, in a favourable locality for the sale of straw, he has accepted the lesson literally and made not an unusual profit by a system which, if generally followed, would convert our agriculture into one vast corn field.

First. The profit is not unusual. If from the £600 shown as the average yearly profit of 10 years the interest on farming

capital at 5 per cent, is deducted, the net return is 16s. 8d. an acre. Ordinary good farming could not be carried on with a smaller profit on farms of 50 acres and upwards, and if no better result could be gained under the small farm system, an intelligent active man with less than 50 acres would do better as a labourer, himself and his family earning wages.

Second. In Mr. Prout's system nine crops out of ten are corn and one clover. Nine-tenths of the cultivated land of the country would under this plan become a corn field. The very kind of produce which is being poured in upon us in over-abundance would cover the country to the exclusion of that which cannot so cheaply or in such freshness of quality be carried from a distance. Whatever may be the remedy for agricultural depression, it is not to be looked for by placing our whole reliance on corn crops.

The business of agriculture in this country is to feed 34 millions of people with that portion of their daily food which we can best supply, and at the same time maintain many millions of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs which minister to the wants and comforts of our daily life. In the household of all families above that of the workman nine-tenths of the expenditure on articles of food of home produce are for meat, butter, beer and milk, and only one-tenth for bread; and in that of the workman his bread does not amount to more than one-third of his daily expenditure on food. There is now happily little risk of any season, however bad, creating a dearth of bread, and as there is every reason to believe that meat and cheese will for some time be kept within moderate prices, the outlook of the British farmer should be encouraged towards the production of these in the finest quality, and of butter, milk, cream, lamb, veal, hay, straw, and vegetables of every kind. These, with barley and oats, so long as they maintain their price, and a smaller reliance on wheat, which of all kinds of corn is the most costly to produce at home and of the widest spread area of capable production abroad, seem for the present the most likely objects of home agriculture. With a population of healthy consumers, increasing at the rate of a thousand a day, and the rapid growth of intelligence and education and the possession of mineral wealth and unsurpassed engine and machine power, all of which we may hope soon to see in more active motion, I will not despair of British agriculture, though suffering myself both as landlord and tenant, and most deeply sympathizing with those wholly dependent upon it, by losses which many have not been able to withstand and none had power to avert.

AGRICULTURAL REFORM.—The *Gloucester Journal* says:—It cannot be said that Mr. Shaw Lefevre exhibits himself as a rampant reformer; but it is significant to note that nearly every able man who tackles the subject arrives by some process at the conclusion we have been hammering at for months past, that as agriculture is suffering from a complicity of causes, so it must find relief in a variety of remedial incidents, some of which are climatic and beyond human control, some of which are adjustable by private arrangement between owners and occupiers of land, but some of which can only be secured by the medium of enlightened and liberal legislation. The reforms cautiously indicated by Mr. Shaw Lefevre in the above extract are in accord with the programme of the Farmers' Alliance, which maintains that in order to adequately develop the resources of the soil steps must be taken to "free the business of farming from the trammels of unjust laws, and the cultivation of the soil from the unwise and in many cases absurd restrictions which obstruct its improvement." With this view the Alliance seeks to secure the better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament; to obtain security for tenants' capital invested in their holdings; to encourage greater freedom in the growth and disposal of produce; to reform or abolish the laws of Distress and Hypothec; to reform the Game Laws; to alter all legal presumptions which operate unfairly against tenant farmers; to secure to rate-payers their legitimate share in county government; and to obtain a fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant. Those who are in favour of this programme should join the Alliance and strengthen its organisation.

## THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL REFORM.\*

There can be no greater mistake than to suppose that the present accumulation of land in the hands of owners, who, for the most part, can neither do justice to nor sell it, is a matter of no concern to tenant-farmers. It is said that four-fifths of the land of England is held by limited owners, whose interests are directly opposed to any expenditure in improvements upon it, even when they are sufficiently wealthy to make improvements, and who have no power to sell any portion of their property. There has been a great outcry lately for covered home-steads, and other conveniences in the form of farm-buildings for enabling farmers to keep stock to greater advantage than they can at present. Again, thousands of acres require draining, and would pay well for it; but it is under existing circumstances, unprofitable for the owners generally to expend money in draining, while the tenants dare not do the work, because they have no security for the capital that would have to be expended. Improvements of such a permanent nature should be executed by owners; but they never will be made to a sufficient extent by impoverished or limited owners. The Agricultural Holdings Act gave facilities for charging the estates of limited owners with the cost of improvements; but, if the money has to be borrowed from a Land Improvement Company, the landlord, to recoup himself, must charge upon the tenant the whole of the interest and profit that the company will require. This would be no light charge where the landlord is a limited owner, as in that case the whole of the money must be paid off, in the form of a sinking fund, within the term allowed under the Act for the particular kind of improvement executed. As the longest term recognised by the Act as the duration of an improvement is twenty years, it is absurd to suppose that buildings are likely to be erected on at all an extensive scale under such conditions. No tenant would like to pay the total cost of buildings, with interest on the outlay and profit to the company from which the money was borrowed besides, in the course of twenty years—thus really purchasing the buildings and presenting them to his landlord and his landlord's heirs. On the other hand, if the limited owner did not charge the whole annual repayment to the tenant, he would be a loser, unless he happened to live long enough beyond the time specified in the Act to recoup himself for money paid out during the period, by extra rent continued afterwards. At any rate, it is no advantage to a limited owner to improve, and, on the contrary, it is not easy for him to be quite secure against loss, if he expends capital, either his own or borrowed, upon land on which he has really nothing but a rent-charge. If he does not get back the whole of his outlay, with interest, during his life, the expenditure only goes to enrich his eldest son or other heir, who has already a most unfair share of the family wealth coming to him. In short, there are no possible means of rendering limited ownership anything but a disadvantage to every one concerned in the proper treatment of landed property, certainly not excepting the owners and their descendants.

I now come to the published objects of the Farmers' Alliance. The first is "the better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament." That is a means to ends, and does not require much to be said about it. All disinterested people admit that farmers are very inadequately represented in Parliament, and most people agree that they are, to a very great extent, misrepresented there. The objection made against those who would give

them better representation, that they are "setting class against class," is based on a fallacy, where it is not pure cant. The fallacy may be easily exposed. It is said that the interests of landlord and tenant are identical, and, apart from the little matter of rent, they are so in the long run, at least if monetary interests only are implied. But classes do not always act in accordance with the most enlightened views as to their interests, and, in considering whether landlords are likely to represent tenants satisfactorily in Parliament, the real question is, not whether their interests are identical, but whether their objects are the same. It has already been remarked that the interests of landlords and tenants in respect of free-trade in land are the same; and it is obvious that, except on land which is unprofitable to cultivate, their monetary interests in relation to the vexed game question are also identical. Similarly it might be shown that landlords would be better off if they yielded to other demands made by tenants. But what do we see when such questions are brought forward in Parliament, or at meetings of Farmers' Clubs and Chambers of Agriculture? Why, that landlords, as a rule, resolutely oppose all attempts to reform the land or game laws, to give compensation to tenants for their unexhausted improvements, or to relieve farmers from other disadvantages of which they complain. The explanation of the apparent anomaly is that landlords generally care more for social dignity, family prestige, and political influence than for the monetary interests of themselves and their tenants, to however great an extent these may be identical. At any rate it is notorious that landlords are the chief obstructives to almost every reform which tenants ask for, although there are some exceptions which serve to prove the rule. Under such circumstances it is absurd for tenants to send landlords, unless exceptionally liberal men, to Parliament to represent them, and it is mere twaddle to exclaim about "setting class against class," when one says so. Where the objects of two are contrary, the one class must act against the other, as far as those objects are concerned unless one is to go to the wall, as has hitherto been the case with the tenant-farmers of this country. As for the public interest in the better representation of tenant-farmers in Parliament, no argument is necessary to show that, if agricultural reform is for the public interest, the better representation of tenant-farmers in Parliament, which would undoubtedly tend towards such reform, is desirable.

The second object is "to stimulate the improved cultivation of the land, especially by obtaining security for the capital of tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings." As long as the prevailing system in the United Kingdom is one of landlords and tenants—and there is no reason to suppose that it will be superseded in England and Scotland at any rate—this object is either first or second in importance of all proposed agricultural reforms. It may possess less interest in the eyes of the public at large than the reform of the laws relating to the ownership and transfer of land; but as an incentive to improved farming, nothing would do so much as the giving of complete security to tenant's investments in improvements. Having repeatedly dealt with this subject, and particularly in an essay\* written for the Cobden Club, I may be excused from going over old ground to any great extent. My chief object in connection with the question now is to show that the public should not leave landlords and tenants to settle it between them. There is a great deal of loose talking and writing upon the subject, chiefly owing to the fact that opponents of compulsory compensation will not understand, or will not admit that they understand,

\* Extracts from an article in the *Nineteenth Century* for September, by William E. Bear,

\* The Relations of Landlord and Tenant in England and Scotland. (Castell).

the true principle of the demand, which is simply that of payment for value received. All that the advocates of compulsory tenant right in England ask, is that the landlord shall be compelled to pay the tenant an equivalent of the value which the tenant can prove that the landlord has received from him. The all but complete failure of the Agricultural Holdings Act shows that landlords will not bind themselves to pay for value received unless they are compelled to do so; also that tenants have not yet acquired sufficient independence and power to insist on such a contract being entered into, as a condition of their hiring of land. Under the plea of "freedom of contract"—a mere figment of the imagination as far as landlords and tenants are concerned, at any rate until the agricultural depression placed the two classes on a more equal footing in the "higgling of the market"—compulsion was refused by Parliament, and the landlords of England, from the Crown downwards, declined to enter into a contract to pay for value received from their tenants. I will not stop to discuss the question whether the tenant should or should not be protected against what approach very closely in principle to fraudulent contracts. The interest of the public in the matter is very clear, and can be briefly stated.

Suppose that the inns of any country—Switzerland for instance—were a fixed number, so that the innkeepers could agree together to make what conditions with visitors they pleased, there being no possibility of new competitors springing up. Suppose, further, that they should make it a stipulation in the contract which every visitor would have to sign that all goods bought by the visitor during his stay at the hotel, and not consumed in the meanwhile, should become the property of the innkeeper on the termination of the visit. Switzerland is so attractive to tourists that the inns might still be full; but the visitors would take care not to spend much during their stay. Now those who object to interference with freedom of contract would of course say that the Government of Switzerland ought not to pass a law making such contracts void. Tourists and other visitors to the hotels, it would be said, can take care of themselves and must be left to make what agreements they please with the innkeepers. But does any one doubt that the people of Switzerland would insist upon such contracts being rendered unlawful, on the ground that they prevented visitors from spending money in the country, and were thus against the public interest? The parallel is not exact; but the position of the British public towards the owners and tenants of land is similar to the position of the Swiss public in the case imagined. The tenant may to a certain extent protect himself, although he cannot farm in the most profitable manner without a serious risk of having his investments appropriated by his landlord; for he may refrain from spending money on the land, and may get his farm at a low rent because neither he nor his predecessors have dared to spend anything in improvements. But to the public these poor consolations are quite inapplicable. Consumers must suffer, and suffer in proportion to the tenant's carelessness not to risk capital in improvements which will become the property of his landlord directly he has made them. Indeed, it is clear that every one is injured by a system which, by divorcing capital from the soil, deprives the country annually of millions of pounds' worth of food that otherwise would be produced.

The third object stated in the programme of the Farmers' Alliance is, "To encourage greater freedom in the cultivation of the soil and disposal of its produce." That is not considered to be a subject for legislation, but one for argument. Under existing circumstances there appears to be a general disposition amongst landlords to relax the absurd restrictions of ancient leases and agree-

ments; while tenants who cannot get a living, tied hand and foot as they are, will be foolish if, now that farms are at a discount, they do not stipulate for freedom of cultivation and sale of produce.

"To obtain the abolition of class privileges involved in the Laws of Distress and Hypothec" is the fourth object. It is astonishing that bankers, merchants, and tradesmen should have hitherto quietly submitted to the forfeiture claim which a landlord has upon his tenant as it is a monstrous injustice that a landlord should be able to allow a tenant to get into arrear with his rent at the expense of his other creditors. Under the Law of Distress the landlord can satisfy his full claim for rent, often selling goods supplied by other creditors in satisfying it, while the other creditors can only share in the landlord's leavings, if there be any leavings to share. Thus the public have a direct interest in the abolition of this unfair class privilege, and if they do not assist agricultural reformers in getting rid of it, they will deserve to be sufferers from it in the future as they have been in the past. But they have also an indirect interest in the abolition of a law which tends to keep farming at a low ebb by the safety which it confers upon landlords in accepting as tenants "men of straw" who cannot do justice to the land. The effects of the Law of Hypothec are in all respects similar, as far as the interests of the public are concerned. What Scotchmen rightly term the "sham Hypothec Abolition Bill," recently read a second time in the House of Commons, will do little to remedy the evils complained of; while many people are of opinion that it will do more harm than good if it becomes law. The citation of details on this part of my subject would be uninteresting to general readers. Hypothec and the Law of Distress alike require to be totally repealed and the only thing that landlords can with any justice ask, as an accompaniment of such repeal, is a more speedy means of turning out a tenant who is unable to pay his rent.

The reform of the game laws, which is the next object on the list, is one of the most popular of all proposed agricultural reforms, and there is nothing new to be said about it. No alteration which does not completely abolish these laws, or interfere with freedom of contract by giving to tenants an indefeasible right to kill game, or at least ground game, on their occupations, will be of any appreciable use. Farmers would naturally be satisfied with the latter mode of dealing with the game difficulty; and as it is only over-preservation which is injurious to the interests of farmers and consumers alike, such a modification of the existing laws might be sufficient. Winged game probably does more good than harm on the whole, and although the temptations to poaching will never be done away with as long as pheasants and partridges are thick on the ground, but little damage to crops is done by them, except on the borders of pheasant preserves. But rabbits should be treated as vermin, except in warrens effectually fenced in, and hares should be allowed to exist only in small numbers. Probably no one desires to have game made extinct in this country, and it is generally admitted that if the game laws were repealed, without a substitute being provided, we should require a more stringent law of trespass, which would be very unpopular. As, however, the existing game laws are in so many respects objectionable, it would, perhaps, be best to make a clean sweep of them, and to frame some simple measure, to prevent the extermination of game, as a substitute.

Passing over an object relating to legal presumptions which operate unfairly against tenant-farmers, as only of somewhat remote concern to the public, I come to the seventh object of the Farmers' Alliance, which is, "To secure to ratepayers their legitimate share in county

government." The County Government Bills introduced last year and during the present session have been utterly unsatisfactory to the ratepayers at large, as well as to the farmers. Nothing short of the direct representation of the ratepayers will afford a permanent basis of settlement, and to that the present Government will not easily be induced to consent. The reform of local government is so obviously a matter of interest to the general public that there is no need to dwell upon the subject here.

"A fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant," which is the last of the declared objects on the list I am quoting from, is a matter of greater public interest than at first sight it appears to be. If it is the opinion of most people that local taxation should be levied to a disproportionate extent upon land, they will at least admit that it should not be at the expense of the occupiers. The theory is that rates are sooner or later paid by owners; but the difference between sooner and later often involves years of heavy increased taxation upon the tenant-farmer. In consequence of this, farmers, as a rule, are ranged on the side of those who are striving to shift the burdens from land on to personal property. Now, as land has escaped from many ancient liabilities, it is unquestionable whether such a transference is desirable, and the majority of the people think that it is not, if they think about it at all. They should, then, endeavour to get all rates intended to be levied on land charged directly on landowners, instead of on tenants, as at present. In other words, the tenant's share of the rates should be charged separately from the landlord's, and the respective apportionment should be separately and directly levied. At present the tenant knows that he pays the rates in the first instance, and he is scarcely ever certain that he gets the money back in the form of a reduction on rent that he otherwise would pay. Very often, too, it is quite certain that the tenant pays all increase in local charges for a long period. However long his lease may be, he has to pay all increase on the amount of rates and taxes that accrues during the term, thus paying his landlord's share of the increase as well as his own. This is obviously unfair, and it is for the public interest that the injustice should be remedied.

I must confess to some surprise at the great interest excited amongst the non-agricultural classes by the advent of the Farmers' Alliance. From all parts of the kingdom help and expressions of sympathy have come to the leaders of the new movement, and I am rejoiced to recognise in these overtures a sign of an awakening of public interest in agricultural reform. The nearness of the next general election may to some extent account for the hearty welcome which the Alliance has received, as there are naturally large numbers of people who look with hope, not in all cases quite disinterested, to any uprising which may tend to change the present state of county representation. Any movement which will arouse a spirit of political independence amongst the farmers generally cannot but seem advantageous to all who regard the men who now represent English farmers as the greatest obstructives to almost all kinds of desirable changes. Still it cannot be too earnestly insisted that the Farmers' Alliance is independent of party, and will pursue its object without consideration for party interests. Those who denounce the new association as a party organisation, in reality confess that their own party is opposed to the reforms which the most intelligent farmers desire. All that the promoters of the Alliance have done is to formulate those reforms, and to urge all who are in favour of them to combine to bring them to pass. If that involves antagonism to the Conservative party, then it follows that the Conservative party is antagonistic to agricultural reform; and it is from Con-

servative advocates that we have this virtual confession that they are not true farmers' friends. The Alliance has produced a test by which the professed friends of farmers may be tried, and it has produced that test without any party objects in view. Some of the leading representatives of one party, in the press, and on the platform, with surprising *naiveté*, have exposed themselves and their allies as politicians tried by that test and found wanting. It is, however, gratifying to find that numbers of Conservatives, especially amongst farmers, are also agricultural reformers, and these, in joining the Alliance, do so under the honest assurance of its leaders that the association will not be used for party purposes. The Alliance will support candidates who fairly and fully represent its principles, to whichever party they may nominally belong; and if such candidates happen to be more generally Liberals than Conservatives, they will be supported, not because they are Liberals, but because they are agricultural reformers. In short, 'Principles, not party,' is the motto of the Farmers' Alliance.

But the imminence of a general election only in part accounts for the public welcome given to the Farmers' Alliance. Merchants, shopkeepers, and all classes of professional men have become members, and volunteered their help in various ways, and the letters in which they have proffered their assistance show that they have long been in sympathy with the aims now made public as the distinct 'platform' of a new organisation. I conclude my paper, therefore, with a much more hopeful feeling than that with which I began it. The interest of the public in agricultural reform seemed dull and almost lifeless; but, in reality, as now appears, it was only dull as tinder, which needs but a spark to kindle it into a flame.

#### HOWARD'S SHEAF-BINDING REAPER.

On September 9th and 10th we had an opportunity of seeing this new machine at work in a field of wheat near Bedford. On Tuesday rain began to pour down about as soon as we got into the field, and we could only see the work that had already been done; but on Wednesday afternoon, although the ground was wet and soft, the corn was dry enough to cut and bind. The crop was a stout one, and somewhat twisted in places; but the self-binder made excellent work, leaving a low, level, and clean stubble. Scarcely a straw was left on the ground, and there is certainly nothing to rake, and very little to glean. The admirable simplicity of this reaper makes it run very smoothly and lightly, so that two small horses walked away with it without the least apparent straining. One great advantage of Howard's binder is the gentleness with which it pushes the sheaves off the binding platform. Thus there is no loss of grain from shelling, as when sheaves are thrown violently to the ground, either by a machine or by careless hand-binders. The sheaves, too, were tied with level bases, and with the ears all the right end, as they seldom are by hand. Altogether the work done was in every way superior either to that done by men with scythes, or by self-raking reapers followed by hand-binders. The owner of the crop was in the field on Wednesday, and expressed himself as completely satisfied with the work done. No machine but a self-binder, he said, could have done it so well, and he thinks that every large farmer will find one of these great labour-saving appliances indispensable to the most thorough economy of harvesting.

On one side of the field the crop was about the heaviest we have seen this year, and badly laid. This the farmer had cut with his own machine, one of Howard's "Simplex" self-rakers, with which he expressed the highest satisfaction. Certainly the work had been done

remarkably well, and our informant laid particular stress upon the fact that in such a heavy crop the reaper had been easily drawn by two horses, working the whole day, except during the interval of an hour and a-half for dinner. The "Simplex" has been vastly improved since it was first introduced, and now appears to be one of the most effective and light-working reapers extant. It has an extensive sale on the Continent, one agent in Russia having disposed of 100 machines this year, and ordered 200 for next season.

The self-binder has cut several other fields of wheat near Bedford this year, and scarcely a stoppage has occurred except when the rain fell, or the wire snapped from some imperfection in its joining. It is, however, desirable for a visitor to be present when the wire breaks, in order that he may see how quickly it may be joined again, as this is one of the peculiar advantages of Howard's machine. There is no difficulty in getting at the end of the wire, and the mischief is repaired in a couple of minutes. Messrs. Howard, however, intend next season to have wire that will not break without a very great strain. The self-binder which we saw at work is the only one of its kind which has yet been made; but as it turns out to be so satisfactory in the field, it really might have been made and sold extensively this year. This could not have been foreseen, and it was prudent to be certain that the binder would do its work creditably before sending it out.

We gave a brief description of the working parts of this sheaf-binder when it was first exhibited—at the Paris Exhibition. Since then it has been altered in several details, and a further description is therefore desirable. To attempt to convey a clear idea of a machine of this kind, and its plan of working, without sectional diagrams, is to attempt an impossibility. In the columns of *Engineering* for July 4th a very lucid and elaborate description was given, the letter-press being accompanied by lettered diagrams, showing all the parts, and denoting the action of each. Those of our readers who desire to see a complete technical description of the machine we must refer to the journal named, giving here only the popular description, which is so lucid that we prefer to transcribe it rather than attempt a fresh one of our own:—

The mechanism is comparatively simple, and readily managed by the attendant seated upon the machine. The grain when cut is elevated by an endless apron, and deposited in bundles on the sheaf table, the sizes of which are regulated by the attendant; the binder arm, carrying the band, in its descent encloses the bundle, and brings together the two ends of the band ready for twisting and cutting off, these two operations being performed at a point when the binding arm is momentarily at rest; the bound sheaf is pushed off the table by a revolving pusher, which comes into operation each time the binder arm rises above the sheaf. The machine is provided with a sheaf table, upon which the corn or grain is delivered from the platform, and which is adjustable lengthwise to permit the band or wire to be placed around the sheaves in any desired part or position; but when the machine is in operation the table is stationary, that is, it has no reciprocating or other movement on the frame of the machine for the purpose of collecting or separating the grain into quantities to form the sheaves or bundles. This separation of the grain is effected by the action of a binding or binder arm operating in the manner about to be described. This arm has its fulcrum on the pin of a crank fixed on the extremity of a shaft which rotates in suitable bearings in a standard or bracket attached to the sheaf table. For effecting the removal of the bound sheaves from the table, a pusher or delivering arm is attached to the crank; the said machine is also provided with an improved twisting device, which is a peculiarly formed "whirl" or pinion flanged on its upper side, and supported, with a capability of free rotation, by its flange in a grooved or recessed plate attached to the sheaf table, the whirl being arranged in combination with a revolving knife or cutter,

To insure the most satisfactory results in the working of the binding mechanism it is necessary to impart to the binder arm a peculiar varying or differential motion, so that it should move quickly in placing the wire around the sheaf, and should pause or remain stationary, or nearly so, during the operation of the twisting and cutting mechanism, and should then rise quickly to draw up the wire for a fresh sheaf.

It is necessary to explain that, instead of the single apron referred to in the above description, a double canvas is now used, it being found that by elevation between the double apron a very desirable process of straightening of the corn goes on.

Before adopting the principle of the marsh harvester upon which all sheaf-binders at present in use are made, Messrs. Howard experimented for some time with a binder-platform on a level with the reaper-platform. They came to the conclusion that the corn thus delivered was too difficult for the binding apparatus to deal with, and adopted the elevated platform, because of the great advantage of the straightening process which has been already alluded to. They also attempted first to tie with string instead of wire, but ultimately decided that they would first make an effective wire-binder, and so make the road more easy for transforming it, if found desirable, into a string-binder. They believe that before long they will be able to offer their customers the choice of wire or string. Next season, however, they will probably send out the machine in its present form as a wire-binder.

### THE CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE.

The report of the Select Standing Committee of the Dominion House of Commons on agricultural and kindred matters for the Session of 1879 has just been issued. The inquiries of this committee were largely directed to the question of the cattle trade with Great Britain. It appears that while navigation remained open last year 16,653 head of cattle and 41,750 sheep were sent to this country. Some 9,000 of the cattle came from Chicago and the North-West, and the rest, together with all but some 1,000 of the sheep, were raised in Canada. The export value of the whole was 2,117,525 dols. the cost of feed to put them in condition for the voyage was 130,602 dols., and the freight paid to the various shippers for their carriage exceeded 500,000 dols. It also appears that three-fourths of the shipments made from New York and Boston were on account of Canadians, who have the export cattle trade almost entirely in their own hands. In reply to the question whether the trade was likely to increase in the future, one of the witnesses examined made reference to the fact that whereas only 18,600 head of cattle had been exported from Canada last year, the receipts in the market of Chicago alone were last year 1,038,608 head. In other words, the entire shipments of cattle by the St. Lawrence route to this country throughout the year only equalled some two days' receipts in the Chicago market, the year's value of the one being just over 2,000,000 dols., and the year's value of the other being between 65,000,000 dols. and 70,000,000 dols. It may be mentioned that 10 years ago the receipts of cattle in Chicago numbered only 323,000. It is estimated that the cattle available for export purposes in Ontario and Quebec (the two exporting provinces) number something like 10,000 or 12,000 head, so it is evident that any extensive development of the export from Canadian ports can only occur in the event of the embargo upon Western American cattle being removed.

The provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island afford good pasturage, and from the testimony of some witnesses from these parts of the Dominion it would appear that he success of the export cattle trade is there causing attention to be directed to stock-raising.—*Times*.

"Really, Mr. Johnstone, there's nae end to your wit," said a lady in the west of Scotland to a noted humourist. "Gaid forbid, madam," he replied, "that I should ever be at my wit's end."

## SHORTHORNS AND HEREFORDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Referring to my letter in the *Express* of June 23rd, and your comments on June 30th, I should be glad to call your attention to this Hereford-Shorthorn question again.

You say the Shorthorn has greater general usefulness under systems of mixed husbandry. I am not clear that I understand fully what this term means. Of the Herefords you say the breed is adapted for the production of beef—not milk; nor beef and milk, but beef alone. In the discussion of the merits of dairy breeds, we must take into consideration the aims of the dairymen. If one man wants a butter dairy, wishing to get the largest returns for food consumed, and the largest market value for the produce, he would select the Channel Islands cattle. If he lived near one of your large cities and wished to market milk, he would probably use the Holstein or Dutch cattle. If he wished a general purpose cow, would he not select the Ayrshire? The object which we wish to accomplish must govern our selection and this end must be always kept in view—to wit, economy of production with value of product. As a meat-producer let us discuss the Hereford-Shorthorn question. In England, if anywhere, the rule is to work for a speciality. You employ men with special reference to their fitness for the work they have to do. You would not employ a waggoner for a shepherd, or a shepherd for a waggoner. You would not take the English draught horse for a hunter, or a hunter for draught horse; and still either would do the other's work. I think it is fairly well established that the nearer you approach a perfect beef animal the further you are away from the dairy animal, and the nearer you approach the perfect dairy animal the further you are away from the perfect beef animal.

Now for the question of economy of production and value of product. As early as 1834 Youatt gave an experiment of feeding three Hereford and three Shorthorn steers. This experiment commenced on December 27th, 1827, and continued to the 29th March, 1829, when the animals were sold, the Herefords at £96, the Shorthorns for £97. This experiment covered a period of fifteen months. We have an account of the feed consumed from November 3rd to March 29th—five months. The Herefords consumed 46,663 lb. turnips, and 5,065 lb. hay. The Shorthorns, 59,430 lb. of turnips, and 6,779 lb. of hay. If an account of food consumed for the fifteen months had been in the same proportion and same in kind, it would have taken 38,325 lb. of turnips and 5,142 lb. of hay more to support the Shorthorns than to support the Herefords, or, say 30 per cent. greater cost for the support of the Shorthorns than the Herefords. Again, four months after this experiment was commenced, the Shorthorns weighed 27 cwt., the Herefords 23 cwt. 2 lb., the Shorthorns then being 3 cwt. 2 qrs. the heavier. With this advantage at the start, the Herefords sold within £1 of the Shorthorns.

When I commenced the breeding of Herefords, I had in my yards grade Shorthorn steers of one and two years old. I put Hereford bulls on the same cows that had produced the grade Shorthorn steers; the produce of this cross were kept in the same manner as that in which the Shorthorn grade had been kept. The Hereford grade steers of one year, and the Shorthorn grades of one and two years went to grass together, and remained out until after the middle of November, when they were put on light grain feed, with hay, and went to grass the next summer until December 1st, and were then fed for three months. The Hereford steers were the heaviest and best in quality, while the Shorthorns were one and two years

older. Mr. John Humphries, of Elyria, Ohio, an Englishman, imported Herefords in 1852, and for twenty-five years bred them, usually rearing his calves and raising them on the pail, using his cows for dairy purposes with good success.

I have grade steers now 14 months old, and thorough-breds of the same age. A portion of them run with the cows, a portion being raised by hand, and the latter are full as good as the former, and the lot will average nearly or quite 1,100lb.

There is a lack of statistics as to the cost of producing that ought to be supplied. But the accepted opinion here by those who have handled both breeds is that three Herefords can be kept on the same feed as two Shorthorns, and make equal weight and better quality. Your pages witness that the Rev. J. K. Snythies, a Hereford breeder, offered in various ways to test this question of merit as between the two breeds. Early in my experience I made the same offer, the test to be by selection from 200 cows to 2,000 cows, and breeding one-half to Hereford and one-half to Shorthorn bulls, the produce to be shown on our show ground at one, two, three, and four years old, and to give the Shorthorn breeders the choice as to how this produce should be kept. Thus far no Shorthorn man has accepted the challenge, although it has been repeated from time to time.

And I have not only offered as above, but I have made offers to test this question of merit on a smaller scale, although I realise that a test to be of value should be on a scale large enough to avoid accidents, and to make an average.

Sir B. T. Brandreth Gibbs, in his report of the Smithfield Club, page 25, says on experiments in feeding:—"One of the primary objects for which the Club was established, viz., by means of experiments in feeding, and by recording the results, to determine what breeds of animals, and what methods of feeding and treatment on particular soils, and under peculiar conditions of climate and locality, are calculated to give most food for man from given quantities of food for animals, or in other words to ensure the markets of England being supplied with the cheapest and best meat."

This object was not accomplished by the Society, and finally the efforts to obtain the facts were abandoned.

But here is the whole question—the cost of production and value of products, and this question must be met and settled.

I have stated that there is not a Shorthorn breeder who dare meet this question and select his own ground and the manner in which the test shall be made. If, then, on the simple question of beef-production, the Shorthorn interest dare not make the test, what are their claims worth?

You say:—"If Herefords were to be bred on arable farms, and reared by hand, there can be but little doubt, as those who have tried it say—that the character of the breed would be changed, and all the gain a loss. These are our reasons for stating the Hereford breed to be less generally useful than the 'cosmopolitan' Shorthorn."

This is bringing the question to an issue, and what is the authority? "Those who have tried it say so." I have the proof in my own stables to the contrary, in the case of twenty steers ranging from twelve months to four years old. They are from all kinds of cows, from a 700lb. native to a 1,600lb. grade Shorthorn. They carry the uniform Hereford character in colour and form. Some of them were raised on the cow, and some on the pail. Six of the twenty are from thorough-bred cows, three of which were raised on the pail, and three on the cow.

An English correspondent of one of our leading stock journals says, in speaking of the Royal:—"Shorthorn influence is strong on the councils of Agricultural

Societies." Is it not true that this is the key to the Shorthorn claim of cosmopolitan character, and that, when weighed by tests that are now sure to be applied, under the influence of the present investigation, this claim will be cancelled? The same correspondent adds:—"After admitting to the very utmost the merits and usefulness of the Shorthorn breed of cattle, when one comes to compare the animals with Herefords, Scots, Sussex, and even Welsh cattle, it is impossible not to see that a great deal of *prestige* of the breed has depended on a fancy and a mania supported by the nobility and landed gentry." May not this claim for cosmopolitan character rest upon the same foundations?

Which of the families of Shorthorns has a special fitness as a general purpose cow? Certainly not any of those that have been bringing fancy prices. I think as a better cow the Hereford is the superior of the Shorthorn.

Nearly forty years ago I bought two cows for the dairy—one a large fine-looking Durham cow with large udder, the other a small grade Ayrshire, two years old, coming on with her first calf. The Durham was recommended very highly, and I paid a long price for her, but, from the time the small cow dropped her calf, she was worth two of the Durham cow. Again, when I had about me a young family, I wanted a carriage that I could travel with easily on the road for business purposes, and that I could convert into a family carriage to be used about home. I never found anything to meet my wants until I got my buggy for business and the carriage for the family.

I am, Sir, &c.,

T. L. MILLER.

## A WORD TO FARMERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—I observe that notwithstanding aspersory reports and misrepresentation of facts the Farmers' Alliance is making satisfactory progress, and is now upon the straight road to complete success. This must be very gratifying to the originators and promoters of the Association. They must console themselves by knowing that great reforms have never been accomplished without difficulties and opposition.

The Farmers' Alliance has certainly started in the right way to do great good and I expect much more benefit to accrue to farmers through its action than from the inquiries of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. We already know the causes of distress and the remedies. What farmers really require is what has been asked for over and over again, security for the capital they lay out in improving their holdings, the removal of all vexatious restriction so as to give them freedom in the cultivation of the land and in the disposal of the produce, the abolition of all class privileges such as the Laws of Distress and Hypothec, reform in the game laws, a fair appointment of local burdens between landlord and tenants, and a simple inexpensive mode of land transfer. In short, the removal of all impediments to the proper application of capital and skill to the cultivation—the natural development of the soil. All that is asked is reasonable. Landlords, therefore, stand much in their own light and act greatly against their own interests, in not readily agreeing to carry out these reforms.

I am afraid that the appointment of the Commission is nothing more than a soothing pill to wheedle confiding farmers in view of the coming General Election. It shelves their grievances for at least a couple of years, when a report may perhaps be published setting forth that the Commission have carefully probed, weighed, and deliberated, and that their general judgment is favourable to things as they are. The composition of the Commission

leaves no doubt on my mind that this will be the result. I miss from the list announced the names of Mr. Barclay, M.P., Mr. James Howard, of Bedford, Mr. McCombie, of Tillyfour, and your own name, besides other distinguished friends of the farmers. Curiously too, not a single representative of the labourer class is in the Commission, whilst some of the greatest enemies of Land Law Reform are prominent in it. Like the Valuation Bill, the County Government Bill, and the Agricultural Holdings Act, so will be the report of the Royal Commission—a sham—all sham together. The farmers will be as far off as ever from protection against rapacious landlords and overbearing agents when the Commission shall have completed its labours.

If farmers desire to get the gross abuses of which they complain redressed, and thus save themselves from utter ruin, they should join the Alliance in vast numbers at once, and so carry all before them. They must send to the next Parliament a strong majority pledged to agricultural reform. They can easily do this if they present a firm and united front at the coming general election. I confess that I join my faith more to the Liberals than to the Tories. The Tories have always pretended to be the farmers' friends yet they have invariably offered strenuous opposition to the agricultural reform and to reform of the Land Laws generally. As the backbone of Toryism is the counties, it is in them that many changes must be made. The present members do not deserve the least consideration from farmers for they have sold them over and over again. They have in short betrayed their sacred trust. Farmers should never forget the fictitious agitation about the malt tax by the Conservatives before they got into power and how quickly they dropped the subject afterwards. What the "farmers' friends" did in regard to the malt they will certainly do in regard to the grievances.

Agriculturists must get as many of their own class to represent them in the council of the nation as possible. They must recall the watchword—"United we stand, divided we fall." It is of paramount importance that the Farmers' Alliance be made stronger, and stronger before the General Election. When we have farmers sitting on the benches of the House of Commons, they will not be found voting for Afghan wars and Zulu raids, as inglorious as they are unjust, cruel, and unnecessary. They will be thrifty and saving of the revenue, and not casting millions to the winds. Their bitter misfortune and experience will have taught them sound political economy. They will upset and beat feudalism without in the least uprooting and subverting the foundations of society by the constitutional action of the polling booths. Moreover, there is no danger whatever that the "pre-eminence" of the British empire would disappear should tenant farmers obtain seats in the Legislature; quite the contrary. Let them once get into Parliament in strong numbers, and they will soon obtain all the reforms that are necessary; then farming will again pay as well as it has paid in the past. Farmers and their friends have but to do their duty as politicians, and all will yet be well. Our great Empire would not only be saved from rapid decay, but she would be enabled to attain unbounded prosperity. You state in your able paper in the *Nineteenth Century*, while referring to the great depression, that the solution of the difficulty lies in agricultural reform, which it undoubtedly does.

Let me tell my country friends, in the plainest language, that their grievances are not removable by a return to Protection on corn. I would ask them to abandon all agitation for Protection, and to look for relief where practical succour can alone be found. In seeking protective duties on corn they are but chasing a phantom. Protection is for ever dead and buried, and no efforts can restore a state of things that has passed away. No

ministry will ever dare to revive the Corn Laws. Nothing short of Free Trade pure and simple will continue to satisfy the mass of the community. Protection, then, is a delusion. It never can be revived—never. To tell the farmers that it can be simply an electioneering dodge, and a very transparent one indeed.

If farmers are ever to thrive in future and become a happy and contented people they must return men to Parliament who are beyond all suspicion earnestly in favour of agricultural reform. If they fail to do this and allow themselves to be driven to the polling-booths like flocks of sheep they deserve no more sympathy—they deserve to sink deeper and deeper in the social scale and to lose their farms and capital too. It is simple insanity not to use the vast political power they possess. They were never stronger than now in their control over the representation of the counties and it will assuredly be their own fault should their interests not be properly represented in the House of Commons and their admitted abuses left longer unremedied.

No class of the community suffers so much from the want of united action as farmers and no class is slower to accept the advantages of combination. They grumble on from year to year and do little else. If they desire, however, to get out of the slough of despond they must bestir themselves and at once join the Farmers' Alliance which is doing such good service in helping to remove abuses—the impediments to progress and increased production—and promoting national prosperity.

I find it is necessary to remind farmers and others that the movement has not been got up in the least degree for political purposes. The worthy and excellent chairman, Mr. James Howard, of Bedford, stated clearly and emphatically enough at Birmingham that the Alliance had no object to subserve but the interests of tenant-farmers, and, through them, of the whole community, that their motto is, "Agriculture first, and politics afterwards;" but they make all welcome to their ranks, be they Liberals or Conservatives. As a member myself I know this is strictly so.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
D. G. F. MACDONALD, LL.D.

AGRICULTURAL DIFFICULTIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The enclosed statement has been handed to me by a neighbour, to know if I can give him any information upon the subject. However, I find myself in as much of a fog as my neighbour. Shall I, therefore, be asking you too much to insert it in your next publication, with a hope that some one amongst your numerous readers may be able to enlighten us upon it? I should tell you that a copy of this statement has been sent by a landlord (cultivating the Home Farm, within a few miles of Bury St. Edmunds) to his tenantry; I suppose, with the hopes of instructing them how to farm, and surmount the present difficulties.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
A DISTRESSED AGRICULTURIST.

[We give the balance-sheet below. It is one of the most extraordinary we have ever seen. Of course, the valuation of the live stock has to be taken on trust. There may be an over-estimate of a hundred pounds, or more, in the supposed increased value for 1878. The amount of corn and hay supplied to the Hall stable appears very large, and we should like to know the prices charged. The amount charged for cartage is absurdly high. Another curious item is that of £22 17s. 3d. for poultry supplied to the Hall; no fewer than 114 pairs at 2s. per pair—a high price for

a country district—must have been consumed. But the most peculiar feature in this statement is the estimation of the balance (or profit), without charging anything for the grazing of large numbers of cattle and sheep on a park of 480 acres. A large amount should have been struck off before the "balance earned on capital," which includes rent, was credited. Nor should we forget to ask how it is that the cows increased over £60 in value without any charge being made for additional cows purchased. But the whole account rests so much upon the correctness of estimated value that it is absolutely worthless as it stands, without authentication. We can only hope that the owner will continue to farm the land, and that he will realise his paper profit. No tenant could get over £100 for carting to the Hall, to the gardens, and on the estate.—ED.]

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Valuation of Covenants Michms., 1878. ...	300	0	0
Do. Corn ... ..	594	0	0
Do. Hay ... ..	392	0	0
Do. Horses and Colts ... ..	463	0	0
Do. Cows ... ..	216	0	0
Do. Highland Bullocks ... ..	324	0	0
Do. Young Neat Stock ... ..	72	0	0
Do. Sheep, Rams, Lambs ... ..	944	0	0
Do. Swine ... ..	45	0	0
Do. Poultry ... ..	19	0	0
Do. Carriage and Implements ... ..	579	10	0
Improved value of £2,000 capital	3,948	10	0
Corn sold ... ..	256	6	9
Do. used by Carriage horses ... ..	157	0	6
Do. for feeding Game ... ..	37	4	6
Neat Stock sold ... ..	223	18	6
Dairy Staff sold ... ..	81	6	1
Do. to Hall ... ..	28	7	5
Sheep sold ... ..	488	3	6
Mutton to Hall ... ..	41	2	6
Wool in hand ... ..	95	0	0
Pigs sold ... ..	15	18	0
Pork to Hall ... ..	12	9	0
Poultry sold ... ..	16	1	6
Do. to Hall ... ..	22	17	3
Hay supplied to Hall Stables ... ..	59	10	0
Men and Horses Carting for Hall ... ..	29	7	0
Do. on Estate ... ..	65	6	0
Do. for Gardens ... ..	11	11	0
55 Sacks of Potatoes at 8s. per Sack ... ..	22	0	0
	5,611	19	6

N.B.—The home consumption this year was small, the family being much absent from home.

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Valuation of Covenants Michms., 1877 ...	300	0	0
Do. Corn ... ..	494	4	0
Do. Hay ... ..	420	10	0
Do. Horses and Colts ... ..	430	0	0
Do. Cows ... ..	144	0	0
Do. Highland Bullocks ... ..	212	10	0
Do. Young Neat Stock ... ..	237	10	0
Do. Sheep, Rams, Lambs ... ..	821	5	0
Do. Swine ... ..	32	10	0
Do. Poultry ... ..	21	11	0
Do. Carriage and Implements ... ..	610	0	0
Improved value of £2,000 Capital	3,724	0	0

Corn Cake and Pollard bought	315	3	3
Bailiff's Salary	80	0	0
Farm Labour	519	9	7
Rates and Taxes	21	7	11
Title Rent charge	42	16	2
Insurance	2	10	0
Tradesmen's Bills	64	10	9
Sundry small payments	6	14	7
		1,052	12 3
		4,776	12 3
Balance earned on capital of £2,000 at 4½ per cent., or on present capital at 22 per cent.		835	7 3
		5,611	19 6

N.B.—This farm of 175 acres arable, and 85 acres grass, was let till 1869, at an average rent of £1 per acre. Since then it has been in hand, the stock has been grazed in the park, together with 300 fallow deer and Agister stock, the latter bringing in £133 in the past year. The rental due for this grazing is not easy to estimate. The extent of the park is about 480 acres, of which 300 are very good, the remainder being indifferent, some, indeed, very poor.

### MR. GRANT DUFF, M.P., ON AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS.

Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., addressed his constituents at Banff and Macduff on September 8th. After reviewing the debate on Mr. Chaplin's motion, he proceeded: The time has evidently come for large changes in our land laws—changes which many of us have long desired, but for which the hour had not struck. Let me be distinctly understood. When I say that I am in favour of large changes in our land system, I am utterly opposed to any change which would take anything from one man to give it to another without due compensation. The institution of property is far too sacred a thing to make it right to tamper with even for objects which may appear excellent. Nothing can be more shortsighted on the part of Liberals than to give their opponents the chance of saying that they are in favour of confiscation or of interfering with vested interests without full compensation. Our opponents are always ready to make abuse and denunciation fill the place which ought to be filled by argument, and we must take infinite care not to give them an easy opportunity of doing so. Some little advantage has been given to them by the use of a phrase good enough in itself, the phrase "free land." It would be better (as has been pointed out by Mr. Joseph Kay, a writer on these subjects, whose book, published after his lamented death, ought to have a wide sale) to use the longer but more accurate phrase, "free trade in land." What we desire is that the passing of land from hand to hand should be made as easy as the nature of land will permit. You cannot make it as easy to transfer the ownership of an orchard as you can to transfer the ownership of an apple or pear, but you can make it vastly easier than it is now; and until you have made the transfer of land from one hand to another as easy as it can be in the nature of things you have done justice neither to the man who owns land now nor to the man who would like to own land. Now, what are the measures that are required? First, there is the repeal of that ancient but now wholly unreasonable provision of the law which gives the whole of a man's landed property to his eldest son in case he dies without making a will. That provision of the law was quite in accordance with the wants of the society in which it sprang up; but there is nothing to be said for it now, and the sooner it is swept away the better. But it is said that when it is swept away it will not make so much difference, because most people who have landed property make wills. That is true enough, but its abolition would prevent occasional cases of hardship, and, what is far more important, would influence the wide-reaching and immensely important custom of primogeniture; for in civilized societies opinion always follows law, unless law is manifestly absurd. Nay, it even very frequently follows law when law is absurd. Then I think that after the passing of the measures I wish to see passed no man either in England,

Scotland, or Ireland, should be allowed to tie up his property in the way that is now possible. Most people would, I think, be well content to adopt the middle course of Mr. Shaw-Lefevre's Bill, and to extend to land the less complicated system of settlement which prevails with regard to what we call moveable and the English personal property. I would lean to make, so far as possible, the existing generation the full master of its own landed property. But it would be more difficult to deal with that huge mass of property which is now not held by its owners out and out, but under all kinds of complicated limitations—which has, in fact, not one owner, but many part-owners. To do this would require a long time, and the creation, not only of courts to deal with hopelessly mortgaged encumbered estates, but perhaps of other courts or commissions or agencies, which should have the power of dealing, of course, after hearing all parties and weighing all interests, with cases of complication and hardship. To do this, I say, would take a long time; but great changes must often take a long time if their benefits are not to be neutralized by much inconvenience and many injustices. A long step forward would be taken even without this if we prevented mischief in the future. But none of these measures would be sufficient unless we made a complete alteration in our system of land transfer and introduced a far cheaper and easier method. But some one may say, "Do you wish to see the estates cut up whose parks and gardens are so great an ornament to many parts of the country?" God forbid. I wish to see these things increase, not diminished. If the natural forces were only allowed to work freely, you would have all kinds of estates—some huge estates, plenty of large estates, a great many more moderate residential estates than you have now, and a vastly increased number of small estates cultivated by the persons to whom they belong. On the continent of Europe it is unquestioned that properties of a small extent, peasant properties as they are called, produce more in proportion to their size than do the large properties. Why should that be so, and the same thing not hold good in many parts of these islands? "Oh," says some one, "you are thinking of countries which have a far better climate than ours—of countries like the south of France, where the vine and the olive grow as oats or turnips do here." I am thinking of nothing of the kind. I am thinking of countries like large parts of Belgium, which have a bad climate and a horrid soil, where, nevertheless, agriculture is carried to a pitch which it has never reached or approached in those districts of England which lie opposite to them. I am not one of those people who believe that miracles are to be performed by peasant properties, but I believe that both economically and politically the growth of peasant properties in this country in districts suitable for them is most devoutly to be wished for, and I think that legislators who do not remove all removable obstacles to their extension are very remiss, and that large landlords who do not press for the removal of all such obstacles are simply infatuated. Remove all unnecessary restrictions on human liberty, and then let things settle themselves; that is the rule to which, as to all rules, there are exceptions, but it is a golden rule. Do away with absurd and complicated arrangements mischievous to all concerned, and in process of time you will see peasant properties grow up in the localities which are suitable for them, and you will see the amount of happiness in the country, as well as the stability of the political equilibrium, vastly increased thereby. But changes in the tenure and devolution of land, however beneficial, will not do all. You must carry the same way of looking at things into all that relates to the occupation of land. As you tend to let the natural forces work free from all unnecessary restrictions in the passage of land from hand to hand, so you must put the landlord and tenant into purely commercial relations with each other. All feudal incidents must pass away. Landlord and tenant must stand to each other simply as two persons, one of whom has a commodity that he wishes to hire and another a commodity which he wishes to let. Had it not been for old feudal ideas, survivals of an almost dead past, we should never have heard anything in these days of the law of hypothec, or of the landlord's peculiar relations to the game, or of his right to appropriate the tenant's unexhausted manures and other improvements. All these things must be put right, and put right as part of a great series of measures for the accommodation of the laws relating to the possession and enjoyment of land in Great Britain to right reason and

common sense. (Cheers.) As long as questions about game and hypothee and the like are merely treated as farmers' grievances, they will never be rightly treated or taken up by the best people to take them up. Treat them not as the grievances of a class, however estimable and valuable; treat them as things which have to be set right, as part of a great scheme of policy, vitally important to the whole community; and I am perfectly convinced that the last vestige of what are now called "farmers' grievances" will steadily be improved off the face of creation before a Liberal Government, with a good working majority at its back, has long sat on the Treasury Bench.

### TENANT WRONG.

Recently, says the *Mallon Messenger*, an interesting meeting was held at Kirbymoorside, North Yorkshire, the occasion being a dinner and testimonial given to Mr. Richard Foxton, late of Welburn, near that place, but who now resides at Scarborough, having had to leave his farm rather suddenly, and under circumstances which seem to have evoked much sympathy from his many friends in that part of the country. This feeling of sympathy, and the many excellent qualities displayed by Mr. Foxton both in a public and private capacity, led his friends to subscribe for a testimonial to him, and the presentation took place after a dinner at the Black Swan Hotel. The testimonial consisted of a beautiful silver centre-piece, of the value of £30, supplied by Mr. Sedman, jeweller, &c., Scarborough. On the pedestal was the inscription, "Presented to Mr. Richard Foxton, late of Welburn, as a token of respect, by his friends and neighbours, August 27th, 1879."

The dinner took place about two o'clock, and a good company sat down, under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Smith, of Huggate, chairman of the York Chamber of Agriculture.

After a number of letters from gentlemen unable to be present had been read, the chairman said these letters gave him a nice introduction to the business of the day. He was very glad that was not a party affair. Had it been so—either political or ecclesiastical—he should not have been there. But he was fully persuaded it was only a testimonial to Mr. Foxton from his friends and acquaintances who had long esteemed him, and that was their sole object. Of course they were bound to admit there were surroundings of the case which required to be treated with discretion and care. But no one present had any intention to reflect on the conduct of any individual. Mr. Foxton's removal was a source of regret to them all, whatever the cause. He felt that he could very consistently occupy the chair, because Mr. Foxton and he were 33 years tenants of the same estate, and the cause of their leaving was the same to a certain extent. The sale of Welburn was the cause of Mr. Foxton's leaving, and the sale of Risebro' was the cause of his leaving. But he didn't feel so keenly the separation as Mr. Foxton did, seeing that the latter had not only occupied the farm for so long, but his fore-elders before him. He (the Chairman) had also another residence to go to, which Mr. Foxton had not. He knew that the person who purchased Risebro' did so for the sole purpose of occupying it; but Mr. Foxton's farm was purchased by a gentleman who was understood to have done so to let it, and the old tenant expected to remain. It was not within his province or power fully to enter into that, for there were two sides to every question. He cared not who was to blame, whether Mr. Foxton or the landlord—there was something wrong in the principle, and that was what they had to deal with. They came there not for party purposes, but to defend certain principles and to condemn others. When a gentleman like Mr. Foxton, who had occupied the same place as his ancestors before him, and by his energy, industry, perseverance, and judgment, made a beautiful residence and home, was unexpectedly and summarily called on to leave it, they could not, as farmers and Englishmen, but sympathise with him, and condemn the principle in operation which allowed that to take place. The Legislature should so arrange matters between tenants and landlords that a man should not for any cause whatever have to quit his holding at merely six months' notice. Parliament had in the Agricultural Holdings Act acknowledged the principle of twelve months' notice, and that unexhausted improvements ought to be paid for; but an unfortunate clause was introduced allow-

ing landlords to contract themselves out of the provisions of the Act, which was done in the cases of Mr. Foxton and himself. He was not there to censure the landlords for not giving compensation, because it did not lay in their power. The owner of the estate in question had a large family, and such were the complications of their interests that it was thrown into Chancery, and the High Court of Justice had no power to give compensation. That was wrong. He did not blame the gentleman who bought his farm for not paying him for some thousands of tiles he left buried there, and for the buildings he put up. That gentleman purchased it with all these on; and Mr. Foxton's farm was sold with all he did to it. Ought that to exist? Should not they, as tenant farmers, combine to insist that a certain proportion of what they laid out on their holdings should be returned to them? Mr. Foxton was entitled to a certain proportion of his improvements, as he, by industry and an outlay of capital, made the estate sell for more than it would otherwise have done. It would materially contribute to the interests of the landlords to guarantee the tenants, in case of death, or sale, or any other cause of removal, a just and proper amount for the improvements made. It was then, he said, his duty to present that centre-piece to Mr. Foxton, and in doing so he wished him long life to look upon it, and be reminded that his character and conduct in their midst, his firmness, his decision, his sound judgment, his earnestness and purity of motive had not escaped the observation of his friends and neighbours. He had great pleasure in presenting that testimonial to him.

Mr. FOXTON, in reply, said his feelings were a mixture of pleasure and pain, and he wished he could find words to express his thanks to the promoter of this testimonial, and his gratitude for the generous efforts made on his behalf by the committee, and for the arduous labours of Mr. Hebron, as secretary to the committee. He thanked all for the kind sympathy shown him, and said what may have actuated them it was not for him to say—it was more than he expected or deserved. In a farming point of view he had simply kept what the Americans called a beef and mutton factory; and though perhaps he had spoken too boldly on agricultural, parochial, and other matters, he had nothing but an honest purpose in view. There was one circumstance relating to his leaving Welburn which he exceedingly regretted—and that was the visit of the Earl of Feversham, Mr. Farrington, and the Sinnington huntsman. He could not close his doors in the face of so worthy a nobleman, and could only do to him the same as he had done to many more who honoured him with a call when looking over the estate—give him a farmer's welcome. Had their three hours' colloquy been truthfully carried away, perhaps a farmer's home of three centuries might not have been so ruthlessly broken up. His treatment was unworthy the traditions of an English landowner. Had the Education Act been in force fifty years ago he might have had the offer of his occupation. He was placed in the position of the Israelites, "Ye shall have no more straw to make bricks, go seek it for yourselves." So had he, to pack half a dozen articles of furniture. He further spoke in strong terms of the treatment he had received, and said that that testimonial threw a reflex on a source of ingratitude with a reproach that neither misrepresentation, untruth, nor time would ever erase. That centre-piece—the emblem of their respect—gave him something that wealth could not give without a good name, and that token of respect would be a debt of gratitude owing to them, never to be repaid.

Mr. Foxton's health was then enthusiastically drunk.

MR. STRICKLAND, of South Field, Kirbymoorside proposed the health of Mr. Hebron, who he said had taken this matter up very warmly.

Mr. HEBRON returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure he had had in doing what he could for that testimonial. There had been, he said, quite a misunderstanding outside with regard to their motives in getting up that testimonial. They wished to show nothing but sincere respect for Mr. Foxton as a man, a neighbour, and a tenant farmer; but still they could not divest their minds of sympathy with the sad circumstances under which he left, as some of them regarded Mr. Foxton as a representative tenant farmer. Wherever they met him—whether at agricultural meetings, the highway board, the board of guardians, or any parochial meetings, they always found his voice ring truly in the interest of the tenant farmer, and he had no doubt that what

Mr. Smith had said could be to the letter substantiated. When they found Mr. Foxton's connection with them so suddenly severed, they could not but feel that some tribute of respect was due to him, and that was their sole motive. There was also his example in farming. Mr. Hebron then read from a paper Mr. Foxton had supplied him with, showing the great outlay he had been at on his farm, every item of which he said could be verified. He had drained 70 acres of land; reclaimed 30 acres of bog, by making an outlet of 700 yards to drain it 8ft 6in. deep; built almost an entirely new farmstead, a new wing to dwelling-house, and other offices; converted an old fold yard in front of dwelling house into a garden; covered 30 perches with turf or sod, made artificial mounds, run quickwood fencing, planted 413 fruit trees, 15 filbert trees, and 78 shrubs and other flowering trees; and doing all the team and hand labour in executing the same. By thus investing a large capital in a farm of 241 acres, and bringing it into a very high state of cultivation, he had produced in beef and mutton on an average for the past three years, commencing May 8th, 1876, and ended January 28th, 1879, 133 lb. per acre, realising £3,523 17s. 2d. or £4 17s. 10½d. per acre, leaving 250 fleeces of wool to add. His last year's corn account was as follows:—25½ acres of wheat, 125½ qrs., sold at 45s.; 32 acres of barley, 154 qrs., sold at 42s.; and 45 qrs. of tail corn ground up for feeding stuff; 10 acres of oats, 79½ qrs., sold at 1s. per stone, tail corn being used on the farm; 9 acres of barley damaged by ground game, only yielded 28 qrs., which was kept for seed and home use; 11 acres of oats, 99 qrs., kept for own feeding; averaging about £11 per acre for the whole 37 acres. His outlay altogether, with a reasonable allowance for fertilisation in the soil, was not less than £3,000, and everybody knew that the proprietors had realised over that sum entirely by his improvements. That condition of things said Mr. Hebron, could only be brought about by great judgment and perseverance and the application of considerable capital. Nobody questioned the right of a gentleman to deal with his estate as he liked, but when they considered the skill, energy, and capital expended by Mr. Foxton had added so materially to the selling value of the estate that it sold for £7,000 more than if it had been in the condition Mr. Foxton found it, they protested against the law that made it possible for any tenant farmer to be turned off at a mere six months' notice. There were exceptional circumstances in this case, Mr. Foxton not having six months' notice, but being severed from the home of his birth and of his ancestors; and it would be discreditable to them not to recognise his claims. He did not see why political matters should be excluded at such meetings, as the interests of the farmers were very intimately associated with politics. If the farmer were represented as he ought to be in Parliament, and as his voting power warranted his being, it would be impossible for such an Act to have passed as the Agricultural Holdings Act, which was a mere farce, and an insult to the common intelligence of the British farmer. The land of England and those who tilled it were in a state of bondage—(hear, hear)—and if out of this terrible depression there came the freedom of the soil and of the men who cultivate it, then this remarkable concurrence of untoward circumstances would not have been in vain.

FROM HARVEST TO HARVEST.—In the twelve months from the 1st of Sept., 1878, to the 31st of Aug., 1879, there were imported into the United Kingdom 51,725,435 cwt. of wheat, equal to 11,936,639 qrs.; 9,124,388 cwt. of wheat flour, or 2,606,968 qrs.; 9,994,624 cwt. of barley, or 2,798,494 qrs.; 12,133,645 cwt. of oats, or 4,112,234 qrs.; 1,666,441 cwt. of peas, or 348,098 qrs.; 1,700,288 cwt. of beans, or 396,717 qrs.; and 38,621,787 cwt. of Indian corn, or 9,011,750 qrs. The total is 124,866,538 cwt.; equal to 31,510,900 qrs. In the preceding twelve months it was 134,430,348 cwt., or 33,858,689 qrs. The imports of wheat and wheat flour was 51,809,578 cwt., or 12,321,445 qrs. in the twelve months ending the 31st of August, 1877; 62,255,125 cwt., or 14,808,966 qrs. in the twelve months ending the 31st of August, 1878; and 60,849,823 cwt., or 14,543,607 qrs. in the twelve months ending the 31st of August, 1879.

## THE PRICE OF LAND IN ESSEX.

In reply to the criticisms of the *Land Agent's Record*, referred to in the *Mark Lane Express* recently, Mr. J. Beaumont, of Coggeshall, writes as follows:—

I find that the statement I made at the recent meeting of the Farmers' Alliance at Chelmsford, that "the price of land in Essex had within the last eight years depreciated from 30 to 35 per cent.," has given rise to considerable discussion, and by many has been received *cum grano salis*. The *Mark Lane Express* quoted the assertion, and I find that on Saturday last the *Land Agent's Record* referred to the statement as "a very broad one," and the editor states that, having regarded it as somewhat remarkable, he had communicated with "certainly the highest authority upon land values in Essex if not in any other part of England," and in a leader upon the subject the reply of this gentleman is quoted as follows:—

Certain land in Essex has depreciated from 33 to 35 per cent., but this applies principally to undrained strong clay land, naturally poor, expensive to cultivate, affected entirely by seasons, and suitable only for the growth of wheat and beans. When wheat sells at a fair price—say, such as the price upon which the Tithe Commutation Act was based, viz., 56s. per quarter—the land on an average of seasons lets at a rental of from 15s. to 25s. an acre. The present state of matters with regard to that land is, that it is scarcely saleable at any price. The outgoings upon it in the shape of tithe and rates amount to nearly 10s. per acre, or what would be considered a full rent. The farm alluded to by Mr. Beaumont of 105 acres is not situate at Lurleigh (there is no parish of that name in the County of Essex), but at Furleigh. The soil instead of being chiefly sandy, is strong tenacious clay of the very worst description. The farm inaccessible for market, is so also for getting either chalk, London dung, or any other fertiliser, excepting artificial manures. Describing a circle of two miles round Furleigh, you would take in portions of the parishes of Woodham Ferris, Stow Maries, Cold Norton, Latchingdon, Mundon, and Hazleleigh; and it would be difficult to find in the whole county the same area of undrained, hungry, tenacious clay land. The parallel which is desired to be drawn is not a fair example of the value of property generally in the county of Essex, sad as is the state of things there, so far as rental and fee simple value are concerned. Although the depreciation in certain districts is as represented, taking the county generally, I should have thought the depreciation varied from 20 to 25 per cent., not more (save in very exceptional instances).

I am not a pessimist, but I consider that if a remedy is sought for a grievance the grievance itself should be well understood and exposed, and to that end facts should be stated, however disagreeable may be the task, and although I regard the communication from "the highest authority in Essex" as confirmatory of my view of matters, yet I am sure you will readily open your columns and allow me to supplement the statement which I made at Chelmsford by citing further instances of land depreciation.

The 35 per cent. to which I referred is a mean drawn between the extremes of high and low prices and no prices at all, and as the land selling period of the year has now closed, and it will only be that here and there your advertising columns will announce a land sale, I venture to give you my experience during the past three months.

As you know, land sales generally begin in the month of June and terminate with the month of August, and during the past season there is scarcely a union area in the county in which land has not been freely offered, and in too many instances I venture to say sold at a great sacrifice.

There are many which in former times were deemed valuable estates for which no sale and in many instances no offer was obtainable; to wit, the Layer Marney Hall estate, an occupation of upwards of 400 acres, upon which former tenants reaped a fortune, found no buyer, and a large portion of the Tyrell estates, near the county town of Chelmsford, were, as we well know, withdrawn, and to quote from the *Land Agent's Record* of the 28th June last, "notably the first lot, consisting of a farm of 107a. 2r. 26p. at Great Baddow, tenanted by one of the best farmers in the county, according to Mr. W. J. Beadel" (who *en passant* I may say is in Essex regarded as the highest authority upon land values, and with whom it would have been well for the editor of the *Land*

*Agent's Record* to have communicated). Another valuable lot of land at Burnham, comprising 275a. 1r. 33p., was also withdrawn, and an exceedingly compact estate embracing 745a. 2r. 37p., within seven miles of the county town of Chelmsford, found no buyer.

I could enumerate many other instances of "withdrawals," but a reference to your columns announcing the result of auctions will supply examples if further be needed.

Let me now speak of actual sales. On the day on which I purchased the small estate at Chapple, referred to by me at Chelmsford, a very valuable farm was sold in the town of Braintree for £5,050, which I am informed was purchased by the late owner some 11 years ago at a price bordering on £7,000; in the same district the manorial estate known as Black Notley Hall was advertised in your columns for sale but disposed of by private contract at a small advance upon £14,000; in days gone by I have walked and shot over this estate, and I can name two or three clients who in the year 1868 would have jumped at it for £20,000; in the same immediate neighbourhood I myself disposed of by private contract a freehold farm with excellent residence, and comprising 300 acres of good corn land, for £10,200, and which one of the leading auctioneers of this county assured me was a good sale, remarking that if the vendor had gone to the hammer he (the auctioneer) did not know where a buyer would be found; yet my local knowledge and circumstances connected with the estate justify me in saying that in former times there would have been ready buyers of this farm at £45 per acre. On the 5th of July last Messrs. Surridge and Son offered for sale for a client of mine an estate in the neighbourhood of Mr. Mechi's farm, at Tiptree. Nearly every lot was withdrawn, although the reserves were not over £25 per acre, and in one or two instances as low as £22; yet I find on the last occasion of the property changing hands by sale, £1,150 were paid for 22a. 0r. 5p. of this same farm and these twenty-two acres were not reserved at over £25 per acre. Refer to your report of the sale by Mr. Chellins of the Moyns Park or Gents Estate, at Steeple Bumpstead, on the 14th July last, and you will there see that an Elizabethan mansion with four farms, embracing an area of 680a. 3r. 37p., and producing the rental of £881 per annum, was sold at the absurdly low sum of £22,200 scarcely the original costs of the building materials, while other farms, described as of rich arable and pasture land, were withdrawn, the exception being that Colonel Brise, whose agricultural prescience is well known, saw his opportunity, and did not let slip the Cornish Hall Farm, an excellent occupation of 279a. 1r. 11p., which fell to the lot of the Colonel at £9,500, and as this farm is let at £375 10s. per annum the gallant member for East Essex may be congratulated upon a land purchase yielding him very nearly £4 per cent. Again, Messrs. Beadel on the 14th of last month submitted to public competition the Bullock estates, and here a valuable farm comprising 131 acres, and let to a responsible tenant at £224 per annum, found no buyer beyond £4,500, thus yielding to the purchaser within a fraction £5 per cent. on his outlay. I may tell you that I myself offered the late owner £6,000 for this farm some eight years ago, and he refused it, valuing it at much more, for about that period an adjoining farm of much larger area was disposed of at £60 per acre. But the culminating point in the land sales of the year was certainly reached when the Manor Farm at Parleigh comprising 105a. 3r. 8p., and with several cottages for labourers, was offered in the county town at £1,250, and found no purchaser. It so happened that I purchased the manor pertaining to this farm, and I observe in the abstracts recently delivered that when the farm and manor were last sold they fetched £3,500. The manor at the recent sale fetched £720, and as we all know that this species of hereditament has considerably advanced in price, by reason of the provisions of the Copyhold Acts, we can readily imagine that the last buyer regarded the value of the land at not less than £3,000, yet his successor in title failed to obtain £1,250!

I could fill your paper with illustrations in support of my proposition, but I feel sure that to those who fathom the question and who are not content to take a mere superficial view of matters, notwithstanding the dictum of the editor of the *Land Agent's Record*, it will be apparent that my assertion was based upon facts and not a mere hypothesis.

As I have before said, I am not a pessimist, for I quite concur in the view enunciated by Mr. Shaw Lefevre at a

recent meeting of the British Association, and I believe that bad seasons will not last for ever, and that they will be followed by an equal number of good years, and that with the application to English soil of a shrewd and versatile intelligence, backed by strong English arms, aided by freedom of cultivation and a reduction of local burdens and of rent proportioned to the recent fall, it is ridiculous to suppose that English land will cease for ever to yield a fair profit. I regard the land sales of the past season as exceptional, and venture to predict that in the time of the present generation they will not be repeated; that the wise and thoughtful landowner will hold on and not yield, as did the gas shareholders, to a terror emanating from American soil and producing a "scare" resulting in a sacrifice of property discreditable to our national character.

During the present season there have been but two exceptions to the general depreciation. These were in the case of the sale of the Little Wakering Hall, comprising 195a. 2r. 12p., which although leased for an unexpired term of six years at a rent of £270 realised the large sum of £15,000; and the "Clements" estate, in the neighbourhood of Ilford, disposed of by Messrs. Beadel, on the 19th ult., when lot 11, embracing 115 acres, fetched the large sum of £17,800; but in each of these cases there were peculiarities of soil and local advantages which gave to the lands disposed of a somewhat abnormal value, and these estates must not be regarded as having an average representative value of the purely agricultural lands of Essex.

I have already trespassed too much upon your columns by reference to depreciated fee simple values—much could be said as to depreciation in rental value apparent by the unusual number of advertisements of farms to be let, but as the one would necessarily follow the other I will content myself with this bare reference to the latter.

#### INFLUENCE OF THE MIND ON THE BODY.—

Andrew Crosse, the electrician, had been bitten severely by a cat, which on the same day died from hydrophobia. He seems resolutely to have dismissed from his mind the fears which must naturally have been suggested by these circumstances. Had he yielded to them, as most men would, he might not improbably have succumbed within a few days or weeks to an attack of mind-created hydrophobia—so to describe the fatal ailment which ere now has been known to kill persons who had been bitten by animals perfectly free from rabies. Three months passed, during which Crosse enjoyed his usual health. At the end of that time, however, he felt one morning a severe pain in his arm, accompanied by severe thirst. He called for water, but "at the instant," he says, "that I was about to raise the tumbler to my lips, a strong spasm shot across my throat; immediately the terrible conviction came to my mind that I was about to fall a victim to hydrophobia, the consequence of the bite that I received from the cat. The agony of mind I endured for one hour is indescribable; the contemplation of such a horrible death—death from hydrophobia—was almost insupportable; the torments of hell itself could not have surpassed what I suffered. The pain, which had first commenced in my hand, passed up to the elbow, and from thence to the shoulder, threatening to extend. I felt all human aid was useless, and I believed I must die. At length I began to reflect upon my condition. I said to myself, 'Either I shall die or I shall not; if I do, it will only be a similar fate which many have suffered, and many more must suffer, and I must bear it like a man; if, on the other hand, there is any hope of my life, my only chance is in summoning my utmost resolution, defying the attack, and exerting every effort of my mind.' Accordingly, feeling that physical as well as mental exertion was necessary, I took my gun, shouldered it, and went out for the purpose of shooting, my arm aching the while intolerably. I met with no sport, but I walked the whole afternoon, exerting at every step I went a strong mental effort against the disease. When I returned to the house I was decidedly better; I was able to eat some dinner, and drank water as usual. The next morning the aching pain had gone down to my elbow, the following day it went down to the wrist, and the third day left me altogether. I mentioned the circumstance to Dr. Kinglake, and he said he certainly considered I had an attack of hydrophobia, which would possibly have proved fatal had I not struggled against it by a strong effort of mind."—From "Influence of the Mind on the Body," in the *Cornhill Magazine* for August.

INTERNATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS.

The Berlin *Statistische Monatschrift* gives some interesting data concerning the diversity which exists in the several European countries with respect to the duration of life, and especially as regards the proportion of the population which reaches an extreme old age. The results are not very encouraging for the life assurance associations, for which prolonged life is an evident advantage; nor, indeed, can it please any friend of humanity to see how few comparatively reach even what may be called a natural limit of life.

Country	Year of the Census.	Number of Inhabitants.	Inhabitants 60 years old and upwards.	Their proportion to gross population.	Inhabitants 90 years old and upwards.	Their proportion to gross population.
France	1872	36,102,921	4,177,393	11.5	15,153	0.04
Belgium	1872	5,175,037	518,004	10.0	2,707	0.05
Switzerland	1869	2,669,147	260,324	9.7	828	0.03
Denmark	1872	1,324,391	176,811	9.7	1,410	0.07
Netherlands	1872	3,674,600	345,476	9.4	1,526	0.04
Italy	1871	29,801,154	2,462,351	9.1	18,567	0.06
Sweden and Norway	1872	6,012,678	537,742	8.9	3,180	0.05
Great Britain and Ireland	1872	31,845,379	2,745,474	8.6	23,539	0.07
Germany (Prussia)	1871	41,058,792	3,421,946	8.3	12,638	0.03
Austria (Austria)	1869	20,217,531	1,508,359	7.5	8,562	0.04
Portugal (Portugal)	1871	3,990,570	288,519	7.2	2,314	0.05
Hungary and the adjacent provinces	1869	15,417,327	941,009	6.1	7,225	0.04
Greece	1870	1,457,884	80,457	5.5	1,398	0.09
Spain	1870	26,835,506	897,102	5.3	3,764	0.02

It is almost unnecessary to say that in several of these countries a census has been taken since the date given above, but this is really unimportant for the purpose of comparison. It appears that, for its population, Greece possesses the greatest number of very old people (90 years and upwards); but it is one of those countries where, on the whole, old people (60 years and upwards) are relatively few. France is at the head of the list with respect to old people generally, but it has the small proportion 0.04 of the very old. Germany and Spain can show the smallest number (0.03 and 0.02) of the very old people. Austria-Hungary is something better. There are no statistical data of sufficient accuracy for the Russian Empire, but M. L'roy-Beaulieu is of opinion that the number of persons in Russia who are 60 years old and upwards is about 45 in every 1,000. Omitting Russia, Turkey, and some other small States, there are about 18,000,000 persons in Europe of the age of 60 and upwards. If we take those other countries into account, the number should probably be set down at about 25 millions.—*Leeds Mercury*.

CHECKMATED.—A happy-looking married couple were pointed out, and I was told that the lady had been married once before. When her husband died he left a will giving his widow 30,000 dol. a year as long as she remained a widow, and all of his fortune if she married again, for he maliciously adled "I want another man to know how wretched she has made me, and he may find some consolation in my money." The widow was not long in finding another husband, and out of spite to her former sponse makes the present husband supremely happy, and the wealth of the deceased is an immense factor to that end.—*Louisville Courier Journal*.

WASTE OF SEWAGE.

Mr. Mechi writes to the *Times*.

A destructive cancer is silently, gradually, but certainly undermining British agriculture. In these times of agricultural depression every cause of loss should be sought for and, if possible, removed. No doubt the penetrating eyes of our Royal Agricultural Commissioners will see in waste of sewage an important element of agricultural loss, affecting a very extensive area of this kingdom, for, in my early days, not a particle of sewage was permitted to enter any of the few underground conduits which were then existent. Many of us old folk have nasal reminiscences of the emptying of cesspools after midnight, for there was one in, or rather under, every town residence. Their contents were conveyed by carts many miles, and in barges to districts as far as 150 miles from London. I remember a large farmer a few miles from Reading lamenting his loss of manorial power owing to sewers having been substituted for cesspools. Probably one-half of our population is urban; if so, the loss to agriculture must be enormous and irreparable, despite the outlay for birds' and bats' dung from Peru and elsewhere, and bones (human and others) from other countries, besides the mineral apatite of foreign mines. Perhaps I may be too susceptible, but when in early morn I visit our markets (fish, meat, vegetable, and animal), and know that within a week their contents will be flowing in the Thames and lost to British agriculture, my feelings are divided between pity, regret, and indignation. Similar feelings pervade my mind on my way to Greenwich by steamer, when I see there monster steamships (a single ship sometimes brings, 17,000 quarters of corn) loading innumerable barges with grain and other food for man, besides coffee, sugar, wine, and all the other luxuries of the breakfast and dinner table; so I cannot help asking myself, "Are we a same people, or are we so recklessly rich in agricultural production that the waste of millions is to us a matter of little import?" Hear what Liebig, that grandest magician of agricultural science, says as to this, at page 229 of his "Modern Agriculture":—

"The sewers \* of the immense metropolis of the ancient world (Rome) engulfed, in the course of centuries, the property of the Roman farmer; and when the fields of the latter would no longer yield the means of feeding her population, the same sewer devoured the wealth of Sicily, Sardinia, and the fertile lands on the coast of Africa."

And he adds:—"Large towns, like bottomless pits, gradually swallow up the conditions of fertility of the greatest countries." Years ago the Baron, in your columns, warned us against our wasteful practice. We have already exhausted and impoverished the settled lands of America, and now the virgin soils of the far West are undergoing a similar depletion. In fact, the agricultural treasures of the States are consigned to our streams instead of to our lands. Some idea of the vast loss sustained is proved by the fact that it costs Mr. Prout £2 15s. per acre per annum for artificial manures to produce his crops. As our town populations consume the produce of probably 20,000,000 acres, the loss must be immense. I calculate that it takes the annual produce of 20,000 acres to feed the Londoners for a single day. I listen with astonishment when people talk to me of the difficulty and cost of transferring the manorial treasures from the sewers to the land. Contrast such a difficultly with others of our gigantic engineering undertakings, and it becomes, comparatively, a trifling affair. I hear that the contract for continuing the District Railway from Cannon-street to Aldgate, about a mile, is £5,000,000! Many are not aware that our Metropolitan Board of Works granted the sewage of London north of the Thames to a company for 50 years, to be carried to and through Essex, and to be applied on the reclaimed Maplin Sands. The Act of Parliament was obtained, the company formed, and £25,000 deposited with the Metropolitan Board of Works as security for the completion of the works within nine years, which, I believe, have now expired. But nothing has been done, and for nine precious years the waste has gone on and continues: the Thames gets the sewage from 4,000,000 people, and the Metropolitan Board of Works has got, and mean to keep, £25,000 forfeited deposit. But what has the

\* The population of ancient Rome was estimated at 7,000,000, and its great main sewer, the Cloaca Maxima, is, I am told, longer than our metropolitan main sewers.

land lost, and how much have the people paid for foreign food, during these nine years—food which might have been grown at home? And this is only one of the great cities which are likewise sinning in this matter. I am frequently told by practical farmers that our land is gradually becoming poorer in productive power, despite the extensive use of artificial fertilizers, and no doubt it must be so.

## WHY I MUST EMIGRATE.

BY A DEPRESSED FARMER.

Twenty years ago I hired a heavy-land farm of 300 acres at what, in those fairly prosperous times, was thought to be a moderate rent. My rent, tithe, and rates amounted to a little over £2 an acre. The farm consisted chiefly of good corn-growing land, but it had been run out of condition by the preceding tenant, and none of it was properly drained; consequently it was liable to suffer severely in wet seasons. I saw that the land was such as would pay well for improvements, and as I was a young man with a fair amount of capital, I would gladly have taken a lease; but the rule of the estate was to let farms on a yearly tenure, with six months' notice to quit, and it was useless to talk to the agent about a lease. The game on the farm was reserved, and there were much too many hares and rabbits; but this, again, it was useless to grumble about. "Take it or leave it" was the intimation pretty plainly expressed by the agent, and I had no more power in making the contract of tenancy than had the parchment on which it was written. Those were times when would-be tenants were many and vacant farms few, and it was only through the interest of some friends who knew the agent that I got the first offer of Pudley Hall. I dared not let it slip through my hands, for I knew not where to look for a tenancy on more advantageous terms, and I was anxious to marry and settle down in a farm of my own, having been loafing about on my father's farm quite long enough. My father advised me to accept the agent's offer. He had brought up a family of six children on a four-hundred-acre farm, under disadvantages similar to those I was about to encounter, and he thought I should "do" if I stuck to business and lived economically. I had inherited £1,000 from an uncle, and my father gave me another £1,000, lending me a third sum of the same amount, on which I had to pay interest till he died, when he left me that and a little more. I may state that he had saved a good bit of money during the Russian war, as he grew a large breadth of wheat, and had great crops in those years of high prices.

The long and short of it is that I took Pudley Hall and married, with a fair hope of making a respectable living. I set to work at once to get the farm into good condition. I asked my landlord to drain the wettest of the land; but as he was a limited owner, and there were some heavy encumbrances on the estate, he was unable to spend much in improvements, all expenditure being money out of pocket, for which he would receive no advantage. I offered to pay 5 per cent. on the outlay, in increased rent. This again was refused, and I understood that my landlord had no capital of his own to spare, so that he would have to borrow to pay for draining on such terms that 5 per cent. would not have recouped him. The most that I could get was a few pounds' worth of draining tiles in each of a few years, I undertaking to pay for the labour. This was, perhaps, a little rash, as I was liable to be turned out after only six months' notice; but I felt confidence in the good faith of my landlord, relying on him not to turn me out as long as I paid my rent and farmed fairly. Thus I drained the wettest of the land, and in other ways permanently improved the farm, sinking during the first four years of my tenancy about a third of my capital, or £1,000. If I had died this would have been lost to my heirs, and would have gone to swell the value of the estate; and if my landlord had died a successor might have turned me out or rented me on my own improvements—a misfortune which did occur to me, as will be seen, later on. However, in those times farming was paying well, and tenants did not mind risking a portion of their capital in necessary improvements that promised to yield a good return. They could not improve without such risk unless they had leases, and then only in the early portion of the terms. Most of my neighbours refrained from executing permanent improvements, relying on fairly good "hand-to-mouth" farming; but I was full of hope and

enterprise, and I could not bear to see crops suffering on water-logged land, or from the want of chalk. Thus I did what I could to bring my farm into a condition to grow first-rate crops, keeping as much live stock as I could on the land, and using guano and artificial manures for my root crops. Fortunately for me, the seasons were favourable at the beginning of my tenancy, so that my capital increased in spite of my expenditure, and at the end of ten years I had saved a thousand pounds. I then had six children; but they had not yet become very expensive, and my wife was a capital manager.

At that time my landlord died, and his successor, who had been living very extravagantly before he acquired a life interest in the estate, at once ordered his agent to make a re-valuation of the farms. Rents were then at about their highest, and a small rise was only to be expected; but our new landlord was in the hands of the Jews, and instructed the agent to put the screw on as tightly as possible. The consequence was, that the farms that had been badly managed were put up five shillings an acre, while mine and two or three others that had been farmed well, were advanced to the extent of ten shillings an acre. There was great dissatisfaction, of course, and some of the tenants who had farmed badly, and who had nothing to lose by leaving, gave notice to quit; I dared not leave, knowing that I had a great amount of capital sunk in the land, and that I should have great difficulty in getting another farm in such good condition as mine at any rent. But I felt grievously the injustice of being rented on my own improvements—paying interest on my own capital. This, too, was just at a time when my family expenses were increasing, and when I had hoped to begin laying up a nice little sum for starting my children in life. I had to keep a governess, and a little later I had to send my elder children to expensive boarding schools—people in the country being badly off for cheap and efficient education for their children.

I protested strongly against the injustice with which I was treated; but my landlord referred me to his agent, and the latter, though admitting that mine was a case of hardship, declared that there was no help for it, as the farm was worth the new rent, and plenty of men were ready to take it. So I had to pay the increased rent, and I still hoped to get a living, though my chance of saving anything seemed almost hopeless, and proved to be quite so. My rates increased with my rent, as my assessment was soon raised, and all the other expenses of farming were at that time rising. But, this was not all. My old landlord had kept down the hares and the rabbits pretty well; but the new one was mad after sport, and soon crops suffered seriously from the ravages of four-footed pest. I complained; but it was of no use, and I had to look on in helpless anger, while my property was being destroyed for my landlord's pleasure. At about this time, too, I had heavy losses amongst my live-stock from disease.

In the first few years after the rise of rent, I just about made ends meet, as I had two or three good crops, and prices were not very low on an average of years. Then came the trouble with the labourers—higher wages and less work. Five years ago I found that I had lost all that I had saved during the first ten years of my business life, and as the expenses of my children then, as now, eight in number, had become something considerable, prospects were sufficiently gloomy. Still I had not quite lost hope. Better seasons, I thought, might come, and prices might go up. There is always "a good time coming" for the farmer, though unfortunately it is often so long before it comes that hundreds of struggling men are ruined while they are waiting for it. How utterly delusive my hopes proved to be I need hardly say. After four bad harvests in succession I felt that I could keep it on no longer, and last Lady Day I gave notice to leave at Michaelmas. At present I have on my farm the poorest crop I have ever grown; the land has got out of condition, and is over-run with game, and I have only a little live stock on the farm. Ten years ago I was worth five thousand pounds; after I have cleared out I shall be lucky if I have a thousand left.

At forty-five years of age I have to make a new start in life; and what can I do? I know nothing of any business but farming, and I have not enough capital left to do any good at that in this country, even if there were a chance of success here at all. There is nothing for me but emigration, and I have made up my mind to go to New Zealand. There I hope my children will have a fair chance, though for myself and my poor wife I fear there can be nothing but a hard struggle

to the end of the chapter. I love the old country, and most of all my old home. We shall all feel leaving the place where, before my troubles came, we spent so many happy years. It is a pleasant home to leave, in spite of all that has happened to us in it. The house is an old manor-house, and the garden I have kept up well to the last, as my wife took great delight in the flowers, and I was proud of my success in cultivating vegetables and fruit. My wife bears up bravely, and does her best to put me in good heart as to our fortunes in the new world; but I can see that she dreads the parting with her friends, the long voyage, and the unknown difficulties and hardships that we must have to encounter in New Zealand. My eldest boy is in a corn merchant's office, and my eldest daughter is a teacher in a school. Of course they will go with us, and they like the idea of going to a new country. Some friends have offered to pay our passage out, and I have accepted their assistance as a loan; so I shall have a little capital to start with in the colony, though not enough to enable me to buy much land. As I look at my wife and children I feel almost like a villain who has brought them to trouble; but I have done my best, and I will not give up as a lost man yet. Perhaps in that new and wonderful land of which we hear such glowing accounts, there may be a reward for industry and thrift, which, as an English farmer I have failed to gain.

I must not be supposed that my case is one of exceptional hardship. On the contrary, I know numbers of poor fellows who are in a much worse position. Some of them have been insolvent for several years, but have kept on somehow, in accordance with the saying that "you can't break a farmer." Of course farmers do fail, but it is a slow process usually, as when a man is on his last legs it is not uncommon for a good season to set him up again. But the present period of adversity is of such long standing, and has been so entirely unrelieved for the last four years at least, that hundreds, if not thousands, of struggling tenants must be utterly ruined this year. It is truly pitiful. I have heard of industrious and frugal men who, in recounting their impending ruin to friends, have quite broken down and cried like a child. Many of them will not have enough money to pay the passage of themselves and their families to the United States or the Colonies, and it is a question which may come before the country for consideration whether a national subscription to enable broken-down farmers to emigrate should not be raised.—*Mayfair*.

### SWISS DAIRY FARMING.

The Geneva correspondent of the *Times* writes under date, September 3rd:—

"The subject of dairy economy and the expediency of adopting improved methods for the disposal of milk and the production of butter and cheese have lately begun to attract considerable attention in Switzerland. This is doubtless in part due to the fact that the country is so much better suited for dairy farming than the growing of corn and the fattening of cattle, but chiefly, perhaps, to the success which has attended the new industry of condensing milk, and the late serious falling off in the export of cheese, especially to the United States, the sendings thither, which amounted in 1872 to 2,230,000f., not having reached last year 1,700,000. One of the points discussed has been the desirability of improving the breed of Swiss cattle, with special reference to their milking properties. Several experts have recommended the crossing of the native race with highbred beasts of English stock, but this suggestion has been rejected on the ground that cattle which pasture mostly in rocky valleys and among high mountains must, above all, be light of body and of limb, and not of a build that would insure serious injury in the event of a moderate fall. It has, therefore, been resolved rather to raise the quality of the indigenous breed by the crossing of selections from the best herds of Swiss cattle; and the more effectually to carry out this plan an association of dairy farmers has been formed, and a Swiss herd book is now in course of preparation. Another subject which has received attention is the frequency of milkings; whether or not the time-honoured custom of milking cows twice a day is the best possible, and if three milkings would not yield more satisfactory results. With a view to the solution of this problem, M. Lami, a gentleman who has given much study to this and kindred matters, tried recently a series of interesting experiments. He took two cows, one Swiss, the other Dutch,

and analyzed their milk during three periods of ten days each, these periods being separated by intervals of equal duration. The first period he had the cows milked twice a day, the second thrice, and the third again twice. The analyses were made every day from an average sample of the milk produced during the day. The milk was weighed after each milking. In order to exclude errors and equalise differences, M. Lami afterwards took the mean of the two periods of two milkings, and compared it with that of the period of three milkings. In the following table the results of the various periods are put down side by side:—

	THE SWISS COW.					
	First Period.		Second Period.		Third Period.	
	Two Milkings.	Two Milkings.	Three Milkings.	Three Milkings.	Two Milkings.	Two Milkings.
Quantity in litres ...	70.90	...	84.19	...	83.20	...
Dry substances, kilos. ...	10.121	...	12.106	...	11.101	...
Fatty substances, kilos. ...	3.127	...	4.667	...	3.832	...
Lactine, kilos. ...	3.624	...	4.436	...	4.732	...
Nitrogenous substances, kilos. ...	2.869	...	2.397	...	2.252	...

	THE DUTCH COW.					
	First Period.		Second Period.		Third Period.	
	Two Milkings.	Two Milkings.	Three Milkings.	Three Milkings.	Two Milkings.	Two Milkings.
Quantity in litres ...	111.41	...	132.23	...	87.26	...
Dry substances, kilos. ...	15.827	...	14.126	...	12.688	...
Fatty substances, kilos. ...	4.659	...	4.711	...	3.937	...
Lactine, kilos. ...	5.573	...	5.448	...	4.525	...
Nitrogenous substances, kilos. ...	4.792	...	3.241	...	3.596	...

It follows from these figures that three milkings give an increased quantity of butyric globules. Thus, the difference between two and three milkings in the case of the Swiss cow (taking the mean of the two periods of the former) is 0.96 kilos, in a total of 3.5 kilos., or very nearly a fourth; while in the case of the Dutch cow the total was 4.3 kilos., and the difference in favour of three milkings 0.54 kilos., equal to about 10 per cent. These results are susceptible of two explanations: either the butyric element is increased as a consequence of the increased mechanical action which an additional milking involves, or, during the longer interval between two milkings, some of the butyric globules are re-absorbed and taken up by the blood. In order to throw more light on this point M. Lami kept a cow without food for a day and a half, analyzed the milk before and after the fast, and compared the results, which were as follows:—

	Before the fast.		After the fast.	
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Dry matters ...	13.6	...	14.3	...
Butter ...	4.4	...	4.15	...
Lactine ...	5.0	...	3.9	...
Cseine, albumen, and salts	4.2	...	6.15	...

The weight of the cow before the fast was 694 kilos; after, 650. The increase of butyric matter after the fast is held to prove that the theory of re-absorption is not tenable. It is worthy of note that the composition of the milk after the fast resembles that of the carnivora, in that it shows a diminution of lactine and an increase of albumen, &c. This is because the life of the cow during the deprivation of food was kept up by its own store of fat; it lived, in fact, on animal food, and was, therefore, for the time, a carnivorous beast. These experiments have an important bearing on the production of condensed milk, one of the latest and most promising of Swiss industries. The exports of this article, which ten years ago was hardly known in commerce, reached, in 1877, 54,991 metric centners; in 1878, 64,197 centners. The demand for it is constantly increasing, and the companies engaged in its manufacture are about the only really profitable concerns in the country. It is remarkable that France, where the art of condensing milk as now practised was discovered, has entirely lost all the trade therein it ever had, and is now entirely dependent on Switzerland for its supply of this useful commodity. In 1870 Switzerland exported to France 32,627 kilos of the article, of a money value of 6,625f. In 1872 the quantity had increased to 3,093,347 kilos; in 1878 it reached 3,691,900 kilos., estimated to be worth 690,263f. It would be interesting to know how far this rapid development is due to the circumstance that Switzerland, having no law for the protection of patents, is at liberty to avail herself of the inventions of her neighbours without restriction and without payment.

## TREATMENT OF DISTEMPER IN THE DOG.

Almost every dog-owner possesses a recipe which he considers a specific for distemper, nevertheless it is a well known fact that we lose annually a large number of our canine friends from this disease. The disregard many pay to the sufferers from distemper, in respect to warmth, pure air, and food, combined with the administration of emetics and irritating purgatives, contribute to swell the death-rate from this complaint to a much higher percentage than would be the case if more care were taken in nursing, and purges and emetics less frequently used. Too much importance cannot be attached to the food given during the progress of the malady, because improper diet readily induces disorders of the digestive organs—*i.e.*, diarrhoea and vomiting, which often lead to a fatal issue. In cases in which convalescence has commenced, a relapse is often due to improper feeding.

Many cases of distemper, shown by the usual signs of fever, with a muco-purulent discharge from the eyes and nostrils, can usually be successfully treated by placing the patient in a position where a good supply of fresh air can be obtained, and at the same time giving the patient a dry, warm, and clean bed. Milk, with mutton broth and beef tea, should be the only diet allowed until the symptoms are abated. The gluey discharge from the eyelids should be removed daily. In cases of distemper in young puppies, we often have, in addition to the foregoing catarrhal symptoms, great prostration of the nervous system by excessive dulness, great muscular weakness, and a gradual failure of the heart's action. In these cases alcohol is of great value. It should be given in doses varying from a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful of whisky three times a day; but more frequent doses are required in bad cases. Its good effects are soon observed by the great dulness and exhaustion gradually abating, and by the action of the heart proving less frequent and stronger. The younger the patient is, the more will be the necessity to have recourse to alcoholic stimulation at a very early period of the disease. When the acute symptoms have subsided, preparations of iron are beneficial, with which cod-liver oil may be combined.

Sometimes, in spite of careful treatment, but more particularly in neglected cases, bronchitis and pneumonia set in. For treatment, which must be prompt, a strong mustard plaster should be well rubbed into both sides of the chest, and a seton inserted in front, which should be well stimulated with spirit of turpentine. The medicine which we would recommend to be administered is a combination of tincture of digitalis and tincture of perchloride of iron, in doses varying from 5 to 30 drops of each, according to the size of the patient, three times a day. Whisky, with milk and beef tea, must also be given frequently. Diarrhoea, a common complication of distemper, should be healed by a milk diet; and in severe cases, especially if vomiting be present, lime-water must be mixed with the milk. When diarrhoea commences, the administration of grey powder, in doses of from 3 to 10 grains, and repeated on the following day if necessary, often proves of great service. This probably is the result of its action on the intestinal secretions. Should this remedy not have the desired effect in arresting the diarrhoea, recourse must be had to strong astringents, such as opium with acetic of lead, whose action may be substantially aided by starch injections containing a little laudanum.

Jaundice complicating distemper is due to an extension of the catarrhal inflammation from the bowels to the bile ducts. Groy powder with bi-carbonate of soda is the best remedy. "Distemper fit's" occurring during the progress of the disease, always augurs badly for its successful treatment. Their occurrence usually takes place after the disease has existed some time, and the patient become exhausted; occasionally they usher in the complaint. Treatment must be a seton at the back of the head, well stimulated with spirit of turpentine; and bromide of potass should be given in doses of from 5 to 30 grains, three or four times a day, whisky being also freely administered with milk.

During the progress of distemper attention must be given to the eyes, which should be wiped daily with lukewarm water to remove the adhering muco-purulent discharge, and an astringent lotion of five grains of alum to one ounce of water applied twice daily. If there be any tendency to the formation of ulcers on the cornea, calomel blown upon ulcerated spots is very beneficial.

The troublesome pustular eruption occasionally met with may be treated with oxide of zinc ointment and baealine.

When chorn or paralysis exist with distemper, setons should be placed across the loins or at the back of the neck, and strychnine administered internally.

The foregoing remarks will, it is to be hoped, prove of some use to those who have hitherto been unsuccessful in the treatment of distemper.—NEMO in *North British Agriculturist*.

DEAR MEAT.—Solutions of the problem of dear meat and the cause of it are to be had in abundance, but we are tempted to dwell a little longer than usual on the remarks of the anonymous author of a small pamphlet, entitled "The Cause of Dear Meat and the Remedy," which has recently found its way into our hands. This for two reasons: In the first place the writer does not waste words, and has evidently been moved by no literary vanity to put himself into print, for he condenses his remarks within the compass of a few short pages; and in the second, he seems to have practical knowledge of his subject. He says that a main cause of the dearness of meat is the unwillingness of the consumers to have any but the best parts—"prime joints of beef or legs of mutton"; and he goes on to say that the inferior parts which command so low a price are really excellent eating. "*A la mode* beef made of clods, and stickings, when properly cooked, is very good; briskets and flanks are excellent." Good cooking would probably settle all objections to the less dainty portions of meat; and we fully agree with our author that where this can be obtained it is the consumers' own fault if they will keep up the prices by the demand for joints and legs. The preparation of clods, stickings, and briskets may be recommended to the notice of Mrs. Clarke and her young lady cooks at South Kensington, if they have not already given the matter attention. The credit system, an important element in all questions of high prices, is aptly touched upon by the writer, who properly says that where butchers are obliged to send two mutton chops a distance of two miles they can scarcely be expected to study niceties of moderation in their bills.—*City Press*.

BIGOTRY AND BEGGING.—At a special meeting reported, says the *Post*, to have been lately held, in the prospect of a bad harvest, at Newington Free Church, Edinburgh—"The Rev. Dr. Begg, in addressing the meeting, expressed his conviction that the unseasonable weather was a judgment on account of national sins, among which he enumerated infidelity, the encouragement of Roman Catholicism by Government, the relations which this country maintained with foreign countries, Sabbath-breaking, and profane swearing." Dr. Begg, then, if the foregoing are really his words, is convinced that the late rains were owing to the agency of supernatural power, and not that of natural causes. He regards them as miraculous, and believes that a succession of miracles, consisting in the phenomena of storms of rain, and wind, and thunder and lightning, has been in course of performance for several months past on account, among other national sins, of the encouragement afforded by Government to Roman Catholicism. In the same way, Ultramontane Begg or analogues to Begg as to intelligence, have ascribed sundry calamities to the destruction of the Temporary Popedom. Of course, the diverse Begg are equally certain of the truth of their respective assertions, and alike know nothing whatever about it. The Begg on both sides beg the question they affirm by a tremendous assumption for which the only excuse that can conceivably be pleaded is intellectual beggary.—*Punch*.

LEAVING HIM ALONE.—It is perfectly true that, in the first instance, the sympathy of the Empress was stirred in favour of Captain Carey, and that she addressed a letter to the Queen on his behalf. This feeling underwent a marked change on the perusal of a characteristically unctuous letter from Carey to his wife, which the latter thought proper, probably not wholly of her own impulse, to forward to her Majesty. It has given place to anger and disgust, following on the persistent attempts of Carey, in his numerous direct and vicarious communications to the public prints, to excuse himself at the expense of the Prince Imperial. That was a most tellingly bitter remark the Empress made the other day, speaking of Carey: "Why," she asked, "cannot he leave my poor dead boy alone? He left him alone once."—*World*.

**THE PROFESSIONAL CRITIC.**—Somewhat in the same style must be the reading of the professional and miscellaneous critic, though it is necessarily more superficial and perfunctory. Not unfrequently he has to discharge an important duty at notice which appears to be absurdly short; and the author whom he sentences in a couple of columns or so may complain plausibly of the gross unfairness of his treatment. And it does seem hard at the first blush, that the work of years should be judged in an hour or two, and an expert weighed in the balance by a smatterer. In the first place, it cannot be helped; and in the next, the injustice is more apparent than real. The critics are probably quite good enough for those who, knowing little or nothing of the subject, may desire to have some general idea of the book; while the very few who may be better informed, take them pretty nearly for what they are worth. If the critic be conscientious, he will try to be fair, and if he understands his business, he will seldom commit himself, and never blunder egregiously. It is not to be expected that he should be an encyclopædia of knowledge, or that he should be deeply read upon all subjects. But he should have made himself master of the practice of "getting up," and ought to know where to lay his hands on the authorities that keep him straight. As for rapid reading, that comes with habit; and it is astonishing what proficiency may be attained in the art. In reviewing a history, for instance, you know that there are certain epochs as to which the main facts are undisputed, while there are others which have little interest for anybody. There are characters and complications of policy, on the other hand, that have influenced the course of events, and changed the destinies of nations. Each fresh estimate of these must always excite attention, and may be a crucial test besides, of the industry and sagacity of the writer. So the critic learns to read to points; and the points on which he expresses an opinion have really had relatively mature consideration. The same principles help him in the most bulky biography; and with poetry and fiction his task is still easier. Nothing is more easily sampled than poetry, good, bad, or indifferent; and we take it to be an axiom that a really clever novel should engage the attention of the most hardened professional. It does not follow that he need read it page by page—that is an affair between himself and his conscience. But by attending to a few very simple rules he may make himself master of its faults and its beauties on a comparatively cursory perusal. We should say that he will study the first chapter or two as if he were to be called to pass a *viva voce* examination in them. Having grounded himself in some of the characters, in the opening scenes and incidents of the plot, he will soon find out how far he need persevere. If the novel be a distinctly good one, the chances are, as we said, that he will read on for his sake, merely skipping when he comes upon what is unmistakably a side episode, or when moralising or sentimentality is being gratuitously overdone. If he does drop the leading thread for a moment, he knows by intuition when he may hope to pick it up again, and makes a scientific cast forward like the huntsman whose hounds are at fault on a cold scent. But he learns, for his own sake, not to be too impetuous, since nothing is more irritating, when one is reading against time, than to have to try back for the elucidation of some circumstance that puzzles you. And if the critic be something of a literary gourmand, there is a great deal of enjoyment in his manner of reading. He is like a man who has the run of a well furnished cellar with a variety of vintages in innumerable bins—save that there is no headache to follow, and that the palate is refined by generous indulgence. He has his free swing among books on every conceivable subject, and his mental faculties are stimulated and freshened by changing the themes on which he goes to work. He should necessarily have a fair share of self-confidence; but at the same time his readers must sometimes feel that an affectation of modesty would sit not unbecomingly on him. We have observed, for example, that the finest speakers among our leading statesmen, especially on platforms and at public dinners, express themselves with a studied diffidence which is sure to be flattering to their hearers. Yet no one doubts on that account that they know as much of their subjects as the traders, professional men, or artisans who listen to them. While it may well be that the gigantic and omniscient intellect in the most dogmatically infallible of our weekly contemporaries, fails to convince us in a few cursory remarks that he has the qualifi-

cations for pronouncing authoritatively on the patient labours of years.—*Blackwood*.

**KANGAROO TONGUES.**—A new Australian delicacy is finding its way into the London markets, in the shape of dried kangaroo tongues. The tails and skins of these animals have long been utilised—the former for making soap, the latter for leather; and the recent enormous destruction of kangaroos has given considerable impetus to these two trades. Struck by the waste of food occasioned by the slaughter of so many thousands of these marsupials, whose bodies are frequently left to rot where they have fallen, a Waroo settler made an experiment in curing the tongues of some of the slain, and so highly were they approved that a considerable trade has sprung up in this commodity. The tongues are usually cured by drying in smoke, like the Russian reindeer tongues; but a much better plan is to preserve them in tins like the sheep and ox tongues received from America. Tongues lend themselves to this treatment better than almost any other portion of an animal, as they stand the excessive boiling better than beef or mutton.—*Colonies and India*.

**FIAT JUSTITIA RUAT JURYMEN.**—"Gentlemen," said a Kentucky judge to the jury in a murder case, "have you agreed upon a verdict?" "We have," made answer the foreman. At this moment twelve men in the audience rose, pulled out their shooting irons, and covered each man in the box. There was an ominous silence in the court, broken at length by the voice of the Judge from behind the desk where he had dropped:—"Gentlemen, the dignity of the law must be respected. The first great principle of justice and jurisprudence must and shall be maintained at all hazards. Do you find the prisoner at the bar guilty or not guilty?" The foreman looked at his fellow-jurors. They glanced nervously at him. There was a hurried consultation that lasted less than half a minute, and then the foreman spoke up like a little man:—"Not guilty, your Honour." And thus did they emphasize the fundamental principle of jury's prudence.—*Canadian Puck*.

**PRIZE ESSAY ON WOMAN.**—After man came woman. And she has been after him ever since. She is a person of free extraction, being made of man's rib. I don't know why Adam wanted to fool away his ribs in that way, but I suppose he was not accountable for all he did. It costs more to keep a woman than three dogs and a shot-gun. But she pays you back with interest—by giving you a house full of children to keep you awake all night and smear molasses candy over your Sunday coat. Besides, a wife is a very convenient article to have around the house. She is handy to swear at whenever you cut yourself with a razor and don't feel like blaming yourself. Woman is the superior being in Massachusetts. There are about 60,000 more of her sex than males in that State. This accounts for the terrified, hunted-down expression of the single man who emigrated from the East. Woman is not created perfect. She has her faults—such as false hair, false complexion, and so on. But she is a deal better than her neighbour, and she knows it. Eve was a woman. She must have been a model wife, too; for it cost Adam nothing to keep her in clothes. Still, I don't think she was happy. She couldn't go to sewing circles and air her information about everybody she knew, nor excite the envy of other ladies by wearing her new winter bonnet to church. Neither could she hang over the back fence and gossip with her near neighbour. All of these blessed privileges were denied her.—*Chico Record*

"That's a fine pig ye have there, Janet!" said the Earl of Haddington to a servant of Dr. Wallace at Whitekirk, as he was surveying the minister's farm-stock. "Ou, aye, my lord," said Janet, "it's an uncommonly gude beast; an' we ca't Tam after your lordship."

**A CRUMB OF COMFORT.**—Jonathan, "They *du say* we sent you this darnd weather! Don't know 'bout that! Anyhow, I guess we'll send you the corn!" Farmer Bull. "Thank'ee kindly, Jonathan, but I'd rather ha' done without both!!!"—*Punch*.

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.**—We (*York Herald*) are glad to learn that the office of Assistant Commissioner for the counties of York, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, (being the northern division of this inquiry) has been offered to and accepted by Mr. Coleman, of Riceall Hall, near this city.

## WASTE OF SEWAGE.

Dr. Thomas Hawkesley writes to the *Times* :—

I have read with great interest Mr. Mechi's letter to the *Times* of the 9th inst. Mr. Mechi has earned for himself a representative character for scientific farming and for patriotic spirit by the years of perseverance through which he has spared nothing to win from the soil its best gifts, and, at the same time, to make his experience as useful as possible to the nation. The opinion of such a man on this question—the life of the soil, which is the foundation of all animal life—is of the greatest value and should command serious attention. He says, "A destructive cancer is silently, gradually, but certainly undermining British agriculture;" and he supports his statement from his own experience and that of the highest authority on this subject. Twelve years ago this question was agitated at Leamington by a special congress and by the Social Science Congress at Manchester. On these occasions I contributed papers to show that the only successful solution of this question was by what is called the "Dry Earth System," whereby the atmosphere and the water are never polluted, and the whole refuse organic matter of a people (whether sparsely or closely packed in society matters not) may be directly conveyed without any nuisance or difficulty to Mother Earth, who greedily assimilates it, and in return gives back in bounty forms of beauty and of vital service.

The practical method of carrying out this system was explained, and calculations were made exhibiting the cost to the country at that time of the present idiotic system of sewerage, together with a provisional estimate of the gain to the nation by adopting the method which all common sense and scientific reasoning must support and command. The result of the first calculation—viz., the annual cost to the country in 1867 of the present system of sewerage—was, in England and Wales, £45,318,672; in London alone, £6,347,801. This estimate included the money value of the productive labour lost by the sickness and death due to impure air and water caused by water-carried sewage, the funerals of those killed in this way, and the cost to the country of their widows and orphans. It also included the least possible value of the material willfully divorced from the land and misemployed in carrying out the homicidal and other mischief referred to; also the cost of the guano and bones, &c., at that time imported to feed the impoverished land. But it did not include the cost of maintaining the sewers in repair, and it hinted at the addition to this bill of costs when, the water around us having become too poisonous and repulsive to drink, we are compelled to establish magnificent engineering aqueducts from Windermere or Wales.

The second calculation—that of the gain to the country by conveying refuse organic matter to the land without any water carriage—went to show that it might be effected without any cost for sewers, or for water, or for sickness and premature death; but, on the contrary, that it would usefully employ a vast number of men and boys, with a degree of profit that would, at least, pay all its own expenses for machinery, labour, cartage, stations, &c., and probably leave a handsome balance.

Twelve years have passed since these inquiries were instituted; the main drainage of London meantime has been completed, millions of money have been expended to make it successful, but alas! the same evils of polluted air and water remain, not much better while the works are new; what, then, may we expect as they become imperfect and more and more choked up? Typhoid fever and the other zymotic diseases continue as rife as ever, except in the surrounding of some zealous officer of health who will insist on the expensive improvements and cleansings of the Augean stables around him. From Mr. Mechi and others we learn that the land is becoming more and more impoverished, and the success of farming spoilt by the expense of artificial manures. What is every one's business is no one's, and in consequence the most gigantic evils are permitted to endure until a few resolute individuals are allied in intelligent and settled purpose. I ask, when will this sickening and disastrous evil be attacked with the determination to conquer and not to compromise?

Major-General Scott, writes :—

In his timely letter of the 8th inst., which appeared in your columns on Tuesday last, Mr. Mechi conveys at once a grave indictment against British agriculture, and a solemn warning

to the British public. To use a familiar illustration, he says in effect, "You are killing the goose which lays the golden eggs; you are draining the life-blood from the bounteous soil which supplies your population with food; you are casting into your rivers and into the ocean the fertilizing elements which should have been returned as manure to your fields." In its broad facts the case must be taken to be proven. That great luxury, the modern water-closet, has, in numerous instances, robbed the farmer of a much-needed fertilizer, and we have, indeed, to an extent which can hardly be measured, incurred the serious penalties which are the sure and certain punishment of national waste. We may even be, as Mr. Mechi implies, in this period of so-called depression smarting from some of the results of our recklessness and our folly. Concerning the value of sewage, however, it must not be forgotten that there may be two opinions, and that eminent authority, Dr. Voelcker, the chemist to the Royal Agricultural Society, stated recently at a meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, "Town sewage, far from being a valuable agricultural commodity, is, in my opinion, a nuisance which can only, in exceptional circumstances, be turned to profitable account."

But sewage is not everywhere removed by water, even in our wealthiest towns, and all water-carried sewage is not discharged direct into rivers or into the sea. It is open to doubt if one-fourth part of the fecal matter of England passes away into sewers, and even of this fourth part no insignificant fraction is applied in one form or another, often, it must be confessed, very unskillfully, to the land. Still, a source of wholesale and wanton waste has now, by no means for the first time, been brought prominently into notice, and without further attempting to expiate away the evil, permit me for a moment to glance at the remedy. Engineers will at once tell you, without hesitation and without doubt, that there is no "difficulty" in conveying every drop of liquid sewage to the land, and from this point of view there is no barrier to an immediate return to the state of things existing before water was used as a carrier. But Mr. Mechi couples with the difficulty another item, to wit, the "cost of transferring the manurial treasures from the sewers to the land." Here we meet with a point which needs explanation, for the cost may be incurred in two ways, either in the conveyance and distribution of the sewage over the land, or in the acquisition of land and the preparation of it for sewage treatment. It is in the latter respect only that sewage farming can be said to be costly, and it is so because ignorance and prejudice have combined to make such cultivation impossible, or nearly so, for individual effort, and practicable only for corporations and civic bodies, the very worst and most irresponsible of farmers. The agriculturist, instead of coming forward to take these treasures now squandered by his town neighbours, declines to accept sewage on any terms, and it can consequently only be dealt with on land acquired under compulsion. The reason of this reluctance on the part of the farmer is not far to seek. The sewage is not offered to him in the best condition for its profitable utilization, or in circumstances which tempt him to make trial of its virtues. He is tied down to take it whether he wants it or not, day after day, and year after year, and he is hampered with conditions and restrictions which make sewage farming a curse rather than a blessing.

One remedy there is, which is clear and simple—Let it become the duty of urban authorities to defecate and clarify the water they have fouled, by processes which are well known and easily practised, and let them provide the farmer with a liquid manure he can utilise when he wants it. Let sewage farming, thus freed from all sources of nuisance to the surrounding country, be emancipated also from every condition which at present renders its practice costly and difficult, and the wealth now wasted will not be long in again finding its way to the fields. Dr. Voelcker stated some years ago that "he had come to the conclusion that agriculturists would never use sewage if they had to take it in the foul condition in which it had hitherto been delivered to them. But he was convinced that if sewage, properly clarified, were offered to the farmers, they would take it and find it a very useful liquid for irrigation purposes."

Mr. Edward B. Malet, at present Secretary of the British Embassy at Constantinople, has been appointed British Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, in place of Hon. H. C. Vivian.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL  
AGRICULTURE.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date Sept. 5: More English tenant-farmer immigration developments. A few morning's ago we were startled over our morning muffins by the following simultaneous publication in all the government papers of the discovery of a new El Dorado. This great and gratifying find was announced in the following "private" letter addressed to a high official in the Department of the Interior: "A letter from Mr. T. Conolly, correspondent of the London *Times* now in Manitoba, says, 'This is the finest land in the world! I never could believe it till I came here, I presume there are many more like me who are slow to credit every honest statement. However I will make amends for it when I go back to England; I will send every one I can from Great Britain to where they can get the finest land in the world on easy terms. I regret I did not come up sooner. But you may rest assured I will make the most of my time.'"

It has long been established that when any gentleman in this Dominion falls on the neck of the chief of a department, and privately confides to him he has just discovered the most attractive spot on this mundane ball—and that said Eden is fortunately in Canada—something else may incontinently be looked for. So we sipped off our coffee, and went our respective ways, waiting for next morning's papers. And, in the *Globe* of the following day, we found this item: "It is said that in furtherance of its tenant-farmers' immigration scheme the Government has engaged Mr. Thomas Conolly, an ex-correspondent of the *Times*, to deliver lectures in England on Manitoba and the north-west and endeavour to promote emigration! Mr. Conolly is, at present, in the Prairie Province collecting information. Possibly the nature of his mission partially accounts for the gushing letter he has lately written to the Department of the Interior."

The above curious paragraphs are nicely illustrative of Canadian immigration method and men. The Government and their organs during five years of Opposition vehemently denounced the immigration work of their political opponents as an "outrage on humanity" and a crime which smells to heaven; and some months ago in the House of Commons a supporter of Sir John Macdonald admitted that many of the party owed their election in September last to their professions on this point. It now appears that the unsavoury smell, and the outrage consisted in the fact that the so called "reformers" get the pay and patronage pertaining to roping in British capital and labour, and not the "Conservatives." As soon as this painful position was reversed the Pacific scandal people set to work to better the example of their predecessors, and are about to make hitherto unprecedented efforts to deplete England of men and money. She can ill afford to lose in order to promote their wild cat and ruinous scheme, the Pacific Railway. The fact is the Ontario and Quebec patronage fields, like many "improved barns," are worked out. There are such hosts of unsatisfied applicants for something "soft," that it is said Sir John during a recent visit to Toronto, had positively to bolt from his hotel and hide himself in unknown quarters. The "great love land," and the expenditure of a hundred and fifty millions of dollars, promise, however, free and fat patronage pastures.

Though the Government papers call Mr. Conolly the correspondent of the *Times* it would, I apprehend, be more correct to say he has occasionally written letters to that paper from the States on men and matters there. I do not suppose the *Times* would choose its accredited correspondents should act as emigration drummers for Canada or anywhere else. Certainly it would be most unfortunate

if such a thing should occur. The *Globe*, however, as we have seen, speaks of Mr. Conolly as an ex-correspondent. He was originally, I believe, a working man, but he has creditably raised himself by his abilities as a speaker and writer. If he really is going to do his best and has opportunity afforded him in the *Times*, or elsewhere, to endeavour to evolve a full-toned melody from the considerably battered emigration horn he is a good man for the music in an artistic way. Still, without being uncharitable, one may express a hope he will not be carried away this time into hyperboles and inexactnesses such as he unfortunately fell into some years ago, when engaged in England as a lecturer on Canada, on which occasion he had to be taken to task by even the Government papers. I may refer to one instance where he delivered a discourse at the Surrey Chapel, London, on "Work and wages in Canada," Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., in the chair. On some of the statements he hazarded on that occasion the *Toronto Globe* remarked: "One can scarcely call wages in Canada 'fabulous,' while to say that 'rents are scarcely known' is to give a very questionable view of the actual state of things in any city, town, or village of Ontario at the present day. When people are told that rents are merely nominal and they find by experience it is far otherwise, it is natural they should feel disgusted. We hope our friend Conolly will bear this in mind." The *Globe* for years past has been the head bellows-blower to the immigration Vulcans, so it must have found "friend" Conolly's presentments pretty tough when it was compelled to even this mild protest. But the *Montreal Witness*, the organ of the Evangelicals, and a very influential paper, was far more free-spoken. "We are likely," said your contemporary "to have many disappointed and indignant immigrants, if labouring men come expecting 2 dol. 50 cents a day; 1 dol. a day would be much nearer the mark if even that could be looked for. We believe our Government has in some measure employed or sanctioned this Conolly. If so we trust it will take some means to stop him. British papers will please notice this correction."

It seems funny that anybody who is himself new to Manitoba, and now engaged "collecting information," should be sent to enlighten British farmers re the capabilities, resources, trade wants, products, and labour and agricultural markets of that district. But the fact is special reasons always dictate these appointments. Knowledge of the country to be described need not pass beyond what can be picked up on a cursory visit, or hastily crammed from official literature. Push and fluency, and a supposed influence with the English press are the main desiderata. Some of the lecturers and agents scarcely know anything of the Dominion. Witness Mr. Dyke's representation last year on our assumed cattle exports. They merely retail what is supplied to them. Mr. Scott, a Cabinet Minister, admitted that the chief reason which ruled the selection of Mr. Jenkins as Agent-General, was that he seemed to be popular, and was supposed to be able largely to influence the English papers. Just so with Mr. Conolly. He won't know much about Manitoba and the North-West, but he is a "ready and effective speaker," say the Ministerial papers, and is supposed to be either connected with the *Times*, or able to influence it. The leading journal, however, evinces as a rule a remarkable aptitude for upsetting calculations based on ideas that anybody will or can shape its course on any point. Not long ago a somewhat pretentious immigration-runner here, ostentatiously announced beforehand the great things he intended to do per the *Times*. But as none of his communications appeared his calculations must have been cruelly upset.

A paragraph from the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* apparently inspired from Canadian sources, is going the

rounds here, and some parts of it create vast amusement, notably when it is said, "The famous delegates hence are certain of being treated in a fair and liberal spirit by the Colonial Government, and will escape the tricks and misrepresentations of land-jobbers, and we fear, too often of the agents of the American railway and other land-holding companies, who are scattered broadcast throughout Europe." This is like a gamekeeper going to a country squire and advising him in order to stop petty pheasant appropriators by men employed on the estate to haul over the preserves to the poachers who will always treat him with fairness and liberality. Does not your contemporary know that the Canadian Government for the time being is always at the head and front of immigration dodges and stratagems—the mainspring of the whole humbug, and the chief concoctor and distributor of the partial and deceptive trash current as emigration literature? A more unmitigated "flam" than the invitation to farmers' delegates to come out at this time of the year and inspect the "improved farms"—as worthless cropped-out properties are called here—was never known. The delegates, having their expenses paid, will be under official tutelage. The Government in making the offer do so on the calculation that they can pump into these run-and-read novitiates the sort of information best calculated to send them home with an encouraging report. The emigration officials, I believe, are already calculating on inveigling hither about £2,000,000 of capital by this new move! They say they have already hundreds of applicants each representing twenty-five farmers, who of course will have at least £400 each, besides transport expenses. This depletion of England's capital and sturdy cultivators is no doubt Lord Derby's specific for England's assumed done-up condition. But those who, like myself, know the state of matters, have a sovereign disbelief in it.

Why are all these Canadian "improved" (and mortgaged) properties in the market? Let a delegate ask this crucial question of an official guide and philosopher, and he will get some stereotyped platitude about the "expensive energies of a vigorous and migratory people," and "the march of enterprise being always and everywhere from East to West." March of a fiddlestick! I see this explanation has been imposed on one of your agricultural contemporaries, who meekly accepts it. But it's pure bosh. The same thing is going on in Ontario that is going on in the eastern States of America. Cheap land, cheap freights, and cheap produce are making farming unprofitable in the older settlements. It costs now only about 10 cents to bring a bushel of wheat from the western prairies to New York, and 17 cents to Liverpool. Good wheat land can be bought in the far West from 8 dols. to 10 dols. an acre. It produces from 20 to 30 bushels an acre, whereas the average produce in Ontario per acre, shown by the last census, was only about 10. Land, in Canada and the Eastern States, bought at 50 dols. an acre, and more or less exhausted, being placed in direct competition with the vast grain-producing West hardly in many cases pay interest on the purchase money, and in many cases cannot be owned or rented at a profit. Farming, in fact, in many districts scarcely clears expenses. Scientific culture requires additional labourers, for which the cultivator's means do not suffice. Without scientific culture there is no manure. The want of manure in Ontario is everywhere an enormous difficulty. Hundreds of farms are exhausted. Then there are stumps, stones, mortgages, unfavourable climate, &c. The improved farms are to be had because they have been thrown up, or will be, by cultivators who have found it impossible to make them pay. English farmers, forsooth, are to be enticed out under the notion that they can succeed in doing what the experienced sons of the soils could not

do. In many districts the Colorado beetle and grass-hopper have taken permanent possession of the soil. But, of course, in September, there will no be indications of their presence. I took a long walk into the country a few weeks ago, and saw myriads of them at work in the crops. No doubt the delegates will hear about a "virgin soil lying underneath the service, waiting to be turned up by deeper ploughing." And probably they will be green enough to swallow this, and a hundred similar fictions. It is absolutely impossible for Englishmen, even though farmers, to report on the agricultural and other capabilities of a country like Canada on a helter-skelter visit. They should be here a long time, and see everything in all its aspects, and know something about their informants. The Icelanders sent out "proper delegates," but that did not prevent the officials who took them in hand, ultimately dumping the immigrants down when they came just where it had been intended they should be dumped down—and a pretty pickle they've been in since!

In the *Leeds Mercury* a short time ago I noted a letter dated from some town in Yorkshire, and signed "Equity," in which the writer said:—"Several letters have recently appeared in the public journals, evidently written with the object of inducing gentlemen of means to emigrate to Canada. I consider it to be the duty of everyone who has had experience in that colony to state publicly what he knows to be the case, in order to save from disappointment and ruin those who have not had that experience. During a residence of over 30 years in Canada I never knew a gentleman who purchased or leased land there who did not ruin himself; and, I regret to say, I know men in the country now, who are in that position—broken down in body from slavish labour, and in mind from misery from their having lost their all. Hundreds of gentlemen are now in England who have had farming experience in Canada, and can substantiate what I have stated. With regard to Manitoba, if the climate of the north-west parts of Ontario is found too severe for English agricultural labourers what would they find the winter in a country where the mercury frequently falls 40 degrees below zero?"

### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND ITS CRITICS.

The unanimity displayed by the leading representatives of the Conservative party, on the platform and in the Press, in denouncing the Farmers' Alliance, either openly or covertly, is more creditable to their courage than to their sagacity. That any uprising amongst the farmers, with a view to resolute action in favour of agricultural reform, is necessarily antagonistic to Conservatism, as commonly understood, is clear enough to every thoughtful observer; but that Conservatives should incontinently blurt out the confession that it is so, is, to say the least, somewhat rash and impolitic. Here is a case in which an independent body of farmers, many of whom are Conservatives, by name if not in reality, have combined to advocate and push forward a distinct series of objects calculated, as they believe, to place the agriculture of this country on a better footing than that which it at present holds; many of these proposed reforms have been endorsed by Farmers' Clubs and Chambers of Agriculture, long before the Farmers' Alliance existed; and the leaders of the new movement have emphatically denied that they are actuated by party motives, or that they will allow party influence to interfere with the attainment of their ends. Why, then, are they denounced as secret enemies to the Conservative party—the party of so-called "farmers' friends?" We can quite understand that county representatives, who have delighted in posing as the special friends of their agricultural constituents, as long as their hitherto easily deluded clients were satisfied with vague professions, are somewhat dismayed when they are asked to prove their friendship by definite action for the removal agricultural abuses; but good tacticians as they have

usually shown themselves to be, we should have expected that they would dissemble their alarm. They have played with the proposals put forward by the Alliance as long as they knew that the proposers were unorganised, and therefore powerless to do much mischief. Even now they scarcely venture to impugn any of those proposals, as far as the general principle of each is concerned, though they may object to the extent to which the principle would be applied by thorough-going agricultural reformers. In short, having no case, they "abuse the plaintiff's attorney." A more complete exposure of political charlatanism has seldom been effected by the resolute action of earnest men, united for objects of genuine reform. By denouncing the Farmers' Alliance, and warning Conservative farmers not to join it, these gentlemen have virtually admitted that their professed friendship for farmers is not of a kind that can be put to the test, and they have gone far to open the eyes of their clients to the truth of the statement of a writer in the *Fortnightly Review*—that the Liberals are the natural allies of the tenant-farmers.

No doubt, the first object of the Farmers' Alliance—the better representation of farmers in Parliament—is a direct challenge to the existing county Members; but it is not, on the face of it, a challenge to the Conservative party, who would scarcely admit that to obtain the better representation of farmers it is necessary to substitute Liberals for Conservatives. Several county members have admitted the desirability of having more farmers, like Mr. Read, in Parliament; and no doubt, if they could secure men as faithfully devoted to their party as Mr. Read is, they would not object to a few of their friends giving place to such men. But they know perfectly well that few Conservatives would endorse the programme of the Farmers' Alliance, and they feel that, with such a necessary condition, the better representation of Parliament would mean the accession of several Liberals to the seats now occupied by members of their own party. Hence, again, their opposition to the Alliance is easily comprehensible. It is only the openness of their antagonism which is surprising, because of the exposure which it involves. The better representation of farmers does not necessarily imply direct representation, though a few members of the class would be an acquisition to the House of Commons. Few farmers can afford the expense of sitting in Parliament, even if they were to be elected free of cost. There are, however, numbers of candidates for Parliamentary life who are thoroughly and earnestly in favour of agricultural reform; and the dread lest these gentlemen should be selected to replace them is the secret of a great deal of the antipathy which the present County Members, and their representatives in the Press, manifest towards the Farmers' Alliance.

The opposition which we have thus explained will do the Alliance no harm, if it is clearly understood by the farmers. The case was very clearly put by one of the leading members of the Alliance the other day when, after disclaiming all party objects, he said:—"If the Conservative party is opposed to the objects of the Farmers' Alliance, then the Farmers' Alliance is necessarily antagonistic to the Conservative party, and not otherwise. Even then the antagonism is not of our seeking, and is not based on party prejudice. If Liberals oppose us, we shall be equally antagonistic to them. We simply seek to organise a great party in favour of agricultural reform; all who are in favour of that are our friends, and all who are opposed to it are our foes, in a public sense, though we feel no personal antipathy to them. But really, we ought to have a plain answer to a plain question. Do Conservatives desire the people of this country to understand that they are the enemies of agricultural reform? If they do we shall know how to deal with them; if not, let us hear no more of the charge that the Alliance is a party association." Here we have the question in a nut-shell, and we commend it to the consideration of our agricultural readers.

Another charge against the Farmers' Alliance, which we find persistently reiterated by Conservative speakers and writers, is that of setting class against class. This is one of those catch-phrases which are frequently made to do duty in the absence of legitimate argument, and it is susceptible of precisely similar explanations to those which have been adduced in reply to the charge of party objects. If the landlords as a body are opposed to the thorough reforms proposed by the Farmers' Alliance, then the Alliance is necessarily

opposed to the landlords. That landlords as a body are opposed to the thorough reform of our land system, there is, unfortunately, no doubt; but it is a complete misnomer to describe the advocacy of reforms sought by one class and opposed by another as "setting class against class." It is objects, not men, which are opposed to each other. It is true that the Farmers' Alliance seeks to deprive landowners of certain legal rights and privileges which are unfair and oppressive to tenants, as well as injurious to the nation at large. It is also true that if farmers are to obtain better representation in Parliament, many landlords will be turned out of the places which they now hold. These, however, are incidents which are unavoidable accompaniments of agricultural reform, as long as landlords refuse to give up voluntarily what they unjustly hold, and to represent fairly those who have trusted them. Still, there has been no attempt to raise antipathy; but, on the contrary, it has been distinctly disavowed, and a few landlords who agree with the objects of the Farmers' Alliance have been gladly welcomed as members.

The criticism of those who complain of the leaders' of the Farmers' Alliance for leaving the most important measure of agricultural reform—the reform of the laws affecting the settlement and transfer of land—out of their programme, is more worthy of attention than are the objections we have just noticed. These laws are the fundamental obstructions to the permanent amelioration of our land system, and until they are dealt with, very little real good will be effected. Unfortunately, farmers are not at all generally awakened to the mischief resulting from the limited ownership of land, although they cannot help seeing that it is accountable to a great extent for the inability or disinclination of owners to improve their estates. Estimating at more than its real value the advantage of low rents, they have a great dread of seeing the large estates split up, and sold to men who will drive hard bargains with their tenants. There is some reason for this dread, but it is based to a great extent on an imperfect and short-sighted comparison of advantages and disadvantages. Where land has been let at less than its commercial value there have almost invariably been conditions attaching to the tenancy which have more than counter-balanced the benefit of a low rent. Now it is seen that, under the altered conditions of farming, rents at one time thought to be low are in reality too high, and a more or less munificent doling out of out-door relief has been necessary to keep the tenants on many large estates from being obliged to give up their farms. Rents are soon likely to find their commercial level all over the country, and it will then be seen that the supposed advantage of holding on easy terms as to rent, under limited owners who would not spend money in improvements, and who, for the most part, placed onerous restrictions upon their tenants, and in many cases inflicted heavy losses by preserving a large stock of game, has been very much over-rated. It may also come to be seen that, in spite of the low interest to be obtained on the purchase of land, tenants will be better off in the long-run if they take every good opportunity of purchasing farms, and so insuring the full advantage of all improvement which they may make upon them, than if they hire larger acreages, with the inevitable disadvantages of tenancy to put up with. Still, the fact remains that at present farmers generally are averse to interference with the laws affecting the ownership of land, and the leaders of the Farmers' Alliance were anxious not to frighten away their timid followers. They felt, too, that the reform of these laws was advocated generally by advanced Liberals, and that it would probably be effected without their help. Therefore, as a matter of policy, they decided to leave this important object out of their programme, at least at starting on their new undertaking. We believe that this timid policy was a mistake, and that it is now seen to be so. It has estranged from the Alliance many thorough-going reformers, who would otherwise have joined it, while it has failed to conciliate the enemies of Liberal views. In short, the objects of the Association are too advanced for it to hope to gain many Conservative adherents, while it is not complete enough to excite the enthusiasm of the Liberals, who must be its chief supporters. It is quite right to keep the Alliance independent of party politics; but as an Association for the promotion of agricultural reform, it should be thorough, even if it has to go a little in advance of the great body of the tenant-farmers. The Conservatives have shown, by their open hostility, that it is useless to truckle to their

prejudices, and that a bold policy will be the most successful. We trust, therefore, that the Alliance will render its programme complete, by including the reform of the Land Laws among its objects. When this has been done, we have no doubt that many persons outside the ranks of the farmer class will become members, and so greatly increase the resources and influence of this hopeful organisation. The interest of the public in agricultural reform has been wonderfully stirred by the severe depression that has fallen upon farming as a business, and by the multifarious evils which have resulted to all classes of the people. A great battle will have to be fought before our land system can be placed on a satisfactory basis, and the farmers should not be left, even if they can be trusted, to fight it alone. The Farmers' Alliance should be an association, not of farmers only, but of agricultural reformers from all classes of the people.—*Spectator*.

### THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS IN ENGLAND.

The Special Commissioner of the *Daily News* writes from Doncaster, under date Sept. 15:—

I have heard it estimated by a farmer of large business, resident in the district, that more than half the farms on the poor clays of the lias formation, and on the red clay or "brick-earth" of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, are to let. Some of the tenants have retired with loss rather than sink their last shilling in a vain hope that times may better; some have had no option but to do their best for creditors by getting out of their farms at any sacrifice; some have left for smaller holdings or farms on more grateful soil; others have gone away from this neighbourhood altogether to non-agricultural business or employment; and some are acting as farm managers to the landlords they lately lived under. But many occupiers on the marlstone soils, which are of better quality, on clay loams, and strong land, where the farms have a considerable proportion of fair pasture, in conjunction with the arable, are, under pressure of the present crisis, giving notices to quit. Some of these tenants live under thoroughly liberal landlords, at moderate rents, and in parts of South Notts where no material injury is inflicted by game. In very many cases farmers have compromised the matter by offering to continue at a large reduction in rent. One farm I know of has had the rent adjusted, not by a valuer walking over it, and fixing the figure which the tenant must pay, but by the owner gladly accepting the occupier's offer to remain at 20s. an acre, the rent until now having been 35s. Another tenant said, "My rent stood at 38s., it is now 20s.; but it is a question how long I shall continue even at that. I had £2,000, but if I left at the present Michaelmas, and paid everybody, I should not have £200." One circumstance related is that of a farm constituting the only property of a life-owner. The tenant, unwilling to lose more money in business, gave it up, requiring by the custom of the country the sum of £2,000 for tenant-right; for both Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire enjoy admirable customary law giving compensation for certain unexhausted improvements. No tenant, however, was forthcoming for the vacant farm; and the owner, possessing only a life interest in that one farm, was not in a position to find the amount due to the outgoing. Advertisements in the papers brought no applications, for the business is not sufficiently tempting in these times. Indeed, I am assured by land agents that the number of applicants, even for good holdings on favourable conditions of every kind, are not a twentieth part of what they were a year or two ago. Then his farm was offered at an auction without obtaining one reasonable bid. In this dead-lock the proprietor could only appeal to the tenant to endeavour, if possible, to continue on at a lowered rent, and that occupier is now in his first year of holding the farm at 18s. instead of 32s. per acre. Parties, however, acquainted with the farm, and seeing the crops of the present harvest, are doubting whether there will remain any surplus after outlay to yield any rent at all, much less to recoup a portion of the £2,000 of tenant-right.

It is not only poor clays which are being forsaken. A short run by rail and road from this town took me to a fine farm in Yorkshire, which the tenant is giving up, much against the wish of the owner. It is a large occupation of good clay-loam soil, rather more than a third being permanent pasture.

As I saw for myself, some of the corn crops are heavy, others short and thin; the mungolds are a good plant, but have remained small in bulk for lack of the sun's heat; and weeds have to a considerable extent mastered the costly hoeing and weeding which have been exerted against them throughout the entire summer. There is absolutely no restriction as to cropping; the tenant may sell off hay and straw if he found it worth while to do so (though it is possible that upon quitting, valuers of tenant-right might in that case allow a claim against him for dilapidations); the land is well underdrained, the proprietor having found the tiles and executed all work, except carting the tiles from the kiln; the buildings erected by the landlord, in accordance with the tenant's plans, are extensive, and complete with steam-power machinery (put in by the occupier), and every modern arrangement for economically housing and bedding a hundred bullocks in one set of premises and rearing calves in other detached yards. The tenant, an eminent man of business meriting such a privilege, has only had to name any improvement wished for to have it promptly carried out by the agent of the estate. No slackness of capital has told against the returns from this holding; for the capital engaged is over £9,000 upon 650 acres, or nearly £15 per acre—probably double the sum invested on a majority of farms in the same locality. There is a very large head of live stock, of well-bred shorthorns, and a big sort of Leicester sheep; the twelve working horses are in strong condition, and the work of a hired steam plough, by arrangements always available when wanted, has saved a good sum from the former yearly expenditure by displacing seven horses. The tenant's father held the farm before him, and yet the present tenant, universally considered to be a man of handsome means and wedded to all the old associations gathering round his home, has given formal notice of his intention to leave at Lady-day to remove with his family to London. He is by no means an old man, but active and zealous both in his own and public business, a manager of good judgment, greatly esteemed for his practical knowledge, and accustomed to frequent live-stock markets, and make large transactions in them. I say this because I have had the pleasure of his acquaintance for some years. And yet this occupier, who could make the business pay if any farmer whatever could be found to do it, can no longer endure to devote time and energy and property to such an unremunerative and disappointing pursuit, has definitely resolved to give up his farm. This gentleman showed me his books. The items of expenditure (not including purchases) of live stock, amounted to £6 17s. per acre for 1873, and very nearly the same in 1877 and 1876; but in one point only the statement is deficient, no percentage being charged for depreciation in value of the stall of working horses, which would have made the sum somewhat more. I extracted totals, from which it appears that of the total outlay per annum, rent, tithe, and land-tax, are 30 per cent.; purchased food for live stock and corn for horses; 30½ per cent., labour; 22, machinery hire and repairs, with ale and malt for labourers, 5¼; manures bought, 4; tradesmen's bills, 2¼; seeds and plants, 1; and sundries, ¾ per cent. The total returns (including profit on live stock) do not amount to so much as the outlay by £150, and three years back the two sides about tally. The whole of the farmer's living, as in other examples which have been adduced, has come out of capital. What alteration of land laws, what security of tenant's property, what certainty of tenure, what lightening of taxation, what adjustment of local rates can do anything for such a business in such a position as this? I asked my friend what remedy he can suggest, and he could point to nothing but a great reduction in rent, and possibly an enhancement of the price of barley (which is his most extensive corn crop), through the repeal of the Malt-tax, as important enough to do any real good, unless the grain markets should go up from some cause not now foreseen, and unless wool also should rise to the prices of years ago.

To see something of a district of very small farms, I took the train at Doncaster for Haxley, and thence made an excursion through Epworth, Bilton, and Crowle, and over portions of the low peat and sand country to the west, and the warp loam on the east, extending to the Trent. Luckily meeting with a local statistician, I learned that this district—known as the Isle of Oxholme in Lincolnshire—consists of about 20,000 acres of high lands, attaining an altitude, I should judge, of about 200 feet, surrounded by about 20,000

acres of land lying on a dead level, in parts lower than the water in the main drains, which flow between embankments across it. The drainage of the flat tract is principally by steam-power, as in the Bedford Level, and partly by sluices which discharge the water into the Trent. The proportion of grass land is not more than one-seventh of the whole; and live stock is of so small account here that on the whole 50,000 acres there are only about 10,000 sheep, including breeding ewes and their produce and sheep brought in for grazing, while the number of cattle wintered, in addition to the cows which are kept on almost every holding of twenty acres or more in extent, does not exceed one for every ten acres. Arable husbandry is the prevailing feature on strong and light soils, on large and smaller farms alike; the chief dependence being upon repeated crops of wheat and potatoes. The alluvial land—partly a natural deposit of the tidal rivers, and partly obtained by artificially flooding the low sands and peats, which have thus been covered with a coating of rich, mottous earth—comprises three classes of soil. The first class is very rich, bearing heavy crops of wheat and potatoes for many years in succession; the second quality produces the same crops, with intervening crops of beans, barley, oats, clover, flax, and turnip-seed; and the third class of soil is managed under a four-course rotation, with root and green-crop fallows, and clover or seeds alternating with white corn. Of the whole 14,000 acres of warp only 1,100 acres are in permanent pasture. The rents range from 40s. to 60s., and, in some instances, up to 80s. or 100s. per acre. On the uplands there are two kinds of land—the clay loam, of which about one-sixth is in grass, and the sand loam of 7,300 acres, of which only 650 acres are under permanent grass. The rental of the clay loam ranges from 30s. to 60s., but the sand loam lets for £3 or £4, sometimes up to £5 or more, per acre.

The holdings are so small that about seven-eighths of the surface is in farms below fifty acres in extent, and of this area quite half is in holdings of less than ten acres, embracing great numbers of plots down to acre, half-acre, and rood pieces. Several thousands of acres continue in open fields, partitioned into hundreds of long lands or stretches of widths varying from five to twenty yards, with a few larger pieces, belonging to different proprietors, and farmed without any fence dividing. Were it not for the absence of fruit trees and of vines, the visitor might fancy himself in a district of France, where strips of a changeful succession of cropping similarly variegate the landscape. I consider the wheats, barleys, beans, and clovers of these little husbandmen to be, on an average, fully as good as the best farming has produced this year on larger occupancies; though blight has inflicted mischief as in other places, and the potatoes, their most valuable crop in ordinary seasons, are diseased so badly as to be probably one-half destroyed. One grower told me that he should not recover more than a ton per acre; another that he was confident his late sorts would not yield more than the seed planted; while I saw two plots being ploughed in as a seed-bed for wheat. One little farmer, who was forking up potatoes, with a troop of ducks following and busily seizing the insects turned out by the operation, politely intermitted his labour to answer a few of my inquiries. He said, "This bit of land, and two more in other parts of the field, are my own property, and I do a large share of the work myself, paying a labourer when I want extra help, and hiring horses of a higgler to plough and harrow the land and lead the crops off to my house yonder. We don't dig much; most is done by the plough—deep for potatoes, but shallow for wheat and barley. We could clear the land far easier if we had breadth enough to cross-plough or work it crossways." The next plot to his was occupied by a farm-labourer, to whom, he said, there was no doubt that the land was a great blessing; "but, you see, it all comes out of the man's bones." And he was decidedly of opinion that for a labourer to hire more than half an acre would as likely do him harm as not, the rent being £4 or £5 an acre, and the expenses of paying for work which he cannot do himself too heavy for a man who has only his weekly wages to trust to.

From various quarters I gathered that a large proportion of the little properties are mortgaged, many very heavily; that the disaster which has fallen upon the potato crop, added to the bad harvest following upon three years of deficient yield, is subjecting large numbers of the freeholders to a strain for money to go on with which it will be difficult for them to get

over. Some are so despondent that they look upon the system of small farming with wheat and potatoes as not possible for the future, the land, they say, being "sick of it." But it is not easy to see what they can do, except increasing the area of vegetable crops, such as onions and carrots, and special crops, such as poppies and flax, to alternate with the wheat, barley, or oats. Many of the small owners whose land is not burdened with debts and claims are in a position to be envied; labouring very hard, but living in comfort, with a certain provision for their old age and an inheritance to leave to their family. On the other hand, men who (too commonly) have borrowed four times as much as their savings amounted to for gratifying their desire for land are in most difficult circumstances. Their interest to the mortgagee frequently amounts to a rent of £1 per acre, and the capital they wanted for management of the land has been all swallowed up in the purchase-money. Theirs is a life of slavish working without means, and the present crisis threatens to visit such cases with ruin. There is no extension of the system of very small or plot farms; the division of the spacious open fields remaining much as it was, with a consolidation of properties to a small extent by purchase. One informant explained to me how the lands are, for the most part, settled upon one heir, avoiding sub-division; these little owners being as inflexibly conservative of their estates as any heads of ancient families in the kingdom. One great value of the open field-plots is the great incentive they form to industry, thrift, and sobriety on the part of young men, who are in many cases able to make these bits of land stepping-stones to the occupancy of farms. I did not find among this arduously employed but very independent class of cultivators any great expression of dissatisfaction with the land laws, or any expectation that their position could be improved by Act of Parliament. The fact here, as elsewhere, appears to be that husbandry on a small scale can hold on through a time of depression quite as well, and as hopefully, as farming on the large scale; but that it does not escape that weeding out of men of straw which is now trying the whole of the agricultural owners and occupiers of Great Britain.

#### ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

The Royal Commission on Agricultural Depression has agreed upon the following heads of inquiry: (1) Condition of farms; (2) condition of farmers; (3) the labourer; (4) land laws; (5) land tenancy; (6) agricultural education; (7) condition of estates; (8) agricultural statistics to be furnished by the Board of Trade; (9) returns of imports and exports of agricultural produce, to be furnished by the Customs; and (10) importations of agricultural produce from foreign countries.

1. Investigations are to be made by the assistant-commissioners as to condition of the farms in each district under the following heads (for sub-heads to each of these see A post); (1) Arable farms (also see C and B); (2) grazing farms (also see D); (3) dairy farms (see also B); (4) sewage farms; (5) market gardening farms; (6) hop farming; (7) fruit-growing farms; (8) hill and moor sheep farming (also see D), and (9) poultry keeping on all classes of farms. The following sub-heads for the above have been agreed upon:

A.—(1) Tenure (lease or otherwise), restrictions, if any, as to cropping and sale of produce; (2) live stock, implements, rent, labour, seed, manures, and feeding stuffs; (3) loans from bankers and others; (4) cost per acre of growing each crop, and yield of produce per acre. Under the "cost" are included the questions of rent, rates and taxes, seed, manures, cultivation by horse or steam power, labour, and tradesmen's bills and other expenses; while under the "yield of produce" are included the items of quantity of corn and other produce, and of price of corn and other produce. (5) Causes which diminish the produce, and causes which depreciate the prices. Under the former causes are bad seasons, imperfect cultivation, insufficient manure, game, want of capital, and supply and quality of labour. Under the second class of causes are included foreign competition, inferior quality of produce, diminished demand owing to bad trade, &c. (6) Causes which diminish profits, and probable remedies. Under the head of such causes will be considered the cost of carriage, adulteration of dairy and farm product, systems and cost of marketing and commissions to middlemen, and interest on loans. Under the head of probable remedies, consideration is

to be had of (c) extension of tramways in country districts, removal of restrictions on the use of traction engines, railway rates; and (b) co-operation as to sales, and improved banking arrangements, reductions in charges, and commissions on sales. (7) Improvements, under which head will be considered landlords' improvements, tenants' improvements, increase of capital invested by tenants in machinery, especially in steam cultivation, threshing, and other agricultural machinery; and in the purchase of additional live stock, feeding materials, and artificial manures.

B.—Condition of dairy farms (in addition to head A). Under the head "Produce" the following questions will be considered:—(1) Number of cows kept per 100 acres; (2) prime cost of cows, whether bred or reared on the farm, or purchased; (3) yield of milk, butter, cheese, &c.; (4) utilisation of whey, buttermilk, &c., including rearing and feeding of calves, pigs, &c.; (5) cost of food not grown on the farm; (6) cost of labour in the dairy, including attendance and manufacture of dairy products, whether done by family or otherwise: also as compared with former years, and if cows are let, on what terms; (7) mode of sales; (8) commission on sales; and (9) comparison of wholesale and retail prices. Under the head "Yield" will be considered: (1) Gross sums received for the dairy products; (2) gross sums received for fat calves, pigs, or other results, from utilising refuse; (3) gross sums received for cist cows; and (4) sales of other produce of the farm. Under the head of "Manufacture of dairy products at factories; cost of manufacture at factories," the following matters have been put down for inquiry: (1) Rent and description of buildings, plant, &c.; (2) cost of management and labour; (3) cost and mode of conveyance of milk, including quantity per annum; (4) cost and methods of distribution of dairy products, including commission; (5) interest on capital; (6) cost of purchased food; (7) utilisation of whey, buttermilk, &c., including rearing and feeding of calves, pigs, &c.; (8) organisation and management of dairy factories in England; (9) financial results up to the present time; (10) comparison of wholesale and retail prices.

C.—Under the heading "Condition of arable farms for breeding or feeding purposes," inquiry will be made as to (a) sheep farming in arable land. Under this head the following questions are to be inquired into:—(1) Number of breeding flock per 100 acres, or number of stores annually bought; (2) number of sheep sold, whether fat or lean, and at what ages; (3) use of artificial food purchased; (4) cultivation of special green food, other than grass and roots; (5) recent alterations in systems of farming, due to high or low prices, wet or dry seasons, disease, &c., including results of laying down arable land to permanent pasture; (6) systems and cost of marketing fat and lean stock and wool; (7) comparison of wholesale and retail prices; (8) greater or lesser profits from breeding or feeding. (b) Cattle-keeping on arable land. Similar heads as to sheep farming on arable land.

D.—Under the heading "Condition of grazing farm," the following questions are to be inquired into:—(1) Number of head of stock of each kind and age usually kept on the farm and whether bred, and if bought, at what ages; (2) number usually sold annually, and whether fat or store; (3) use of purchased food; (4) system of winter and summer feeding; (5) recent alterations in creed of stock or systems of management, if any, and the reasons for them; (6) system and cost of marketing fat and lean stock and wool; (7) comparison of wholesale and retail prices; (8) greater or less profit from breeding or rearing.

II. Under the heading "Condition of the farmers in each district," the following questions are set down:—(1) Tenure of owner and occupier; (2) rent and tithes, including the manner in which the prices of corn for the purposes of tithe valuation are ascertained; (3) Imperial taxation, including the malt tax; (4) local taxation; (5) farm buildings; (6) house accommodation; (7) cottages for labourers employed on the farm; (8) recent profits or losses.

III. Under the heading "The labourer," the following are the questions agreed upon:—(1) His condition; (2) principle and modes of living; (3) wages in money and in kind; (4) hours of labour; (5) house accommodation (cottages and otherwise), and rent, if any; (6) allotments and gardens, and cottagers' grounds; (7) cows and pigs, and poultry, if any

kept; (8) employment of women and children; (9) effects of the Poor Law; (10) benefit, friendly, and co-operative societies.

IV. The Land Laws (an inquiry suggested for the Commission itself)—(1) Settlements; (2) powers of sale, transfer of land, and other powers of management and disposition possessed by limited owners; (3) mortgages and other encumbrances; (4) borrowing powers for permanent improvements and extent to which they have been used; (5) Landed Estates Court, Ireland; (6) property of corporations and other chartered bodies and charities; (7) Church estates, glebes, and tithe commutation; (8) Crown lands; (9) Duchy lands; (10) law of distraint and hypothec; (11) game laws and the laws of trespass; (12) powers of Enclosure Commissioners and Boards of Works, Ireland; (13) copyholds and powers of Copyhold Commissioner.

V. Land tenancy (suggested for inquiry and report in the first instance by Assistant Commissioners)—(1) Leases; (2) agreements; (3) land agency; (4) land valuation; (5) valuation of unexhausted manures and other improvements; (6) the working of the Agricultural Holdings Act; (7) agricultural customs; (8) the Irish Land Act in its bearing on Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 7; (9) Church lands in Ireland.

VI. Agricultural education (to be investigated by the Commission itself)—(1) Agricultural colleges (higher education); (2) agricultural schools (intermediate education); (3) private pupils on farms; (4) instructions in agriculture in primary schools; (5) technical instruction in agricultural operations, including the making of dairy produce.

VII. Condition of Estates—(1) Tenure of owner and occupier; (2) extent; (3) nature and size of farms, and length of present occupation; (4) rents, whether recently reduced or otherwise; (5) farms unlet, if any, and causes assigned; (6) estate improvements, including buildings, drainage, &c.; (7) recent enclosures; (8) unenclosed and hill land, and its adaptability for profitable cultivation, as compared with the uses to which it is at present put; (9) woods and forests, their extent and management.

VIII. Agricultural statistics, to be furnished by the Board of Trade.

IX. Returns of imports and exports of agricultural produce, to be furnished by the Customs.

X. Importations of agricultural produce from foreign countries—(a) America (investigation to be made in England)—(1) wheat; (2) maize; (3) cattle, sheep, and pigs (alive); (4) beef, mutton, and pork (fresh); (5) hams, bacon, and other preserved or cured provisions; (6) cheese, butter, and other dairy produce; (7) eggs, honey, &c.; (8) fruit (fresh and preserved). In each case to trace the cost of the article at the American port, the freight, the profits made by the several middlemen, and to account for the retail price to the consumer. (b) France (investigations to be made in France and England)—(1) wheat; (2) barley, including special encouragement recently given to its cultivation by English brewers and French agricultural societies; (3) butter, including the methods of making up into uniform quality large quantities for export; (4) eggs, including the methods of purchase, packing, and preserving; (5) poultry; (6) honey; (7) fruits and vegetables, fresh and preserved; (8) beetroot and sugar and beetroot spirit, in regard to which will be considered the cultivation of beetroot as a farm crop, how far, more or less, profitable than other farm crops holding the same place in rotation, utilisation of pulp for feeding stock; nature of beetroot farms, whether proprietary or otherwise; land tenure, including proprietary farming, tenant farming, métayer, leases, arrangements between incoming and outgoing tenants, &c.; laws relating to the ownership and inheritance of land; Government agricultural colleges, farms, schools, &c.; and Government rewards for agricultural improvements. (c) Holland (investigations to be made in Holland and in England)—(1) Grazing live stock and exportation to England; (2) dairying and exportation of butter, cheese, &c., to England, and manufacture of artificial butter; (3) wheat production and market gardening; (4) beetroot, sugar, &c. (same questions as in France); (5) management of land below the sea level; (6) systems of land tenure, especially the tenant rights of some districts; (7) laws relating to the ownership and inheritance of land; (8) Government and other agricultural colleges and farm schools; and (9) reclamation and advances by the Government for reclamations and agricultural improvements.

## INTERNATIONAL POTATO EXHIBITION

Under this title a Society, presided over by Mr. Alderman Hadley, for the encouragement of the best methods of potato culture, and the introduction and diffusion of improved collection of choice specimens of this most useful vegetable. Prizes were offered by several noted firms of seedsmen and private individuals, and by the president and vice-presidents—Messrs. J. Abiss, Shirley Hibberd, and Peter McKinlay. The exhibits were shown on dishes ranged over four long tables, and were placed with some view to picturesque effect. All the potatoes, it need hardly be said, being well washed, appeared in dress jackets, mostly of the approved half-creamy hue, intermixed here and there with red, pink, purple, and the old Scotch blue. The last-named venerable species appeared in all its native hardness, as a trusty example of the field potato not yet ashamed to figure among the newly named and fashionable varieties. Of these latter more than one, especially of the American products, and notably the international, are confessedly slow potatoes, and are held in little esteem for table use. Full plump rounders figured scarcely so prominently as the well-bred kidney of between four and five inches in length, and of bulk closely verging on that of the more professedly rotund specimens. Judging depended wholly on the practised eye and touch of the judges in their estimate of the relative excellence of rivals of each known class, the proverbial pudding proof being limited to newly introduced, and, as yet, strange productions. Among the most successful exhibitors were Mr. Peter McKinlay, of Penge, who carried off the ten guinea prize given by Messrs. Kerr and Fotheringham, of Dumfries; Mr. T. Peckworth, of Loughborough, Leicestershire; Mr. F. Cresswell, Lord Gwydr's gardener, who took Messrs. Sutton's seven guinea prize; Mr. W. Kerr, Darganel, Dumfries; Mr. F. Miller, Margate; Mr. R. Dean, Ealing; Mr. E. Finlay, gardener to Col. North, of Wroxton Abbey, and Mr. W. Crump, gardener to the Duke of Marlborough, displayed at the Crystal Palace last month an extensive borough, at Blenheim. Though all accounts concur on the excessive prevalence of disease arising from the electric storms of the current season, it is equally certain that, while the present exhibition shows some falling off in the number of entries, the quality of the specimens exhibited reaches the average standard of the previous four years, and is, in fact, of a more even character. Magnum bonum and champions continue to hold their own place against all comers. Scotland figures to advantage, especially in field potatoes, those shown by Messrs. Kerr and Fotheringham having been cultivated entirely on ploughed land. Disease made sad havoc in the northern districts, as well as in England, but along the east coast between Edinburgh and Dunbar, and in the neighbourhood of Dumfries, the ravages were less conspicuous. Curiously enough, not a single tuber from Ireland, that essentially potato-growing country, was on view, the products of the sister isle in this vegetable being of a strictly utilitarian character, and but little calculated to appear to advantage in a show. Prizes, in addition to those already mentioned, were given by Messrs. L. Pawell, St. Paul's-churchyard; Barr and Sugden, Covent-garden; Daniels Bros., Norwich; Gibbs and Co., Piccadilly; Hooper and Co., Covent-garden; Amie's Chemical Manure Company, Covent-garden; C. Turner, Slough; Harrison and Son, Leicester; J. Crute (treasurer); R. Deal, Ealing; and John Coult's, Covent-garden.—*Daily News*.

## POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

One of the last proceedings of the Congress which expired in March was to pass an Act for taking a census of the population throughout the United States in June, 1880. This census is naturally looked forward to with great interest. Down to 1860 the progress in population and in material wealth, as testified by those decennial records, was uniformly rapid and remarkable. But the war between North and South then interfered, arresting this progress directly through the destruction of life by war and the diseases which follow in its train, and indirectly by checking the tide of immigration. The percentage of increase of population during 70 years to 1860 was at an average annual rate of a little less than three and a-half. Had nothing occurred to check this increase, the population of the States would in 1870 have been about

42,600,000, instead of the actual number of 38,558,371, and in 1880 it would have been, according to the same ratio, upwards of 57,000,000; whereas it will fall considerably short of 50,000,000. So much for war and its consequences. Thirteen States have made enumerations of their inhabitants since 1870, and all except two in 1875. Thus there are actual facts, so far as those States are concerned, for half the decade to assist our conjecture for the results of next year's census. Here are the facts and the estimate based upon them:—

States	Population in 1875.	Percentage of increase during the five years from 1870.	Probable population in 1880.
Iowa ...	1,350,544	13.11	1,507,068
Kansas ...	528,437	45.02	692,475
Louisiana ...	857,039	18.03	987,163
Massachusetts...	1,651,912	13.55	1,846,473
Michigan (1874)	1,334,031	12.66	1,568,989
Minnesota ...	597,407	35.87	755,108
Missouri (1876)	2,085,531	21.16	2,328,365
New Jersey ...	1,019,413	12.51	1,132,730
New York ...	4,698,958	7.21	5,014,752
Oregon ...	104,920	15.40	118,917
Rhode Island ...	253,239	18.81	299,125
South Carolina	923,447	30.88	1,141,288
Wisconsin ...	1,236,599	17.25	1,412,528
Totals ...	16,646,477	...	18,806,981

The total population of these 13 States in 1870 was 14,445,242.

For the remaining States and the Territories, the only undeniable facts we have to go on are the population in 1870 and the rate of increase during the preceding decade. No one will suppose that the rate of increase between 1870 and 1880 will be found to have been less than that of the preceding ten years. The following table gives those figures:—

States	Population in 1870	Percentage of increase from 1860.	Probable population in 1880.
Alabama ...	996,922	3.04	1,030,817
Arkansas ...	454,471	11.26	539,022
California ...	560,247	47.44	826,028
Connecticut ...	537,454	16.80	627,746
Delaware ...	125,015	11.41	139,279
Florida ...	187,743	33.70	251,018
Georgia ...	1,184,109	12.00	1,326,202
Illinois ...	2,539,891	43.36	3,768,182
Indiana ...	1,680,637	24.45	2,091,553
Kentucky ...	1,521,011	14.30	1,509,916
Maine ...	626,915	—	650,000
Maryland ...	780,894	13.66	887,564
Mississippi ...	827,222	4.63	855,255
New Hampshire	318,300	—	330,000
North Carolina	1,071,361	1.63	1,688,840
Ohio ...	2,665,260	13.92	3,086,234
Pennsylvania ...	3,521,951	21.19	4,218,252
Tennessee ...	1,258,520	13.40	1,427,162
Texas ...	818,579	35.48	1,109,011
Vermont ...	330,551	4.90	346,748
Virginia & West Virginia ...	1,667,177	4.44	1,741,481
Nebraska ...	122,973	70.06	1,031,277
Nevada ...	42,491		
Territories ...	442,730		
Totals ...	24,113,129	...	28,887,617
Add from above table reduced to 1870	14,445,242	...	18,806,981
	38,558,371	...	47,694,593

Statisticians in the United States, however, consider this estimate somewhat too low, and they expect that, with increased immigration, the population will be found in June, 1880, to be about 15,500,000.—*Times*.

## SEED FARMS.

The *Midland Counties Herald* says:—

In spite of adverse seasons and the recent bad weather, Messrs. Webb and Sons' seed farms at Kinver present a very healthy appearance. A recent inspection of the principal farms held by this enterprising firm was sufficient to prove what is already well known, viz., that careful culture, good nourishment, and unsparring toil and trouble will do something to mitigate the evils even of bad seasons. It is, we presume, quite impossible that ordinary farms can all be so carefully tilled and tended as farms which grow the high qualities of produce required for seed; still it is satisfactory to see what may be done when special means are used, and special efforts made.

Situated in a picturesque undulating country, the farms at Kinver seem well suited for growing the various crops there cultivated. So thoroughly pastoral, indeed, is all the surrounding country, that it seems difficult to understand that the farms are so near to several important manufacturing towns, and so close to what is known as the "Black Country." At one or two points on the farms views may be obtained of Dudley and other surrounding places, but the general prospect from the chief farm includes Kinver Edge, the Enville Woods, Clent Hills, Hagley Park, and further away, looking over Kidderminster, may be seen in the background the Malvern Hills. In starting from Stourbridge for Kinver, it is rather surprising to find how soon all signs of pit, mill, and forge are completely lost, until passing through Stewponney and crossing the lazy River Stour, we reach Kinver. Here till recently manufacturing enterprise was carried on, but a strike of the workmen, we believe, led to a stoppage of some important works, and the now quiet, dull, and nearly deserted little town bears witness to the ruinous course adopted by the working men. After going through part of Kinver a steep hill is ascended, and then, after passing the old village church, Webb's principal farm is reached.

With respect to the crops grown by Messrs. Webb and Sons at their various farms this year, we may say that they include over 130 acres of wheat, 146 acres of Kinver Chevalier barley, fifty-three acres of oats, thirty-four acres of peas, forty-one acres of potatoes, besides a large acreage of Webb's Imperial Swede, mangolds, and turnips. The other crops grown at Kinver for seed purposes include Kohl Rabi carrots, Webb's new early drumhead cabbages, giant cow grass, thousand headed kale, improved Italian rye-grass, &c. At the trial grounds we saw growing upwards of 1,500 different sorts of flowers and vegetables, the latter including over 100 varieties of peas and 500 sorts of potatoes.

We may also say that, apart from the stock seeds grown at the Kinver Hill Farm, thousands of acres are employed in other suitable parts of the kingdom for growing crops of selected cereals, roots, vegetable, and other seeds, under contract.

It must also be added that, besides growing the crops mentioned at Kinver, Messrs. Webb have on the farm a fine flock of Shropshire sheep, including 230 breeding ewes, from which they send out yearly forty or fifty shearing rams.

## IMPORTS OF COLORADO CATTLE.

Mr. John Young, of Cromwell Road, S.W., writes as under in relation to some of Mr. Drummond's figures:

I have read with much interest the memorandum of Mr. Drummond on the cost of production of grain and meat in the United States, published in your paper of this morning, also your own remarks on the same.

I have no doubt Mr. Drummond is correct in the figures with which he has been furnished at the ports of shipment and arrival, and it is not with the object of throwing any discredit upon his communication, but simply with that of correcting and perfecting information which must at this crisis attract general interest and attention, that I now address you.

Mr. Drummond says, and you are naturally struck by the assertion, that in the State of Colorado "oxen are raised and made ready for the market at a cost of 16s. 8d. per head." I own a cattle ranch in Colorado, managed by my own son. I stocked it two years ago by the purchase of two herds, for one of which I paid 18 dollars a head for all ages and sexes

except calves running with their mothers, which were thrown in gratis; for the other 15 dollars, paying for calves, which brought the two prices about even. I have never sold three year-old steers on my land under 22½ dollars a head. My last sale was at 27 dollars. But, it may be argued, the question is not what I get for my beef but what it costs to raise it and bring it to market. I may be making 600 per cent. profit on my four dollar beasts. I fear not. It is difficult to tell what is the actual cost to the breeder of cattle reared in the rough way practised in Colorado. But I have before me notes made on the spot two years ago of conversations with experienced cattle men, and I find the opinions was that to make money by grazing you would do better to buy Texan yearling steers at 8 dollars to 10 dollars a head than to breed your own. From which it would result that a Colorado yearling would cost the breeder, say 10 dollars.

The current rate of interest in the State is 18 per cent. per annum, and the expenses in herding, taxes, &c., are reckoned at a dollar a head per annum, all of which put together bring the cost of a three-year-old close upon 16 dollars. The only way in which I can account for the four dollar valuation is by supposing that Mr. Drummond's informant had left out of sight all question of interest on cost of parent stock, and had simply considered the rateable share of taxes and herding and other trifling annual expenses on a beast left pretty much to pick up a living for itself after leaving its mother. But I do not believe any cattle man in Colorado could live by selling three-year-old steers under 20 dollars a head.

And then it must be borne in mind that no English butcher would buy this meat. It is well flavoured. I have eaten a good deal of it myself with the sauce which the air of the Rocky Mountains supplies. But it is lean, hard, and dry. The American meat which comes to England is of a very superior description both as to breeding and feeding, and the cost of Colorado meat might as well be taken as a value for prime Scots as for that which is produced in the Eastern States. I think, therefore, that the British producer need not alarm himself about the competition of cheap cattle from Colorado.

## AGRICULTURAL CHILDREN.

The Rev. C. J. D'Oyley, of Great Chart, writes to the

*Times*:—

There have been some very good remarks upon the education of agricultural children in the *Times* of late—some by correspondents, others in one of your own articles. The gist of them all has been to show that half-times of attendance should, in certain circumstances, be allowed to such children, or, at any rate, to boys, one writer advocating half of each day, another half of each week; but it seems to me that it should be half of each year. It so happens that I have had a considerable experience both of urban and rural populations, and, starting at this point, I am quite sure that in the Education Act sufficient attention has not been paid to the distinction always and necessarily existing between the two. In towns work for boys is very much the same, as to demand upon time, all the year round; but in agricultural districts the case is very different. From the first day of October to the last day of March there is, as a general rule, very little, if anything, for a boy of 10 or 11 years of age to do in the way of field labour, while from about the first day of April to say the last day of September, every lad that can pull a weed handle a spade, or tend a horse is wanted. I contend, therefore, that both for the sake of the land which has to be cultivated, as well as for the sake of the technical education of the child—which, if the land is to be properly cultivated, should not be checked—the solution of the education difficulty in agricultural districts is this—from October to March inclusive each boy up to 11 years of age should be compelled to attend school every day the school is open, unless absolutely prevented; but from April to September inclusive all boys above 10 should be let go free. Thus, and thus only, I am of opinion each boy would bring freshness to each work, and gain two kinds of education, the value of neither of which can be overrated.

## FRENCH AND ENGLISH FARMING.

Mr. Charles Packe, of Stretton Hall, Leicester, writes to the *Times* :—

In order to estimate fairly the agricultural holdings in France and England, and the merits of each system as advocated by your correspondents Mr. Baden Powell and "X.X.," it may be well to consider the proportion the cultivated land of each country bears to its gross area.

	Square kilometres.
The total area of France is ...	548,525
Cultivated (as given by Mr. Powell) ...	450,000

Leaving uncultivated ... 98,525  
Or 18 per cent. uncultivated; 82 per cent. cultivated.

	Square kilometres.
In Great Britain—i.e., England, Wales, and Scotland—the total area is ...	229,943
Cultivated (as given by Mr. Powell) ...	140,000

Leaving uncultivated ... 89,943  
Or 39 per cent. uncultivated; 61 per cent. cultivated.

Surely such facts speak for themselves in favour of a system where the land is cultivated by the proprietor, either in large or small parcels; and the profits of the farm are shared between two instead of three, too often conflicting interests.

In France under the present proprietorship barren spots are yearly brought into cultivation, and land once redeemed from the waste is permanently improved; whereas in England, under the contest that is going on between three opposed parties—the labourer, who is bent on securing his wages for the smallest amount of work; the farmer, who looks merely to the annual profit; and the owner, too often careless how that profit is made, provided that the rent is paid regularly without grumbling—the best land is sometimes worked out and ceases to be productive.

In conclusion, Mr. Baden Powell is to be thanked for having given his figures in hectares, which can be so easily converted into square kilometres by displacing two decimals.

Mr. George Gibson Richardson writes :—

Mr. Baden Powell has done well to notice that more than one-third of the land in France is held under the system of landlord and tenant, much as it is in England; it would be well to note further that it is on this land that most of the corn which comes to market is grown, and that the average yield per acre is very much about the published averages for the whole country.

The great corn-growing districts of France are Flanders, Artois, Picardy, Beaune, Brie, and Poitou; the average produce per acre of these countries certainly does not fall below it probably exceeds that of the United Kingdom.

On a recent visit made by the students of the Agriculture, College of Grignon to farms in Picardy, it was found that on the farm of Louilly, ten miles from Peronne, worked by M. Viou, and consisting of 625 acres, 200 acres were in wheat, every year, and the average produce for a term of years was 40 bushels per acre.

On the farm of Assainvilliers, three miles from Montdidier, farmed by M. Tribonlet, consisting of 1,325 acres, 500 acres were under wheat every year, and the average produce over a long period of years was 35 bushels. Last year, 1878, the worst harvest known in France since 1816, the return was 31 bushels.

I once had the good fortune to dine with a farmer's club at Arras; there were 39 at table, and I was told that not a man among them had so little as £10,000 capital on his farm, and not one farmed land at less than 40s. per acre; some paid up to £3 and £4. The returns of produce per acre from such farms as these must have been at least equal to those of our best counties in England or Scotland.

LOOK OUT FOR SLUGS.—They abound this year before I plough my clover land for wheat I shall dust it on a warm night with slaked lime, a certain cure. They come out on a mild night. They have been devouring the clover leaves—a wet season is generally a slug season.—J. J. MECHI.

## THE PRODUCTION OF MILK.

Mr. J. P. Sheldon writing to the *Times* says :—

The normal composition of milk, pure from the cow, in the month of May, July, is as follows :—Water, 87.25; butter, pure fat, 3.86; casein (containing nitrogen .52), 3.28; milk sugar, 4.89; mineral matters, .72—100.00. But these proportions vary, not only in different breeds of cattle, in different animals of the same breed, in different years and periods of the year, according to the time which has elapsed since the cow calved, but also with the quantity, quality, and composition of the food which is given to the cow. At one of the Derbyshire cheese factories, the milk supplied to which was produced by ordinary Shorthorn dairy cows, the average percentage of cream in each of six consecutive months was found to be as follows :—June, 8½; July, 8½; August, 10½; September, 11½; October, 11½; November, 12½; the average for the whole period being 10½. And at the same place the average weight of milk per month that was required to produce 10 lb. of curd was as follows :—April, 10.36; May, 9.45; June, 9.69; July, 9.95; August, 9.83; September, 9.64; October, 8.29; November, 7.30; the average for the season being 9.32 lb.

Not only does the volume of cream vary in the milk of different breeds of cows but also in that of different cows of the same breed, and the average size of the cream globules differs also. To show the latter disparity, as found in the milk of two of our famous breeds of cows, I give the following :—Jersey milk, average size 1-5252nd of an inch; Ayrshire, average size, 1-7080th of an inch. That the composition of milk will change with the changes in the composition of the fodder which the cow eats is a principle fully demonstrated, and within certain limits the milk may be made poor by inferior or over-succulent food, and rich by concentrated food; and it would appear that while the proportion of casein remains fairly constant under increased food, insufficient food having a tendency to decrease the casein and substitute albumen, the character of the food influences more or less the proportion of butter. But to whatever extent food may influence the butter in milk, so far, at all events, as quantity is concerned, the breed of the cow influences it still more. It would appear, as the result of some careful researches, that the composition of dry substance in milk remains the same for the same cow, whatever may be her food, so long as it is healthy food; but this conclusion is hardly correct, for extended experiments by Gustav Kuehn go to prove that an increase in the food of both nitrogenous and non-nitrogenous matters does, within limits, increase the yield of milk and the proportion of dry substance in it, yet at the same time, the proportion of fat in the food bears no special relation to the proportion of fat in the milk, but an increase of fat in the food goes rather to increase the production of milk as a whole.

It is no doubt true that milking three times a day influences favourably both the quantity and the quality of the milk, and the shorter the time that has elapsed since the last milking the richer and fatter is the milk; but it must be borne in mind that this result makes an increased demand on the strength of the cows, and must be compensated for by a corresponding amount of nourishment; and, while it is doubtless an advantage to a deep-milking cow to be milked thrice instead of twice in the 24 hours, particularly in the early period of lactation, this additional milking employs additional labour—a factor which a dairy farmer cannot afford to ignore.

PRACTICAL JOKING ON THE STAGE.—In the "good old days" at the Haymarket Theatre they were ruining the musical farce of *No Song, No Supper*, and the exigencies of the piece required a real boiled leg of mutton every night, which, according to the law of "property," or rather the "property man's" law in a theatre, went after performance almost untouched to the official named. But the "flymen" perched up aloft did not like this, which occurred night after night to their growing dissatisfaction; for they, too, had wives and families to whom a boiled leg of mutton free of charge would have been a thing to be remembered. So they hit upon a plan, and one night Mr. William Farren, who had the carving of the aforesaid leg, was solicited to fix a hook that would be let down from the "flies" into the mutton, and "leave the rest to them." Farren, always ready for a practical

joke, consented at once, and as the scene was coming to a termination, deftly fastened the hook into the leg, and "left the rest to them." As the scene-shifters were preparing to "close in," and the property-man stood at the wings ready to seize his perquisite, the leg of mutton was seen slowly to ascend, without any visible agency. The audience laughed, my father (who, as *Endless*, was watching the manœuvre from his sack) laughed too, and the *employés* all gave vent to their feelings in ill-suppressed merriment—all save the property-man, who remained miserably serious, and gazed at his fast-departing supper with a woe-begone countenance. Suddenly, as the scene was almost closed in, the hook which Farren had, unfortunately, only fastened in the fat, gave way, and down came the much-coveted mutton on the dish with a terrific splash. The audience now roared; the *employés* roared; Farren at the table and my father in the sack roared; and as the "flats" hid the unrehearsed tableau from view, the now delighted property-man rushed on the stage, and, securing his ill-treated supper, joined in the general roar. Our "fly" fishers were never known to try a "hook" again.—*Memoirs of Henry Compton.*

**AN ELECTRIC RAILWAY.**—Many attempts have been made to apply the motive power obtained from electricity to the working of locomotives, but no satisfactory result was obtained. However, a step forward has been made in this direction in Berlin with apparent success. There are two lines of rails laid down, which, as in a narrow-gauge line, return into themselves in a ring-shaped curve. The length is about 300 metres. In the middle is an isolated third line, consisting of an upright continuous iron plate. The locomotive carries two rollers, with which it stands in connection with the isolated middle line. The essential portion of the locomotive is formed by an electro-dynamic machine, one pole of which is connected with the middle line, and the other with the pair of outer rails through the outer wheels. Similarly, the machine which produces the current stands in the machine-room in connection through one pole with the middle line, and through the other pole with the outer pair of rails. When, therefore, the dynamical machine in the locomotive is on the railway the electric current produced in the machine soon runs through it and causes it to rotate and to impart its rotatory motion to the wheels of the locomotive, and the latter continues to move until the current is interrupted. Even an imperfect state of isolation on the part of the rails does not materially affect the action of the machine. When the locomotive is moving its conducting wires form much better conductors than the damp earth. If the current is interrupted, the damp ground is not a sufficient conductor to keep the dynamo-electrical action going. The magnetism of the machines producing the current consequently disappears, and the result is that the subordinate stream through the earth is also interrupted. A great advantage is possessed by the transmission of electric force from the fact that the locomotive, whether moving slowly or quickly, always works up to its full power—an effect which has hitherto been an unsolved problem in mechanics. When the machine that gives the power has to do much work, and so goes slowly, the counter-currents it produces are also correspondingly weak, and the current through the conductors thereby undergoes an increase in strength to a similar extent. By this means the electro-magnetism and, corresponding to this, the attractive power of the machine, are increased. The dynamo-electric locomotive has the further advantage that it carries in itself the power which can be employed as a brake, inasmuch as it becomes itself the primary or current-producing machine when it rotates more rapidly than the actual machine. In judging of the performance of the electric locomotive in the Berlin Exhibition, it must be remembered that it was not constructed for the purpose on which it has been applied—that is, to propel the three elegant little passenger carriages which are attached to it. Each carriage holds from 18 to 20 persons, and all three are drawn in from one to two minutes round the circular railway of 300 metres in length. The locomotive was originally made for the purpose of drawing up coals out of the pit. Nevertheless its performances are very remarkable, and render it certain that there are many cases in which electric locomotives may be employed with advantage. The question of the extent to which electro-dynamic locomotives may possibly be employed is as yet difficult to decide. Apart from the question of the possibility of a sufficient isolation, it depends on the conductive resistance of the rails. According to Dr.

Siemen's view this requisite on long railways may be partly satisfied by setting up from time to time new primary dynamo-electric machines, which would maintain the necessary electric tension between the middle and the outer rails.—*Morning Post.*

## THE CHILDREN.

(Poem said to have been found in the desk of Charles Dickens after his death.)

When the lessons and tasks are all ended,  
And the school for the day is dismissed,  
And the little ones gather around me  
To bid me "good night" and be kissed,  
Oh the little white arms that encircle  
My neck in a tender embrace!  
Oh the smiles that are halos of heaven,  
Shedding sunshine and love on my face.

And when they are gone, I sit dreaming  
Of my childhood, too lovely to last;  
Of love that my heart will remember  
When it wakes to the pulse of the past,  
Ere the world and its wickedness made me  
A partner of sorrow and sin—  
When the glory of God was about me,  
And the glory of gladness within.

Oh my heart grows weak as a woman's,  
And the fountain of feelings will flow,  
When I think of the path, steep and stony,  
Where the feet of the dear ones must go—  
Of the mountains of sin hanging o'er them,  
Of the tempests of fate blowing wild—  
Oh, there's nothing on earth half so holy  
As the innocent heart of a child.

They are idols of hearts and of households,  
They are angels of God in disguise,  
His sunlight still sleeps in their tresses,  
His glory still beams in their eyes.  
Oh those truants from earth and from heaven,  
They have made me more manly and mild,  
And I know now how Jesus could liken  
The kingdom of God to a child.

Seek not a life for the dear ones  
All radiant as others have done,  
But that life may have just as much shadow  
To temper the glare of the sun;  
I would pray God to guard them from evil,  
But my prayer would bound back to myself  
Ah, a seraph may pray for a sinner,  
But a sinner must pray for himself.

The swig is so easily bended,  
I have banished the rule and the rod;  
I have taught them the goodness of knowledge—  
They have taught me the goodness of God.  
My heart is a dungeon of darkness  
Where I shut them from breaking a rule;  
My frown is sufficient correction,  
My love is the law of the school.

I shall leave the old house in the autumn,  
To traverse its threshold no more.  
Ah, how shall I sigh for the dear ones  
That meet me each morn at the door,  
I shall miss the "good nights and the kisses,  
And the gush of their innocent glee,  
The group on the green, and the flowers  
That are brought every morning to me.

I shall miss them at morn and at eve,  
Their song in the school and the street;  
I shall miss the low hum of their voices,  
And the tramp of their delicate feet.  
When the lessons and tasks are all ended,  
And Death say the school is dismissed,  
May the little ones gather around me,  
And bid me "good night" and be kissed.

## REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE,

FROM *THE MARK LANE EXPRESS* FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 22.

With the exception of a few days' sunshine at the beginning of the week the weather has been dull and gloomy, with a close damp atmosphere, which has told unfavourably upon the condition of new Wheat, although it has not impeded harvesting to any serious extent. The attention of farmers has been almost exclusively directed to the cutting, carrying, and stacking of cereals, and the scant services of the thrashing machine have been apparent in the indefinitely postponed supplies of home-grown grain at the markets of the United Kingdom. The absence of cool autumnal weather and drying winds is to be regretted, as much grain has been carted and stacked under conditions which render sprouting and loss of condition almost inevitable. Although we have now arrived at the third week in September, scarcely any English Wheat of the present season's crop has been offered for sale and the variable quality of the little which has at present appeared has afforded no criterion of future prices, although it is to be feared that the general condition of this year's produce is but too well represented by the wretched state of the samples hitherto shown. In Scotland the agricultural situation is gloomy to a degree, the fields being still quite green in the uplands, and as the season is too far advanced for any hope of summer sunshine to repair the mischief, the chances of the grain maturing properly are reduced to a minimum. In short, had as our harvests have been since 1876, it must be universally admitted that the present season's yield is by far the worst, and grievously detrimental to the prosperity of the agricultural community. The reserves of 1878 Wheat still remaining in farmers' hands are necessarily extremely limited; indeed, as far as the London market is concerned, the supply of home-grown grain has been practically nil for some weeks past, while the deliveries at the 150 principal towns have amounted to only 13,645 qrs., against an average of about 53,000 qrs. for the corresponding time during the four previous years. The past week has witnessed a material revival of the trade in foreign Wheat, which, with by no means excessive imports into London, has monopolised the entire attention of buyers. America's abundant surplus produced depression in this country, but only for a short time, and the fact has now become patent that not England alone, but many of the principal countries of Europe are looking to America to supply those consumptive requirements which have been so largely increased by the failure of indigenous produce. The upward movement in prices anticipated a fortnight since has made a fair start in the advance of 2s. per qr., which has been well maintained throughout the week, and the prevalence of speculative transactions affords sufficient proof that there are not wanting those who consider the recent improvement but the

first step to a materially enhanced range of values. Millers, too, have shown a decided inclination to add to their stocks at the commencement of the rise, so that a healthy activity has pervaded the grain trade throughout the United Kingdom. Flour has necessarily shared in the advance to the extent of 1s. per sack and barrel, and feeding stuffs, though less influenced by the conditions affecting Wheat, have been held with increased firmness. The Americans, usually only too ready to take advantage of any turn in their favour, have, curiously enough, met the English demand promptly hitherto without any material change in prices, but according to the latest advices they have now grown fully cognizant of their true position as custodians of a large proportion of the Old World's supplies, so that Wheat has advanced 6 cents per bushel in New York. Under these circumstances any fear of a glut may be dismissed, and although the operations of the "Bulls" and "Bears" will probably be attended by smart fluctuations from time to time, there is every reason to believe that the European markets will be judiciously supplied during the present cereal year. The arrivals at ports of call during the past week have been small, Wheat off coast has met with good inquiry and prices have advanced 1s. 6d. to 2s. per qr., but the limited choice has restricted business. Maize has also been in good demand at 1s. 6d. per qr. advance. There has been a very extensive business in Wheat for shipment at rapidly improving prices, and closing sales indicate an advance of 2s. per qr. on the week with a continued strong demand. Maize may be noted 1s. to 1s. 6d. per qr. dearer, while Barley has ruled steady, with an upward tendency in values. The sales of English Wheat noted last week were 13,214 qrs., at 47s. 4d., against 60,456 qrs., at 43s. 2d. in the previous year. The London average for the week ending September 19th was 45s. 2d. on 268 qrs. The imports of the United Kingdom for the week ending September 13th were 1,513,129 cwts. of Wheat, and 174,115 cwts. of Flour. Last Monday's market witnessed a cheerful revival of trade at Mark Lane, which was especially welcome after the prolonged dullness and featureless inactivity which had characterised the course of business for many previous weeks. The marked improvement and steady upward tendency noticeable in the price of Wheat was attributable to the unsatisfactory reports concerning the yield and quantity of the English crops as harvest progresses, and the smallest shipment cabled from America. The week's supply of home-grown Wheat was only 1,433 qrs., and with scarcely any business passing prices remained nominally unaltered. There were very few samples of the new crop to be seen, and the quality and condition were

so variable that the prices realized were too irregular to furnish a basis for quotations. The imports of foreign were not so large as of late, the return showing a total arrival of 61,141 qrs., of which America furnished 36,143 qrs. and New Zealand 15,581, the remainder of the supply being from Germany, Russia, and the East Indies. At the commencement of the market the upward movement asserted itself, and gained further strength as the day wore on. Millers bought freely, and speculation not being wanting, a large demand was experienced, particularly, for American descriptions, at an advance of 1s. to 2s. per qr. on the week, the trade closing strong with the improvement fully maintained. The exports were 4,842 qrs., against 7,100 qrs. in the previous week. Barley, of which the supply consisted of 579 qrs. of English and 20,531 qrs. of foreign, met a moderate inquiry at the currencies of the preceding Monday. The imports of Maize were 9,137 qrs., and the exports 5,405 qrs. Round Corn sold somewhat slowly, but mixed American, although not quotably dearer, tended in sellers' favour, with an improved demand. There were 47,510 qrs. of Oats reported, but, notwithstanding the moderate arrivals, only a limited inquiry was met, and where sales were pressed ex ship holders had to submit to a reduction of 3d. per qr. On Wednesday there was no further arrival of English Wheat, but the return showed 37,610 qrs. of foreign. With a fair attendance of buyers the trade ruled very firm for Wheat, Monday's prices being occasionally exceeded for Spring and Winter Americans. All descriptions of feeding corn were also firmly held. On Friday the supply had increased to 180 qrs. of English Wheat, and 58,100 qrs. of foreign. The attendance was large, and a strong demand was experienced for Wheat at an advance of 1s. to 2s. per qr. since Monday. Maize was the turn against buyers, and fine Oats were more inquired for at 3d. per qr. more money. The imports of Flour into the United Kingdom for the week ending September 12th were 174,115 cwt., against 216,157 cwt. in the previous week. The receipts into London were 10,296 sacks of English and 6,349 sacks and 3,821 barrels of foreign. In consequence of the rise in Wheat sales have been effected with greater facility, and the increased demand has caused prices to advance 1s. per sack and barrel on the week. The week's arrivals of beans were 23,434 cwt., and of peas 8,087 cwt., showing a decrease of 20,429 cwt. on the former, and an increase of 5,996 cwt. on the latter. Peas have been firmly held, but prices remain unchanged, while beans have met a fair sale at an advance of 1s. per qr. The deliveries of malt were 19,171 qrs., and the exports 1,119 qrs. No new feature has presented itself in this branch of the trade, business having ruled quiet but steady at unaltered quotations. Business in agricultural seeds continues moderately active, and most varieties have fully maintained late rates. Some samples of new American red clover have appeared, but business has been impracticable by reason of the extreme views of holders. A quieter tone has succeeded the recent excitement in Trefoil, but new trifolium has been inquired for. For winter tares 2s. per qr. more money has been obtainable, and

linseed, rape, and canary have changed hands on former terms. Supplies of wheat at the country markets have again been exceedingly small, and the few samples of new corn which have hitherto been marketed in wretched condition. Provincial trade has manifested increased activity, and prices have advanced 1s. to 2s. per qr for wheat, while spring corn has also favoured sellers. At Liverpool, on Tuesday, there was a large attendance of millers, who bought freely at an advance of 4d. to 5d. per cental on the week. Flour was also in equally good request at a like improvement, and peas brought 2d. per cental more money. Beans were fully as dear, while maize, with a moderate inquiry and diminished shipments to the United Kingdom favoured sellers to the extent of fully 1d. per cental, new mixed closing at 4s. 11d. per 100lb. The week's imports included 109,000 qrs. of wheat and 13,000 qrs. of maize. At Newcastle the grain trade has been brisk, and wheat has improved 6d. to 1s. per qr., albeit the full advance has only been maintained in retail transactions. Flour has been firm, and feeding stuffs steady, at fully late rates. At Hull and Leeds 1s. to 2s. per qr. more money has been obtainable for both English and foreign wheat, and maize has also been the turn dearer. At Edinburgh supplies have been small, and wheat has sold readily at an advance of 1s. per qr. Several samples of new barley and oats were shown at Wednesday's market, the former being of poor but the latter of excellent quality. Prices ranged from 32s. to 36s. per qr. for the barley, and 31s. 6d. to 34s. 6d. for the oats. At Leith the weather has been on the whole favourable for harvest, which has made considerable progress in the earlier districts. There was a poor attendance of buyers at market on Wednesday, but where sales were made 1s. per qr. more money was obtained both for native and foreign wheat. Barley, with large arrivals, was in moderate request at unaltered prices, while oats favoured buyers for all except the finest qualities. At Glasgow the week's imports have been fair of wheat and large of flour, barley, and maize. The tone of the trade has considerably improved, and a large business has been done in wheat and flour at an advance of 1s. to 2s. per qr., and 1s. per sack respectively. Maize has also brought 3d. per qr. more money, but there has been no quotable change in barley, oats, or beans. At Dublin the weather has improved, but the temperature has been low. A moderate degree of animation has prevailed in the grain trade, and rather more money has been obtained for wheat and maize. At Cork fine sorts of wheat have realised a slight advance, and maize has also been the turn dearer. The weather has been unsettled, but during the favourable intervals harvesting has made some progress.

Mark Lane reports:—

Monday, September 1.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat, 949 qrs.; Irish, 200 qrs.; foreign, 54,912 qrs.; Exports, 7,628 qrs. There was scarcely any English Wheat on offer at market this morning, and prices were nominally unaltered. Of foreign the arrivals were good, but not nearly so heavy as during the past three weeks, and with brilliant weather and a fair attendance of buyers, the trade ruled slow at last Monday's quotations, all interim improvement having been lost.

Country Flour, 12,059 sacks; foreign, 1,505 sacks and 4,738 barrels. Business was devoid of animation, but there was no quotable decline in either sacks or barrels.

English Barley, 636 qrs.; foreign, 3,702 qrs. With limited supplies, last week's prices were maintained, but sales progressed very slowly.

Malt: English 17,400 qrs.; Scotch 1,050 qrs.; Exports 2,992 qrs. In moderate request and without quotable change.

Maize 40,431 qrs. Exports 9,888 qrs. With larger arrivals from abroad, the trade was less active, prices being the turn in buyers' favour.

English Oats 1,869 qrs.; foreign 26,333 qrs.; Exports 1,575 qrs. With light imports and a steady demand, a good trade was done at an advance of 6d. to 9d. per qr. on the week.

English Beans 434 qrs.; foreign 6,045 qrs. Steady at late rates.

Linseed 15,024 qrs. Quiet and unaltered in value.

Monday, September 8.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat, 421 qrs.; Irish, 212 qrs. Foreign, 100,154 qrs. Exports, 7,100 qrs. The supply of home-grown Wheat fresh up to market this morning was again exceedingly small, and in the few sales which took place, last Monday's prices were reported. One or two samples of the new crop were exhibited, but no business was done. The arrivals of foreign were very heavy, and a depressed tone prevailed in the trade. With a moderate attendance of millers, a quiet retail demand was experienced at about late rates.

Country Flour, 12,873 sacks. Foreign, 16,836 sacks 6,061 brls. Both sacks and barrels were in limited request with the turn of prices in buyers' favour.

English Barley, 739 qrs.; Irish, 82 qrs.; foreign, 1,050 qrs. No change was apparent in the trade for either malting or grinding sorts.

Malt: English, 17,655 qrs.; Scotch, 1,133 qrs. Exports, 1,220 qrs. Business was quiet, but last week's prices were steadily supported.

Maize, 6,591 qrs. Exports, 1,770 qrs. In rather better demand at last Monday's full currencies, the intervening depression of Wednesday having recovered.

English Oats: 628 qrs.; Scotch, 200 qrs.; foreign 55,492 qrs. Exports, 143 qrs. In face of more liberal imports a quiet tone prevailed, and a reduction of 3d. per qr. on the week was necessary to effect sales.

English Beans: 454 qrs.; foreign, 1,524 qrs. Steady, but without quotable change.

Linseed, 20,459 qrs. Unaltered.

Monday, September 15.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat 1,433 qrs.; foreign 61,141 qrs.; Exports 4,842 qrs. There was really so little English Wheat, either new or old, at market this morning, that in the absence of business it was impossible to make quotations. Of foreign the arrivals were by no means excessive, and with a large attendance of millers, an active trade was done at an advance of fully 1s. per qr. on the week, while in some cases fine American sorts brought 1s.6d. per qr. more money.

Country Flour, 10,296 sacks; foreign, 6,349 sacks, and 3,821 brls. With an improved demand, sellers were enabled to establish an advance of 6d. per bush., and 1s. per sack.

English Barley, 579 qrs.; foreign, 20,531 qrs. The trade, although quiet, was fairly steady, and previous prices were maintained.

Malt: English, 17,143 qrs.; Scotch, 1,728 qrs.; Irish, 300 qrs. Exports, 1,119 qrs. In limited request, and unaltered in value.

Maize, 9,137 qrs. Exports, 5,405 qrs. Although there was no quotable advance, the trade was very firm and the tendency of prices in sellers' favour.

English Oats, 731 qrs.; Scotch, 20 qrs. Foreign, 47,510 qrs. For landed parcels there was scarcely any inquiry, and where sales were pressed ex-ship, a reduction of 3d. per qr. was necessary to effect sales.

English Beans, 434 qrs. Foreign, 161 qrs. With very little business passing, the trade was quiet, and late rates were nominally supported.

Linseed, 9,546 qrs. Quiet, and without change in price.

Monday, September 22.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat, 735 qrs.; Irish, 180 qrs.; foreign, 64,829 qrs. Exports, 3,146 qrs. There were a few samples of new English Wheat at market this morning, and the condition was generally defective. Prices ranged from 43s. to 47s. for red and 45s. to 50s. for white. Of old the supplies were exceedingly small, and prices advanced 2s. per qr. on the week. The imports of foreign were liberal, but, with a large attendance of millers, the trade ruled steady, and, with a fair amount of activity, sellers succeeded in establishing an improvement of fully 2s. per qr.

Country Flour 12,113 sacks, foreign 9,904 sacks and 3,825 barrels. In moderate request, and 1s. per sack and barrel dearer. No alteration was made in the nominal top price of town-made.

English Barley 466 qrs., foreign 8,306 qrs. The trade was steady, with an upward tendency in quotations.

Malt: English, 14,595 qrs.; Scotch, 1,265 qrs. Exports, 632 qrs. There was considerable firmness in this branch of the trade, but no actual advance was quoted.

Maize, 16,707 qrs. Exports, 2,752 qrs. An active demand was experienced for both flat and round Corn the former at 2s. and the latter at 3s. per qr. advance on the week.

English Oats, 492 qrs. Foreign, 91,989 qrs. Under pressure of liberal supplies, sales progressed somewhat slowly at about last Monday's prices.

English Beans, 335 qrs. A steady sale, at an advance of 1s. per qr.

Linseed, 9,983 qrs. Exports, 1,367 qrs. Unaltered.

CURRENT PRICES OF BRITISH GRAIN AND FLOUR IN MARK LANE.

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WHEAT, Essex & Kent, white.....	old 46 to 54	new — to —	
	red 44 48	new — —	
Norfolk, Lincolnsh., and Yorksh red old —	new 42	43	
BARLEY .....	Chevalier new.....	— —	
Grinding .....	33 to 40.....	Distilling .....	34 43
MALT, pale.....	new 78 to 74.....	old brown .....	60 54
RYE .....	.....	.....	32 36
OATS, English, feed 21 to 23.....	Potato.....	24 23	
Scotch, feed ..	.....	Potato.....	— —
Irish, feed, white 24 23.....	Fine .....	— —	
Ditto, black .....	23 24.....	Potato .....	— —
BEANS, Mazagan ..	32 35.....	Ticks.....	33 35
Harrow .....	.....	Pigeon, old ..	40 46
PEAS, white boilers 32 36	Maple 37 to 39.....	Grey .....	34 38
FLOUR, per sack of 280lb., town households .....	.....	.....	38 43
Best country households .....	.....	.....	37 39
Norfolk and Suffolk .....	.....	.....	35 36

FOREIGN GRAIN.

	s. d. per Quarter.		
WHEAT, Danzig, mixed.....	52 to 53.....	extra.....	— 55
Konigsberg .....	52 54.....	extra .....	— —
Ro-stock .....	49 52.....	old.....	— —
Pomera, Meckberg, and Uckermark.....	red.....	43	50
Ghirka 42 to 44.....	Russian, hard, 45 to 46, Saxonska ..	40	48
Danish and Holstein, red ..	red American ..	44	50
Chilian, white, 00.....	Californian 50 52.....	Australian ..	52 55
East Indian, No. 1 Club white 44 to 45; No. 2 ..	42 43	.....	42 43
Old, white 40 to 42; red 37 to 39; hard ..	39	40	40
BARLEY, grinding, 23 to 24.....	distilling .....	28	35

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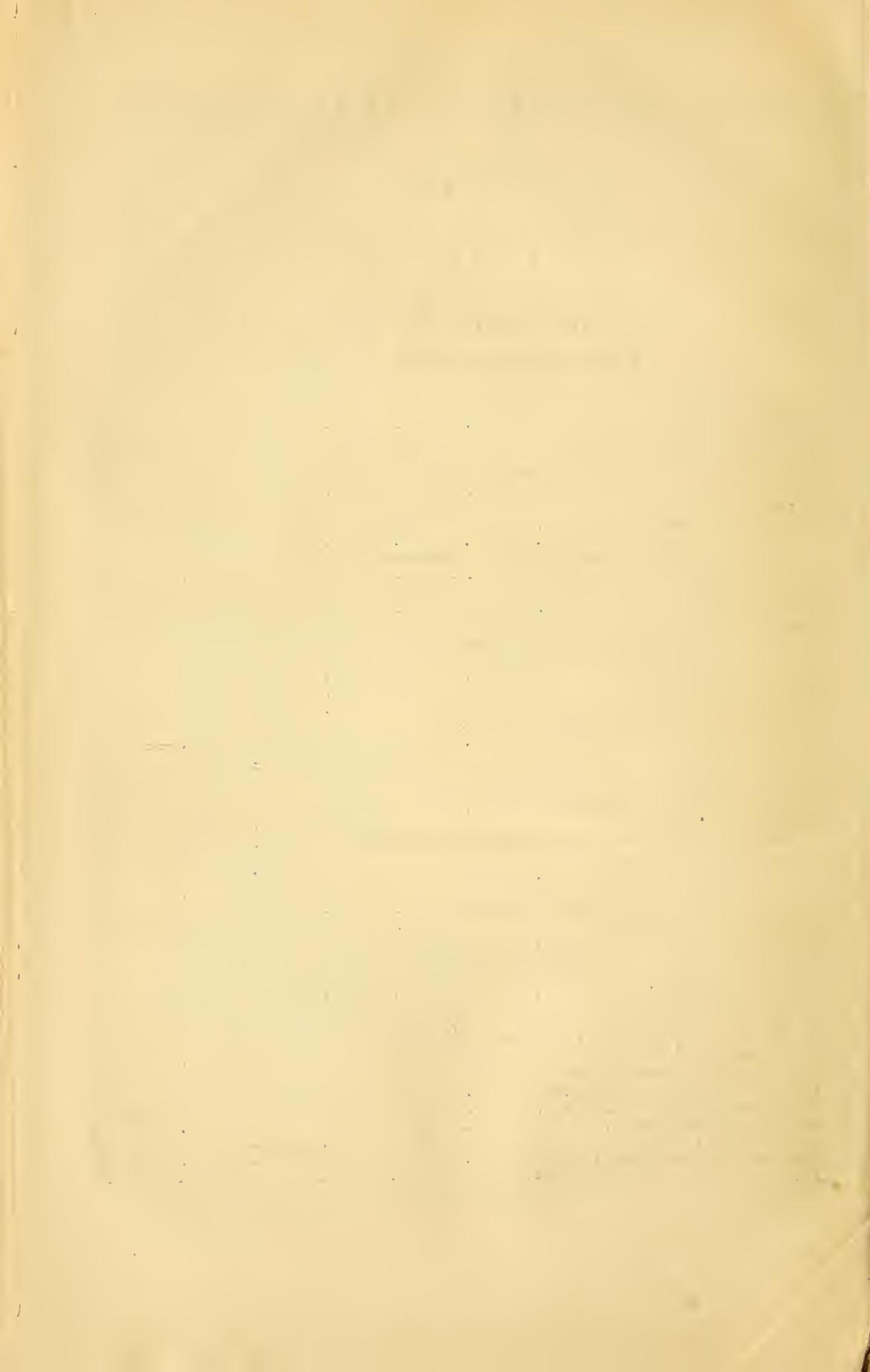
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OF

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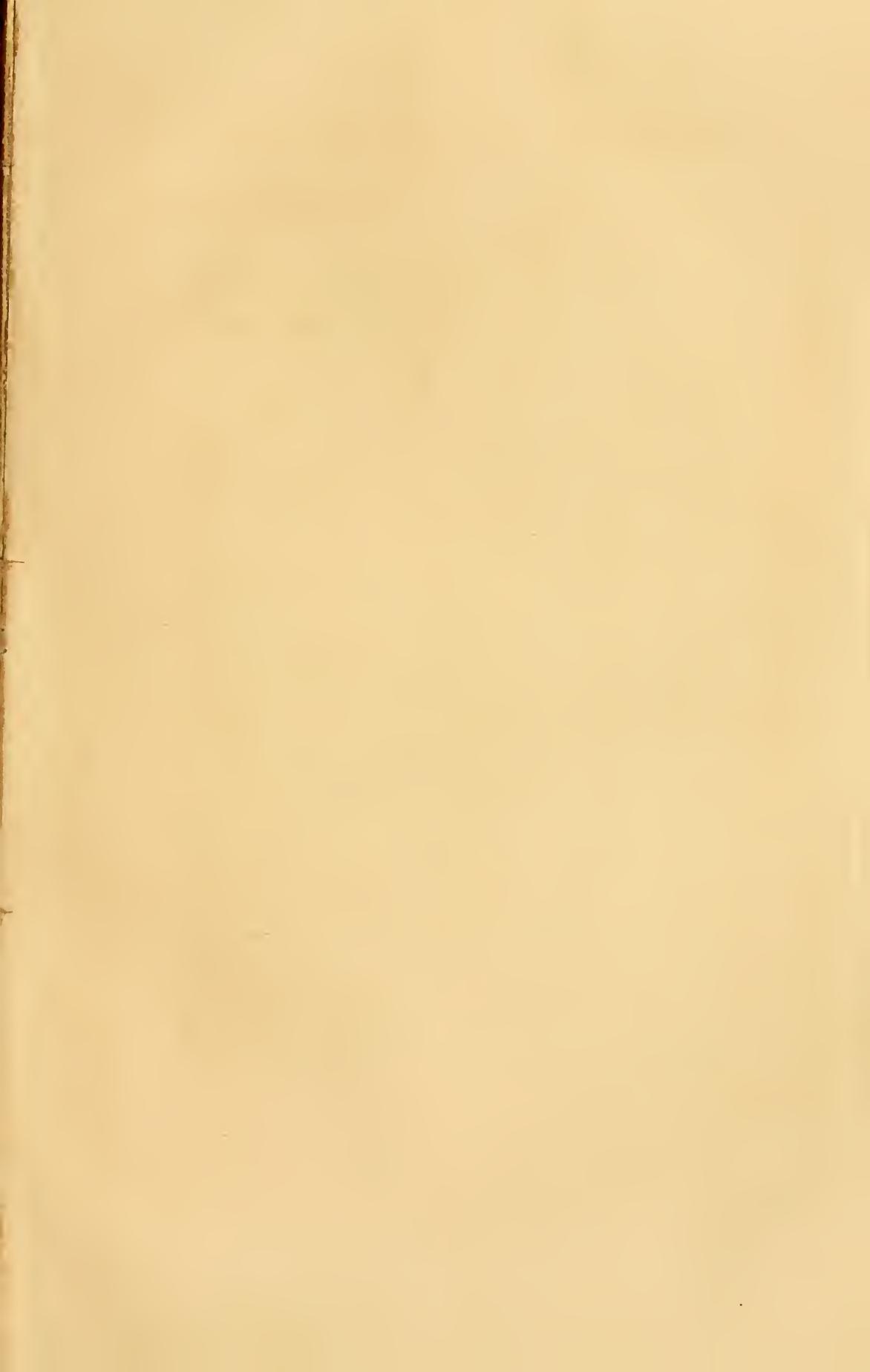
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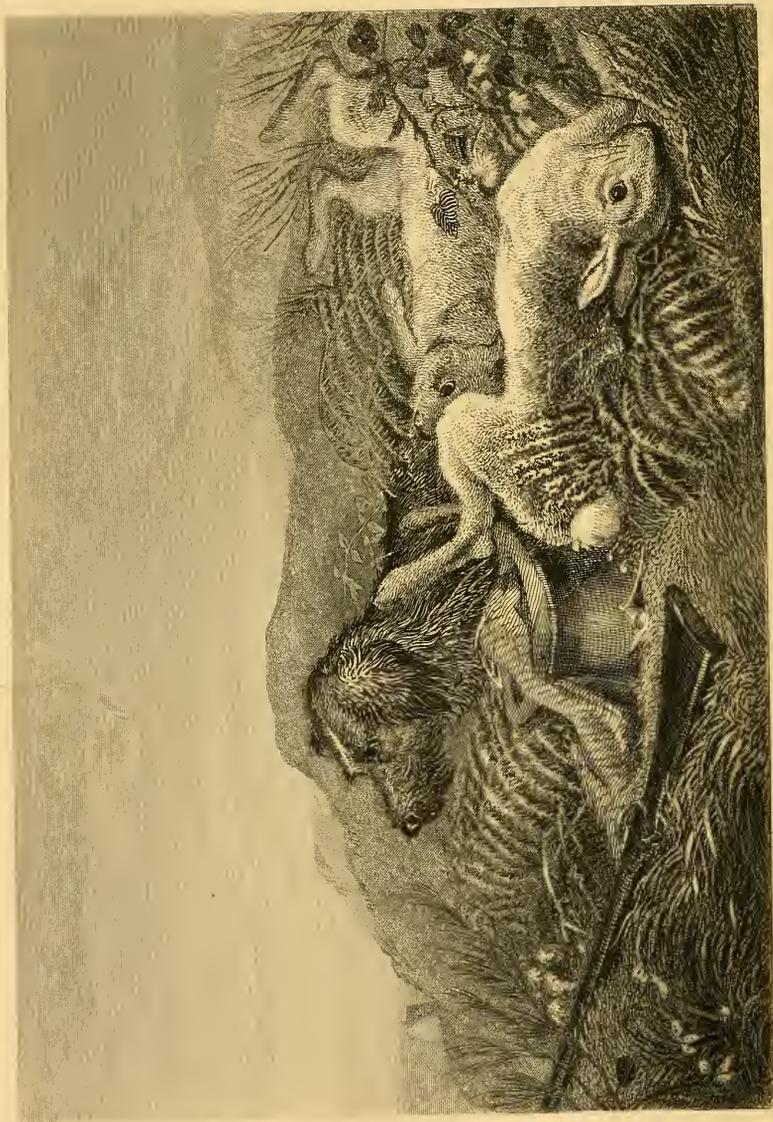
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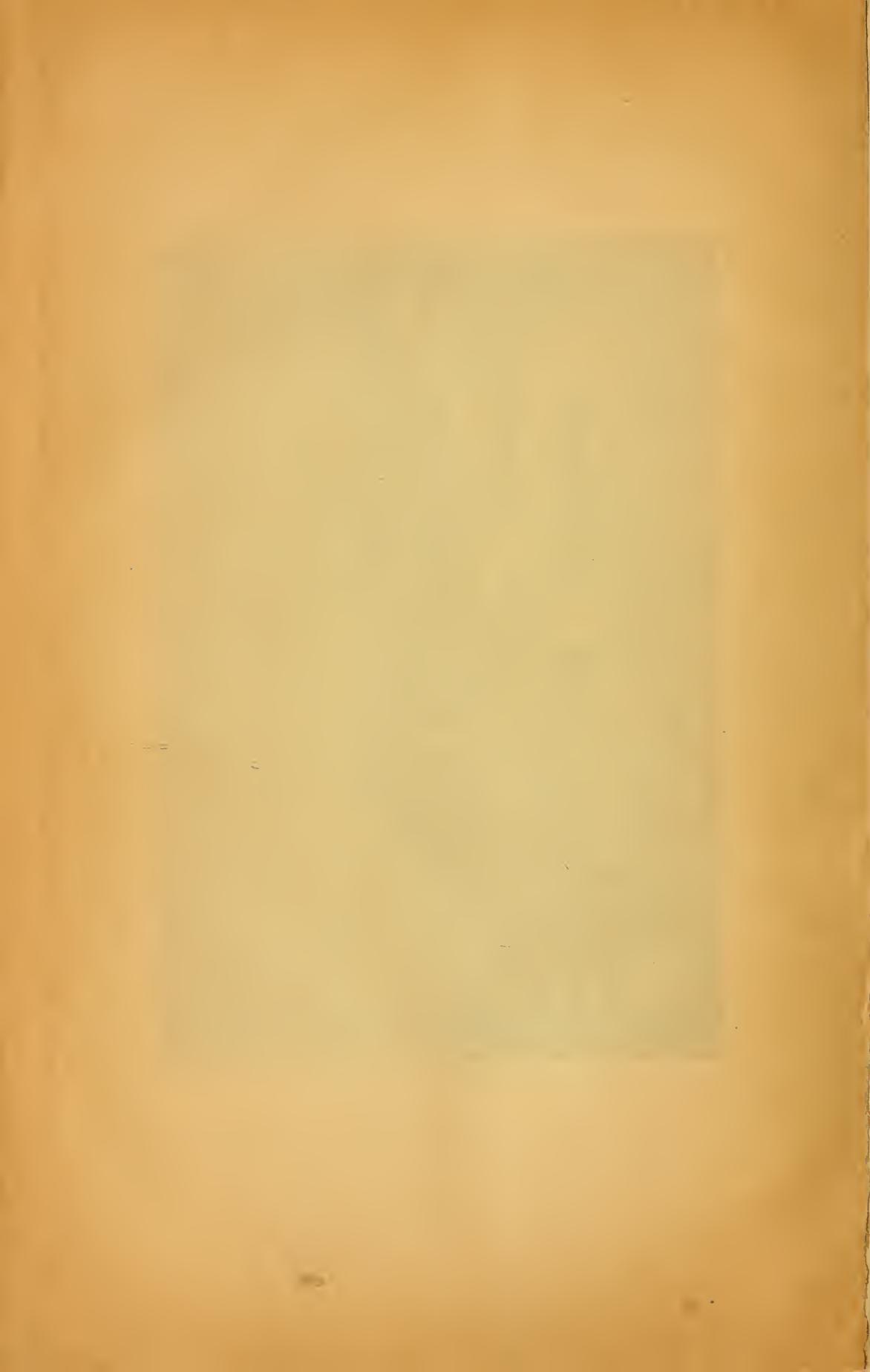






*Rabbits*





# THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

NOVEMBER, 1879.

## PLATE.

### R A B B I T S .

Zounds! say, whose hat is that? No hat? Suppose it is? A hat can do no harm without a head, nor a gun without a gunner! We hope our title "Rabbits" or the couple lying "dead as herrings that are red" will not irritate the greatest anti-rabbitite that ever peppered poor bunny, not with shot, but in a paper at the Farmers' Club, for like the hat, the rabbits could do no harm if they were alive on such a desolate looking waste as that in our plate, and of which there is a little too much in this fertile island of ours. Volumes have been written abusing the wild rabbit, but little on its usefulness, and consequently the silence of our suburban retreat is seldom broken now by the cry of "wild rabbits"

or "rabbits' skins." As the vermin has gone up in the market and is no longer to be had for eightpence, our "provision merchant" in a small way, who in a few years has become an owner of house property, while the producer is crying peccavi, charging sixteen or eighteenpence for one to curry, or to smother in sauce as white as snow, or what you will; while an opposition-shop near a West-end co-operative stores has some prime looking beef—brisket—in its window, ticketed fourpence halfpenny per pound. Put your hat on, warener, and consider whether it is possible, with wire fencing, to turn the rabbit and waste land to some good.

## LAND TENURE IN NORTH ITALY.

The best examples of Italian agriculture, are to be found in that northern portion of Italy, which still bears the name of the old kingdom of the Lombards. Since the land system of the United Kingdom has been said to be upon its trial the attention of our Sub-Commissioners will perhaps be extended to this remarkable region, although the information already attainable from official sources may be considered well-nigh exhaustive of the subject. The physical features of the country are varied in strong contrast by the great mountain chain of the Alps with their barren peaks, spreading out in successive ranges of hills until they sink into the level plain upon which the capital city stands. The lakes play likewise an important part in agriculture by irrigating the soil from their inexhaustible supplies of water. The products correspond to the diversities of situation and temperature. The sides of the mountains are for the most part covered with timber, or natural pasturages; the lower hills abound with the vine, mulberry, walnut, and various other fruit trees, barley, rye, millet, kitchen vegetables, hemp, and flax; whilst in the irrigated plains are Indian corn, wheat, rice, and immense numbers of horned cattle.

Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the forms of land tenure and methods of culture should be adapted to the different localities by an ingenious and talented race like the Italians. Amongst the hills property is much subdivided, for there it seems to need the utmost efforts of man to extract anything from the soil; whereas in the plains, so great is the natural fertility that the large proprietor can repose at his ease whilst his lands are managed by a bailiff, or are rented by a responsible tenant. Some small holdings, chiefly detached fields or meadow land, are held for a money rent in the mountain and hill districts and non-irrigated plains, but the general system of tenure is the metayer—"mezzadria," the "masseria" or "colonia." This peculiar arrangement, apparently the offspring of the Latin races, has been preserved for ages, with more or less modification, in Italy, in Southern France, and in Spain, and has therefore the sanction of long tried usage. In Lombardy the true "mezzadria" is only preserved in the province of Bergamo, where it extends not only into the mountain districts, but even over a large portion of the irrigated plain. The "mezzadria" is a contract between the owner of the soil and the peasant, by which the first gives a

habitable house suitable for farm uses, with a certain quantity of land not only under proper cultivation, but planted with mulberry trees and vines, the latter with their props. The peasant contributes his labour, also the working capital in seed, farm implements, and cattle. The produce of the soil is divided into equal shares between the two parties. The land tax and other taxes west of the Adda are generally divided into equal shares between proprietor and tenant; east of that river they are generally paid by the former. For the house and meadow land the rent is paid in money, and though the immediate products of the soil are shared equally between the peasant and proprietor, special stipulations often regulate the division of the grapes and the mulberry leaves, the latter the most important product of the territory. In all cases the total yield of the grapes, as well as of the cocoons, is handed over to the proprietor as the more capable of disposing of the produce to advantage, and he credits the metayer with his share. In addition to the rent and the share of the produce, there are certain extras, under the name of "appendizi," or "onoranze," which the metayer agrees to give to the proprietor. These consist of fowls, eggs, and so many days' labour or carriage of materials, if required, and are sometimes commuted for a sum of money. The association of four or five families, governed by a patriarchal head, and which at one time was characteristic of the system of "mezzadria," though still to be met with in some districts, is a custom that has greatly fallen off under the influence of modern civilisation.

To obviate certain inconveniences which affect the contract of "mezzadria" with special reference to the division of the multifarious products of the soil, a different contract has been substituted and prevails in the Upper Milanese and provinces of Como. The vines and cocoons are divided "a mezzadria," the money rent for the house and meadows and the "appendizi" are the same, but the immediate products of the soil are subjected to a fixed rent in kind, generally wheat, as the most marketable cereal, and the one less liable than the others to be injured by atmospheric influences, as being harvested before the season of hailstorms. In light soils, however, part of the rent is occasionally allowed to be paid in rye. Where this contract exists the peasants are divided into two classes—"massari" and "pigionante." The first, like the regular "metayer," possess cattle and ploughs and may still be found in the old patriarchal associations of four or five married couples. They still cultivate from five to fourteen hectares of land. The second class are only able to give manual labour, and cultivate from one to fourteen hectares.

A further modification of the "mezzadria" system is found in the province of Brescia, under the name of "terzeria" which alternates with the "mezzadria" throughout the second zone in that province. This tenure varies in the different localities. In some parts the produce of the vines and mulberry trees, as well as the immediate products of the soil, are divided into three parts. Of the first, mulberry leaves and grapes, the pro-

prietor takes two-thirds; of the grain, &c., the peasant takes two-thirds. In more sterile districts the grape and mulberry leaves are divided equally between proprietor and peasant, and the latter still retains two-thirds of the grain crops. In the eastern part of the province, however, the peasant becomes a mere "terzaniolo" and receives only one-third of all the products, or at most, half of the cocoons. The payment of rent on the "metayer" and similar tenancies is not regular. His share of the produce is duly conveyed by the metayer to the residence of the proprietor; but for the rest an open account is kept between the parties, which is finally settled is the termination of their connection, though it is made up on the 11th November of each year. Of late years, owing to the disease of the vine and the silkworm, nearly all the metayers are in arrears with their landlords.

The larger of the Lombard proprietors, in letting their farms, generally adopt one or other of the three following systems of contract for the recovery of their rents:—first, there is the Affetto in Denaro, or contract for the payment of the rent in coin—the plan preferred by the largest class of proprietors, the administrators of church land, of farms belonging to hospitals, of the estates of minors, and of communal property. Money rents are restricted, almost exclusively, to those great irrigated farms which require the constant superintendence of highly qualified men possessed of considerable capital. The system is rarely, if ever, adopted out of the irrigated districts. The cultivator or tenant is bound by his agreement to pay annually, in one or more payments, a fixed sum in money, which, of course, varies in every locality. He further obliges himself to make, during the period of his tenure, certain additions to the plantations, or such other internal improvements as may be agreed upon between himself and the proprietor. There are, in addition, almost invariably, certain small payments made in kind, such as a given quantity of rice, butter, poultry, &c.; and finally, it is usually provided that the tenant shall supply the means of transport to the proprietor, or general superintendent of the farm, when he visits it. Preparatory to the entrance of the tenant, the proprietor appoints an engineer to make a most elaborate statistical survey and valuation of the farm, with all its fixtures and stock. This document is a perfect record of the condition of the farm when the tenant receives it, and is locally termed the "Consegna." The tenant is at perfect liberty to associate an engineer of his own nomination with the party employed by the proprietor—a right which is frequently exercised. In the "consegna," the engineer describes every field separately, indicating its position, form, size, cultivation, enclosures, the canals, sluices, bridges, roads, paths, buildings, with all their furniture and fittings. The plantations of mulberry, &c., are numbered tree by tree, and are divided into separate classes according to their quality and dimensions, each class having an established value. If at the termination of the lease, which varies from nine to eighteen years, the plantations have decreased, the tenant is debited with

the value of the difference; while on the other hand, if they have increased, the value of this increase is placed to his credit.

When the period of the lease expires, the engineers are again summoned to frame another survey, which is termed the "reconsegna." In this the same minute details are entered into as in the "consegna." A comparison is then substituted between these two documents, and a "bilancio," or balance-sheet, showing the differences between them, is prepared. In this balance-sheet, every deterioration and every amelioration are exhibited, with the money value placed upon them by the engineer; the tenant finds himself debited with the first, and credited with the second, and has either to pay to, or receive from, his landlord certain sums, according to the results of his own administration of the farm he has held. This system is said by those who have watched its progress, to work admirably and having been so long established disputes are very rare indeed, the relative position of the parties being thoroughly understood. It maintains a very satisfactory state of feeling between the two classes; for the tenant is encouraged to invest any capital he may have in improving the farm, being sure of seeing a just return for it, while the landlord has his property permanently benefited by the labours of an intelligent and interested man.

#### CANADA.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date October 3rd:—No utterance of a British statesman has, for many years, caused such merriment and sarcasm as Lord Beaconsfield's Aylesbury speech. The *Stratford* (Ontario) *Beacon* says Lord Beaconsfield has "made himself the laughing-stock of all civilised countries." In the comments of another journal (the *Chicago Tribune*), there is a point not to be ignored. It remarks:—"The Canadian Ministers recently in England seem to have stuffed Earl Beaconsfield with brilliant descriptions of the agricultural, pastoral, and industrial resources of the vast empty regions of British North America. He took the first opportunity to reproduce the gorgeous picture for the benefit of the British public, most of whom are as ignorant as the Earl himself of the relative bigness and littleness of the United States and Canada." It is a truth that nine out of ten people at home have so little knowledge of colonial matters that they are prepared to swallow any fiction imposed on them by the paid emigration agent, the commission worker of steam-packet companies, the land shark, and other interests. This ignorance is due in a large degree to the apathy of the leading British journals on emigration and colonial matters, through which, for a long time, certain interests have had it all their own way manufacturing public opinion, and saturating the public mind at home with fallacies, assumptions, and falsehoods. It is only by reading the annual Blue-books, and watching events closely, a person can realise the strength, activity, and subtlety of the vast colonial touting organisations supported by lavish outlay; sending their agents hither and thither, distributing their one-sided literature through a thousand channels, subsidising the newspapers by advertisements, &c.; and while they command ready insertion for their own specious articles and reports, managing to ensure rejection of contrary statements. This powerful, compact array of "promoters" manages so that, save at rare

intervals, and under exceptional circumstances, not an item of intelligence subversive of their own plausible *ex parte* and craftily got up presentment shall transpire. Can we wonder then that Lord Beaconsfield and his auditors in Bucks were in the same boat of mystification and credulity? The Canadian *Punch* has a cartoon showing in the background thousands of settlers pouring into the States, while Sir John Macdonald says to five farmers' delegates in the front—"There you observe the American Western landowners, pouring into our great and illimitable North-western wilderness, as Dizzy told you, 'on high authority.'" The delegates have a perplexed look, which shows they don't "see it." The cartoon is headed "Somebody's joke" and is very good.

A cablegram, dated Sept. 26, informs us that a third party of delegate farmers sailed for Canada from Liverpool that day. They represent portions of Scotland, and the Northern, Eastern, and Western counties in England. (It is said that the selection of the delegates has rested with the emigration agents in Britain.) All the delegates here are absolutely in the hands and under the guidance of men largely interested in securing a favourable report. For instance, those taken to Manitoba have gone under the convoy of Mr. Schultz, M.P.P., who is actually President of a North-Western Colonisation Society! This will give you an idea how things are going. The *Winnipeg New Era* naively says:—"It would be a work of supererogation on our part to commend them to the hospitality and kind attention of Manitobans." Referring to Messrs. Pell and Read, the same journal says:—"We are informed that Mr. Pell and Mr. Read, two members of the English Parliament—sent here by the Imperial Government to inquire into the agricultural prospects afforded by Manitoba and the North-West—will arrive here in a few days. It is the interest of all Manitobians to facilitate as much as possible their important mission, as the report they make is certain to have a material influence on British immigration to this part of the Dominion. We regard the arrival of these Imperial Commissioners as one of the good results accomplished by the recent visit to England of Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues." It is evident that our officials and public writers have determined in their own minds that Messrs. Pell and Read are merely Emigration Commissioners under another name. That the delegates, unless they are of the Taylor and Clayden stamp, will be stuffed with tales similar in absurdity to those Earl Beaconsfield had put into him there is no doubt. So much depends on a favourable report from them that no stone will be left unturned to get it—the money-stone included.

A cablegram in Monday's Toronto papers says that American sheep are to be put under embargo because of foot-and-mouth disease. Some people here have jumped to the conclusion that Canada will be excepted. This, however, is a hasty assumption. Despite the fictitious *re* our "native" sheep exports to Britain, your Privy Council are, doubtless, aware the "Canadian" sheep business is like the cattle business—largely based on American importations into the Dominion. But even if sheep escape this slaughter edict so far as Canada is concerned, the restrictions on the importations into and transit of Jonathan's animals through the Dominion, now applied to beeves' will have to be extended to Canada, because our dealers will seize the opportunity for even larger exports of American sheep. Indeed, it is probable they will use active exertions to get in as many thousand as possible at once in case of accidents. The report of the Dominion Parliamentary Committee on cattle exports from Canada (which you have reprinted from the *Times*) is a refreshing illustration of the buncombe statements I have often exposed. In that report it is now coolly admitted

that "10,000 or 12,000 beasts" comprehend the entire surplus stock for export of Ontario and Quebec together! Yet Mr. Dyke wanted the home public to believe the Dominion exported more than 32,000 in 1878. Similarly, we are now asked to believe that the Dominion is sending more than 40,000 native sheep to Britain in 1879—though we only sent 11,988 for the fiscal year ending June, 1878. However, it is useless discussing Canadian sheep or cattle statistics, they carry their own reputation with them, and sooner or later prove boomerangs for those who evolve them.

I do not anticipate much useful or trustworthy information will result to your intending agricultural emigrants from the "delegates" now here, or from those to come. Everything will depend on the manner of men they are. They were invited out to be humbugged, and humbugged they will be, unless they are the right sort. They come at the wrong season of the year, stay too short a time, and are wholly in the hands of the interests and officials. They ought to have come out incog. as emigrants, and gone through the experience of emigrants, as Mr. Weld, of the *Farmers' Advocate*, lately did in Manitoba. The bright dry air of this continent, so charming at first to visitors, especially in the fall, has in time an irritating and weakening effect. The *Newark* (Ontario) *Advertiser* writes on this head:—"Excellent medical authority shows that the strain of business, added to the dryness of this climate, has so changed the constitution that it is impossible for us to do what our fathers did safely. We are, in Dr. Beard's view, ten degrees more sensitive to cold than we were. There is an immense increase in neuralgia, sick headache, hay fever, nervous exhaustion, and depression. Our systems are high-strung and nervous." So emigrants are wanted to do the hard work.

Various Englishmen who came out when I did are dead, or their wives. One ages in this dry air very rapidly. I mentioned recently that the temperature would change 40 degrees in one day. As this might to many seem a "tall tale," I may say that last month it fell from 85 degrees in Toronto to 39 degrees in one day (*Globe*, September 19), equivalent to a change in England from summer to winter at once. The effect on the constitution is most serious.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The letters of your Canadian correspondent, notwithstanding the many rebuffs he has received, continue to be so outrageously biased, and frequently so absurdly inaccurate, whilst the influence of your powerful journal lends them a weight their intrinsic merit would never give them, that I feel constrained to avail myself of the fair and candid offer which you made some time ago, and to attempt a systematic reply to them.

I am not so madly in love with Canada as to suppose that in that country, and in no other, man can be happy and contented, but if I really thought so, I could not be more beyond the one extreme of reason and common sense than your correspondent is at the other. His hostility to Canada, from whatever cause it may spring, is simply blind, rabid, mad! He sticks at nothing that can serve his purpose—hesitates not to twist statistics into a meaning that they never possessed to any mind but his; culls "tit bits" from reports without saying what the general, broad, comprehensive views of those who write are; in fact anything and everything is fish that comes to his net provided there be in it something which by an execrating twist can be converted into a sneer, or a laugh, or a gibe, or a libel against Canada. I have already shown how utterly unreliable his statistics about cattle raising in the Dominion were; figures which, as his reply showed, he was utterly unable to substantiate. In his last letter, appearing

in your issue of Monday last, in another quotation of figures which I unhesitatingly declare to be given with a deliberate intention to deceive, and you know what is the plainer English of that phrase, he says: "Moreover, 16,183 emigrants from Canada, chiefly agricultural, left one Canadian port (Sarnia) last year for the States, and the stream of labourers is steady and continuous from the Dominion." That paragraph, I say, is a deliberate intention to deceive. Does he not know that "Sarnia" is the western terminus of the Grand Trunk Railway, the shortest route to Chicago, the great emporium of the West, and that yearly many thousands of emigrants from Europe pass through Canada on their way to the West? Does he or does he not include these in his total? Again, there is, undoubtedly, an exodus of back-wood farmers from Ontario to Manitoba, the new prairie state; and, for men with a little money, Sarnia lies on the best and quickest, if not the cheapest, route for Manitoba. Did he include in his 16,183 the emigrants not for the States but for Manitoba? We should scarcely say that a man who was leaving Liverpool for London, and chose the Great Western route, which passes through the Principality, had emigrated to Wales, and yet it would be as reasonable as this information of your correspondent's. But I do not rest my case on that alone. On referring to the Canadian Year-Book for 1879, and the Report of the Department of Agriculture for 1878, I find that during the twelve years (1866-78) over 500,000 persons passed through Canada, or an average of over 40,000 a year. But the statistics bear this singular feature, that, whereas up to 1872 the number of immigrants settling in Canada was far below (in some years not one-fourth as many) the number of those who simply passed through on their way to regions beyond, the state of things since 1872 has been completely reversed, so much so that during the four years, 1875-6, 7 and 8, of the total number of persons who entered Canada (136,964) no fewer than 99,998 remained in the Dominion, and only 36,966 went beyond. Now I ask whether, in the name of common sense, these figures do not give direct denial to the paragraph I have quoted? These singular figures also appear for 1878:—Arrived in Canada, via the Suspension-bridge, 12,685; that is, so many poor-deluded creatures left the Dominion of the *New York Herald*, and the Paradise of your correspondent's imagination, for poor, stricken Canada. But then, what are 12,000 opinions to one, so long as that one is the opinion of your correspondent? The same year 3,500 persons entered Manitoba from the States, but the report assumes that one half only of those were actually from the States! I wish your correspondent would only be that "half" as honest. Of course I shall not be surprised if your correspondent assails all the figures I have given, as mere garbled compilations made for a purpose; but, good Heavens! who is he, and what is he, that he should be always right, and everybody else who ventures to see one good thing in Canada always and altogether wrong? From Earl Beaconsfield downwards, even to the present writer, all who have a good word to say for poor, benighted Canada are, according to your correspondent, either fools or knaves.

But, if he does not mind, he will be going a step too far. Does he really mean to insinuate that the members of a Royal Commission, sent out to report to the Crown, are either gullible fools or mendacious knaves? Is he so utterly oblivious to the state of things here as not to know that the very appointment of that Commission was brought about by the pressure of hard, very hard, times here, times which, so far as the farming interest is concerned, have been mainly brought about by two things—the heavy burthens on the land here, and the severe competition of Canadian and American productions?

If your correspondent were much of a logician, he would see, even with half an eye, that if Canadian farmers can hold their own on the one hand with their States competitors, and utterly undersell British farmers with the other, they must, in some respects at least, have material advantages. Will your correspondent be candid and honest enough to say what they are?

Your correspondent has a ferocious attack on the Eastern townships, based, as I take it from his letter, on laboriously compiled statistics from the Census of 1870. I am really very sorry for the trouble he has taken; but it was quite in vain. He might as well have drawn up a report on the present food requirements of the metropolis based on the Census of 1850. The one would have been about as reliable as the other. Then he draws a woeful picture of the poverty and meagre outfit of the land occupiers of that district; but he has not the "gumption" to see that by all he says this question is inevitably suggested: If with her miserably poor population, her wretched climate, her impoverished soil, her mosquitoes, and black flies, and all her catalogue of woes, Canada can literally run away from the British producer in the competitive race, what might not the British producer, now being fast ruined at home, achieve there, with his free land, his strong arms, his farming skill, and the remnant of his capital left to make a start?

I have, I feel, written quite enough for one letter. There are a host of points, even in your correspondent's last lucubration, which require comment; but if you will kindly allow me, I will reserve them for another letter.

I am Sir, yours, &c.,

J. M.

[Certainly; but "J. M." must refrain from imputations of deliberate falsehood.—ED.]

### MR. WALTER, M.P.; ON RENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The deliberate expression of opinion by Mr. Walter, at Maidenhead that rents are not likely to fall permanently and that the agricultural depression is but a passing cloud, seems to my mind strangely inconsistent with the facts before us. Now men whose land has been held by several generations of their family, men of commercial ability who are not likely to be carried away by panics, are giving up their farms in all parts of the country. Many of these farms remain in the hands of the owners, or are relet at considerably reduced rents. Mr. Walter himself expresses his determination to lay his land down by grass rather than accept any permanent reduction, and advises farmers to face the probability of having to abandon the cultivation of wheat.

For my own part I cannot believe that the farmers of England could display such shortsightedness and unwonted timidity if the depression were not accepted by them as arising from causes which, if not permanent, are at least beyond their control.

Many minor causes have no doubt been in operation, but I can see in the present state of affairs only the natural result of the legislation of the past.

*The cause of the agricultural depression is free trade in corn,* and the few bad years we have had, culminating in the disastrous season of 1879, have only brought matters to a crisis. I am not here entering on the broad general question of Free Trade *v.* Protection. I am quite willing to allow that free trade in corn has been a national boon, and that this very season most strikingly illustrates the reality of that boon; but, Sir, by whom has the cost of this great blessing been hitherto paid? By the country

generally? Certainly not. The country has been quietly and contentedly enjoying its cheap loaf. By the labourers? Again no. They were never so well off as at the present time. By the landowners? Most assuredly not, for until recently farms were in demand at steadily increasing prices and rentals.

Sir, the cost, and almost the whole cost, of the great experiment of free trade in corn has been borne by the tenant farmers, and by them alone. For a generation they have struggled manfully on, adopting improved implements, trying various systems of cultivation, practically testing the innumerable suggestions that were made to them, and endeavouring by every means in their power to stem the tide of competition which has been, and is, rolling in upon them with steadily increasing force. Such a state of things could not continue beyond a certain point. It is bad enough for owners to be called upon to face a reduction in the fair  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 per cent. on their capital which they now receive, but surely it is worse still for men who devote their whole time and energy to their business to find as a result the rapid absorption of the capital itself. The crisis has come somewhat suddenly and the pressure, which has so long and heavily fallen on the occupier, is now coming on those upon whom it must ultimately fall, viz., the owners.

The process is a simple commercial one. Land *was* the factory offered in the market at a rental calculated on a protective tariff, low-priced labour, and moderate taxes. Land *is* the factory offered in the market at a rental which must now be calculated on free trade prices, dearer labour, and greatly increased taxation, for, as you well remark, whatever may be done on a small scale the "bulk of the farms of this country will be let to tenants at whatever amounts the incidence of demand and supply will put upon them, however small these rents may be."

If then, as I maintain, the burden of all legislative measures which press unduly on the land must ultimately fall on the owners, they are working in their legitimate sphere in seeking for their removal. It is for the owners to render their factory as marketable and valuable as possible, and it is for the tenants to consider what rent, after a due consideration of the conditions laid down, and the probable receipts and outgoings they can fairly afford to pay; and this leads me to a conclusion at which I am well aware the great majority will take exception. If the owners cannot obtain sufficient relief from legislative burdens, and especially from that great and ever increasing legislative burden of free trade in corn, by any other means, I cannot conceive why they should hesitate to demand, and do battle for some kind of return to that protective policy which has been so widely condemned, or why they should be deterred or daunted by the frantic outcry, or supercilious sarcasm, of those who are content to enjoy the benefits of free trade at the ruinous cost of others.

I believe the time is not far distant when the country must choose between an abandonment of the principle of free trade *in its entirety*, and a considerable depreciation in the value of land.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. BULSTRODE.

Mount Farm, Cookham Dean, Oct. 14th, 1879.

ANTI-RENT AGENTS.—The *Cork Examiner* states that at the recent demonstration at Navan, attended by Mr. Parnell, M.P., Mr. W. H. O'Sullivan, M.P., Mr. A. M. Sullivan M.P., and Mr. O'Connor Power, M.P., "a notable feature in the procession was a wagonette, in which about a dozen men with blackened faces were seated."

ILLICIT DISTILLING IN AMERICA.—Referring to illicit distilling in North Carolina the *International Revenue Bureau* says:—"The time of the ripening of corn is come, and the mash of the moonshiner is smelt in the land."

## A TENANT-RIGHT CONTROVERSY.

The *Dumfries Courier* commented as follows upon the Duke of Argyll's first letter to the *Spectator*.

We print in another column a letter addressed by the Duke of Argyll to the *Spectator* on the subject of unexhausted improvements, together with a note appended by the editor of that journal. The note exhibits the *Spectator's* characteristic incapacity rightly to apprehend or accurately to report any opinion with which it does not agree; but as the subject is one of great importance, and the Duke of Argyll's opinions concerning it are misapprehended by many people besides the *Spectator*, it may be worth while to examine the process by which it imagines itself to have scored a triumph. It proceeds, as will be observed, by analogy, and it chooses analogies which break down precisely at the point of dispute. When a man borrows £10,000 to carry on trade he has no difficulty whatever in keeping the principal and the stipulated interest entirely separate from his own profits. At the end of his term he pays back the £10,000 without pretending for an instant that it is more valuable than when he borrowed it. But the whole Tenant-right dispute hinges upon the facts that when a man borrows ten thousand pounds' worth of land he may return it worth twelve thousand or only worth eight, and that the increment or loss of value may be due to a variety of causes. The other analogy of a doctor's house in Harley Street is equally perverse. The Duke of Argyll does not say that the owner of the house should have a share of the doctor's fees in addition to the rent. What he does say, if we analogically extend his opinions, is that while a house previously occupied by a physician in good practice will command a higher rent from the next physician who takes it than if it had not been professionally occupied, yet that the occupier who incidentally conferred upon it this increased value has no right at the end of his lease to demand compensation up to the full extent of the increment. If a man takes a farm worth £10,000 and spends £1,000 in improvements, the resulting increase of value, if there be any, is exclusively due neither to one parcel of money nor to the other. The landlord's capital and the tenant's capital have equally contributed to the result; and no ingenuity can apportion the share due to each. But, says the Duke, the tenant is secured in absolute enjoyment of the whole increased value for a term of years long enough to satisfy him that his investment would pay; and he has no right to refuse the landlord, in his turn, the enjoyment of the composite results. It is true that he paid for the loan of the landlord's capital, but it is also true that he got all its produce for the term he paid for. If at the end of his lease he can demand the capital value of any increase of rent that may arise, he obtains not merely the use of the land but a share in the fee-simple. At the same time, unless we much misapprehend the Duke of Argyll, he is perfectly ready to pay to any outgoing tenant whatever is the fair purchase money of an improvement fifteen or nineteen years old. So long as this is done the tenant cannot lose by anything he may do in the way of improving the estate, and must gain in precise proportion to the business acumen shown in the outlay of his money. But to pay him for the value of an improvement calculated upon its original cost and the work since got out of it, is one thing. To pay a man the capital value of a yet unrecieved increment of rent which is partly due to his and partly to the landlord's capital, is quite another thing. The first payment is one whose justice all fair-minded men must admit, and which, according to the Duke of Argyll, has been fairly made in all the specific cases he has investigated. The second payment is simply an ingenious form of piecemeal confiscation, which would produce first a fictitious inflation of rents yielding the landlord no increase of profit; and second, a complete collapse of the existing agricultural system in which all alike would suffer severely.

Mr. J. McCulloch, of Deaie Mains, Lockerbie, wrote in reply:—

The Duke of Argyll is not sure that after publishing essays and pamphlets on this question he has succeeded in converting to his views as many as will prevent such discussion as may bring it to a justly successful issue, and thus in the *Spectator* he returns to the charge with all his old effrontery and misrepresentation.

The Duke reiterates the statement that, as a rule, such improvements are executed by the landlords which, even if true is no good reason for withholding a payment from those tenants who form the minority of improvers. In general, he says they are executed as the result of direct bargain—it not being difficult to decide that as the tenant presumably pays a higher rent on account of specific improvements they are indirectly paid for by the tenant. The improvement is one of the bases of the rent, which if well calculated will return capital and interest. He says that the owner often by a reduced rent is, where a specific improvement is executed by the tenant, the real improver, and here he is perfectly correct; but at the same time the Duke cannot point to a tenant-right advocate of note who claims for an improvement specified in an agreement. But no reference is made to the most general way of all—the tenant paying a rent charge which redeems in twenty-five years both the capital and interest. Whether—in the absence of agreement—is this done by the landlord or the tenant? by the latter at least to the extent to which the charge exceeds the running interest of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. But it is principally the improvements executed by means of the capital and skill of the tenant which involve a claim for compensation, and in equity it may safely be presumed that to the extent of the value to his successor he has a right at the end of the term—the present legal presumption which in accordance with the old and unjust legal maxim, "*Quicquid plantatur solo, solo cedit*," gives the unexhausted value to the landlord can mean nothing but confiscation. For the contribution the landlord in this case makes has no connection either with compensation for improvement, or damages for deterioration—the land is furnished alike to improving and non improving tenants, and is alike in each case met by a previously-arranged counterpart—the rent. The Duke had better not talk too much about the capital invested in the feudal estates—a pair of gilt spurs or a snowball at mid-winter is not a large capital; but this is beside the question at issue.

Again he stumbles on to the lease as a security for improvements; but it can be shown that the length of tenure and the rent are considered in connection, and the larger rent and the longer tenure are no more than a smaller rent and shorter tenure associated with subsequent improvements. It is no good argument to say that the longer lease gives better opportunity for recouping profits—the extended tenure and corresponding high rents evidently contemplate it. If the Duke can in "no specific case" find out that the attributing to their landlords of taking tenants improvements over without compensation is just, then I will have pleasure in showing them to him by the score; and I venture to say from what I have learned from undoubted authority, the Duke's own estates offer no exception. The tenant claims only the value unexhausted at the end of his term and solely due to his capital and skill, and it will take much better argument than has yet been adduced to prove that the landlord's land has in any unpaid manner contributed so as justly to claim a share.

The *Spectator* is not happy in its analogous case. When a doctor adds to the rental of a house by an improved practice, it must not be forgotten he could either himself take another in the vicinity or sell his practice at its full value to one who would be in a similar position. His capital in his personal talents is easily removable to a new sphere, and if that sphere is not far removed the house belonging to the Duke of Portland might even fall in value, and it does not appear that the doctor is to be liable for the reduction. The tenant farmer's case is different; his mixing up capital with the landlord's is an inevitable incidence of modern cultivation—at the end of his tenure it is not removable, and can only be realised by a representative estimated value in money. And while he claims for the value added and unexhausted at the end of his term, he is ready to admit and pay for deterioration.

But in your leader there are some statements which may lead to confusion of thought with both landlord and tenant readers, and to which I would refer. There is no doubt but that, as you say, the whole question hinges on the return of land to its owner improved or deteriorated, and which may be due to a variety of causes; but it must be made clear that a tenant's claim rests on the value added, independently of the market value giving either increment or loss—it rests on its own independent basis of added value. No doubt the value of land in the market might influence the valuers in fixing it; still the question nakedly put remains—compensation for added value to the tenant and for reduced value to the landlord. The

tenant's rent is the true offset to the landlord's soil; the latter cannot—because it is by rent already thried—contribute anything on behalf of him who has parted with it for a fixed term. The difference between Tenant-right and a fee simple is this—the former is only the same as fixtures or a manure heap transferred to a successor for money payment, and in no way interferes with either the original potential energies of the soil or the increment or loss accruing through market value; while the latter at once interferes with both.

If you know no more of the Duke than fancy he admits a fair purchase money value for any improvement at all, you will on following him through the pamphlets of the Cobden Club and Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, come to a different conclusion. His main arguments are that, as Scotch farmers are *without knowing it*, farming under the exceptional securities of *low rents*, and rendered still more secure by *long leases* (presumably without paying for them), compensation for added value would be paying twice over for the same improvement. Moreover, he takes quite a paternal interest in the tenant when it suits him; he warns the tenant that if compensation were legalised, it would be discounted in the rent market—rather a different tune from the “preferential” rents about which he (the tenant) does not know; but concerning which the landlord, being behind the scenes, can tell him. I would like much to know by what rule of political economy landlords take less from some than is offered by others “equally good in every respect.” All through, the Duke is a special pleader for class privilege, and his sophistical arguments and bad political economy go far to blind those who are unable or do not take the care to evolve at first hand the solution of a problem no doubt difficult, but not nearly so complicated as some would make it appear. The Duke, however, ignores—it would not suit him—the right of the State to hold the balance equally between the contracting parties. The present unjust presumption can only be altered by Act of Parliament; and with about one *bona fide* tenant farmer representative in the Commons and none in the Lords, it is not difficult to see that if discussion outside legislature doors can be stifled, or driven into false grooves, there is a prospect of class privilege attaching itself for a long time yet to dealings in land. Freedom of contract, at all times desirable, cannot control a contract in which one of the parties is by law protected from the necessities of “commercial dealings.”

To pay a tenant on the scale you indicate would be a dangerous one for the landlord. The “original cost” and “work since got” might be such as to saddle the landlord with a large payment for an unremunerative improvement. This kind of compensation might, often would, be unjust to the landlord; the other, of which you disapprove, would mete out justice to both. And as the Duke argues, the second would, and justly so far, be discounted in increased rent, and how the landlord would not receive it I cannot see. Surely our land system is weak if it will not bear the strain of the landlord reaping the increment arising through improvements less the portion due to, and which had not been fully reaped by, the previous tenant. The error of counting the land an unpaid contributory has been fully exposed.

I would, however, refer your readers who are interested in the question to some pamphlets in which the Duke is effectually answered—viz., two published by Seton and Mackenzie, of Edinburgh, for Mr. Goodlet, of Bolshan, a farmer of Liberal politics; and “Clodhopper,” the *nom de plume* of a Conservative laird and law agent. Another by Mr. Bear, the editor of the *Mark Lane Express*, and published at 265, Strand, London, is well worth perusing.

Apologising for advancing views so widely different from your own and those of our worthy champion of the landlords, the Duke of Argyll.

The *Courier* rejoined:—

In another place will be found a letter dealing with the Duke of Argyll's opinions and the remarks made thereon in this column last week. Our correspondent's apology for advancing views differing from our own is entirely superfluous, since the columns of the *Courier* are not exclusively devoted to advocacy of any class or interest. They are open for the discussion of questions affecting the common weal, and variety of opinion is welcomed rather than avoided. The Duke of Argyll's letter, though incidentally touching upon various disputed points, aimed at enforcing his opinion upon one only;

and that a narrow though highly important one. The letter was so understood by the *Spectator*, which accurately seized upon the point of the Duke's letter though it did not accurately report what he said about it. Our remarks last week dealt solely with that point, and referred to others only by way of placing the actual controversy clearly before a reader's mind. Our correspondent, however, opens up as substantive issues a whole host of questions as to which we are nowise concerned just now to decide whether the Duke of Argyll be right or wrong. The question at issue is simply this—granting that tenant-farmers have a right to compensation for unexhausted improvements, on what principle should that compensation be assessed? The Duke may have said and done many wrong things, and it is certainly no part of our business to defend his general conduct. But in raising the question in this *form*, and in affirming, however erroneously, that fair compensation has been paid in all the cases he has investigated, he tacitly admits that there ought to be compensation. His point was that no matter what the tenant may do to the soil, any increase of productiveness must be due to the conjoint influence of his and the landlord's applied capital. It is quite immaterial that the owner's ancestors may have got the land upon easy terms; though we may observe in passing that the gilt spur which may have formed the quittance to the crown was not the consideration for which possession was granted. The essential point just now is that the landlord's property in the soil will usually sell in the market for five times what the most liberal tenant puts upon it; and that increased productiveness must therefore be due at least as much to what the tenant found as to what he brought. During the currency of his lease the tenant reaps the full benefit of the improvement which thus results from a combination of forces; and he has a full right to do so since he pays during that period for the use of the soil. But the Duke argues that he has no right after he has ceased to pay for the use of the soil, to continue to reap the joint produce of the landlord's capital and his own. This is what he would do were he paid the capitalised value of any increase of rental following his improvements, even if the impossible task were accomplished of separating what is due to that cause from what is due to the fluctuations of the market. The main point to be settled is really one of theory, since there are endless disturbing causes in practice. If a man by adding a thousand pounds in improvements to ten thousand pounds' worth of land produces a given rise of value altogether apart from other causes, is he or is he not entitled at the end of his lease to claim the whole added value as his own? Our correspondent says he is; the Duke says he is not, and we are disposed, as at present advised, to agree with the Duke. We should say that the tenant is entitled to all he can make out of soil and improvement while he pays rent, and then to the reimbursement of capital expended, less such allowance for wear and tear as a prudent man would have made on a series of years. If payment on this principle would be dangerous for the landlord, there seems the less need for tenants to object to it. Landlords, we imagine, would prefer such an arrangement to paying down at the end of every lease the cash value of an annuity which they would have to take the chances of realising during the next twenty years. Our correspondent is greatly mistaken if he thinks that improvements can be paid for in either way without telling on the rent. None of the compensation schemes in vogue can put money into the pockets of the farming class; though they may enrich individual members. Profit to the class can only be made during the currency of a lease or occupancy by judicious treatment of the soil. Whatever A gets by way of compensation for unexhausted improvements will, in one way or another, be repaid by B. Otherwise tenants as a class would have solved the problem—which the Duke is accused of grappling with—of getting their capital counted twice over.

Mr. McCulloch again writes to sustain his view of the question, as follows:—

It is a matter for congratulation among tenant-farmers that such authorities as the *Dumfries Courier* and the Duke of Argyll have begun to admit the justice and expediency of reducing to practice the principle of compensation for tenants' improvements—the only difficulty being the mode of assessing the amount.

I tried to show the difficulties attached to “cost” and “work since got,” compared with the increased value to sell

or let without reference to national increment or loss, but from the leading article with which I was honoured, I infer that I must have been unsuccessful and now attempt like the *Spectator* to illustrate by an analogous case. A horse-dealer lends to separate farmers two horses for the summer's work the grazing to be free, but with an implied compensation for improvement made on the animals. The one spends £5 in extra food and gets back £10 worth of work; the other spends £10 and gets back £5 worth of work, and when the delivery takes place both horses have increased in value by 20 per cent. An arbiter is called in to decide as to the amount claimed. Will he say that the one who spent £10 is entitled to double compensation of the one who only spent £5, or that the one who got £10 value of work should only get the half of the one who got £5? Certainly not. He will, if a shrewd arbiter, lay aside these considerations and assess on the basis of market value, independent however, of a rise or fall accruing from a national market. But consider drainage as an improvement; it may be executed at a great cost from the channels being too deep, and if too wide apart, one between may be needed to render it effectual; is this cost, even though backed by Government and other authorities, to be an element in calculating compensation when the arbiter—most likely a good practical judge knows well enough that from 30 to 50 per cent. of the cost is entirely unproductive. So with cakes and feeding stuffs, the cost of the stuff itself or even of the manurial residue gives no reliable data for fixing the value of the unexhausted constituents at the change of occupancy.

Then as to "work since got"; some drainage might recoup the cost—is compensation to be stamped out and the tenants skill and energy to go unrewarded; some again might as it often does give meagre returns during the first year or two—is that a good reason for saddling the successor with an augmented compensation payment? In the case of feeding stuffs the work got may be small in some seasons, large in others—is either of them to effect the residue value? But worse even in a practical light is the fact that the work since got is quite inextricable, for who can tell where the influence of a drain begins or ends, or how and where will be divided the effects of manure from those of season?

A detailed cost and date of the improvements furnished as a sequel to a notice which preceded the execution, is useful in protecting the landlord from deception, but it can have no reliable bearing on the amount of compensation due at the end of the term. The work since got does not define the value remaining at the change of occupancy; thus the arbiter has to make his calculations from the just basis of what the improvement has—*independent of increment or loss*—added to the letting or selling value. On any other basis than this compensation will be involved in endless anomalies and needless inquiries, while justice will only be reached by the purest accident, and thus opponents will be furnished anew with an old weapon—the difficulty of extrication.

### AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION AND PROPOSED ALLEVIATION.

Mr. E. King Fordham, of Ashwell, Bury, read the following paper at one of the meetings of the Social Science Congress:—

The causes of the universally admitted fact of agricultural depression are so apparent that to dilate on these causes would be but to waste time of writer and reader. I can only suggest one important alleviation affecting this interest, and that is an equitable adjustment of exceptional taxation, which for the present time only affects tenants at will, and for various periods tenants under leases, eventually falling entirely on the landowner. I do not apprehend that the landed interests can reasonably ask to be helped out of their difficulties by the imposition of a bread tax, or any other tax, on the ground of distress. Surely they don't come as mendicants! but they are justified in demanding justice at the hands of Parliament if injustice can be proved.

I maintain that this interest has one substantial ground of complaint—which some thoughtlessly pass over—and that is, the special burden of rates; it may be £3,000,000 more or less. Facts and figures are worth volumes of declamation. I will explain by illustrative cases under my own observation.

A farm of 600 acres assessed at £1,200, being assessed at the rate of 4s. 6d. in the £, representing a capital of £40,000, is taxed for Imperial (mis-called local) purposes, £270; this is a large deduction from the annual value. There are some parishes in which I am told the assessment has been 6s. 2d., in which case the tax would be £360 on the land.

I will compare with this test case that of a brewery in the same parish. Assessed, it may be, at £300, is taxed only at £67, representing a capital of £60,000, with profits £6,000, including interest on capital. The probable profits from the land of owner and occupier would in prosperous times be £1,800, so that a capital in land of owner and occupier being £16,000 pays £270, while a capital in brewing, it may be £30,000, producing an income of £6,000, only pays £67; while its taxation corrected to land should be £900, or 1,500 per cent. more than at present. Strict justice requires that these imposts, for the maintenance of which every portion of the community should be equally responsible, should be an Imperial, not a local charge.

It is surely more just that all should contribute for a national expenditure to educate the people, &c.—an income tax of 3d. or 4d. in the £—than that the owners of any one kind of property only should be compelled to bear solely these burdens by the imposition of a property tax of from 3s. to 6s. in the £.

On other sources of income the disparity and wrong is much greater than on a brewery; for example, a bank yielding a profit of £6,000 is assessed at only £100 for business offices which, if at 4s. 6d. assessment, would pay £22 10s. only, in stead of £900 as I maintain it should. Shipowners, whose incomes are many millions, pay nothing.

But I shall be met with the reply—How are we to get these matters managed economically unless those who expend have a deep interest in economical expenditure? Granted. But justice says, if you exact £8,000,000 or any part of it unfairly, which is now done, you must make restitution. The question is—How can this restitution be best accomplished? I will submit several means to this end.

I would propose the three following remedies which, among others, suggest themselves to my mind. 1st. An import duty on barley, which I prefer, as it seems to me to strike at the main root of present intemperance, and as constituting an almost unfelt tax on the consumer; inflicting no tax whatever on abstainers. 2nd. An import duty on wheat of 5s. per quarter would scarcely be felt as any serious grievance. 3rd. An income tax of 3d. or 4d. would be fair and simple in application, but might injuriously affect economy of expenditure—*in which the two previous remedies would leave untouched*—in the hands of the present improving administration, and probably no better administrators can be found.

In accordance with the above suggestion we might probably put an import duty of 10s. per qr. on barley. This, I estimate, would give to producers of six million quarters, used in the production of alcohol, £3,000,000. Increased duty on spirits and wine in like proportion, and sugar used in manufacture would give Government a revenue of, say, seven millions. Now, if half of this were made a Government grant, thus constituting a subvention towards these taxes, my object would be accomplished, and no class would feel aggrieved. Consumers of alcohol would never, or scarcely ever, realise this slight diminution in strength of their liquors, which would, nevertheless, be slightly less intoxicating. This increased duty would satisfy the landed interests by its ameliorative character, thus leaving them sufficient motive for close economy in administration. An import duty on wheat of 5s. per qr. or such corresponding rate would give an annual income to the landed interest of £3,000,000, to the exchequer £4,000,000, and raise the price of the 4lb. loaf by considerably less than ½d., not double the price, as a Parliamentary celebrity has said or inferred protection would do, and would scarcely be felt by a population spending £5 per head per annum in alcohol; but I prefer the duty on barley with its temperance tendency.

There is another alleviation of a simpler character, which would be to grant a Government subvention of say 70 per cent. towards payment of all these charges, leaving the administration untried, which would probably result in additional permanent income tax.

I may add, that although former suggestions seem to tolerate protective duties on principles of expediency, as a lesser evil, than the extreme inequality of taxation such as I have described, yet no one is more sensible than I am of the absolute folly of the

theory of protection or of placing any restraint on the free interchange of the commodities of different countries.

Then there are some who say, "but what does it signify, you must pay in some way; if you don't pay locally you must pay the same amount in Imperial taxes, which comes to the same thing." Let us see the difference in the case of the land referred to paying locally £270, in comparison with what it would pay with an income tax at 3s. or 4s., which would be necessary in this form to yield the required amount, the basis of taxation by landlord and occupier being, in this case, £1,800, would, in this form, impose a tax of £22 10s. instead of £270 as at present—a difference in this case of about £250 per annum. And is this legalised spoliation to continue unopposed and unremedied? It should be at once rectified. While agricultural depression grasps at shadows of land laws and agreements it loses the substance which a proper adjustment of the scales of justice would give it, and asks for a Royal Commission, whose reports may not appear for years, while substantial redress is postponed for an indefinite period.

Such amount of import duties as here suggested would not be in the nature of Protection to the Agricultural Interest against Foreign competition, but, in the limited amount proposed, would only constitute a tax on consumers in this form instead of any other more irksome one (as I think) for the purpose of adjusting the now unequal charge of local taxation, leaving the administration as at present.

This tax upon the landed interest represents an income tax on this property only, varying from 3s. to 6s. in the £, and from 3s. to 10s. per annum on the rental per acre.

What would the owners of other investments say to such an infliction.

My figures must be regarded as illustrations, and proximate only, as showing the principle I desire to explain, not as an individual case of exceptional hardship.

All other interests in the State protest very loudly when a 1s. property tax is imposed, although for a limited period only. The land has to bear an exceptional income tax of from 3s. to 6s. in the £ in addition to the income tax charged upon it in common with all other articles.

A tax on alcohol would be least felt, and promote temperance.

An additional tax on bread would tax *all* slightly.

An income tax would be the most equal, and I think economical administration might be secured, and would supersede or reduce rates on houses which in every case falls on the occupiers of houses of every class, such tax not affecting the owners of houses as *owners*, in this respect differing from land on which the tax is ultimately paid by owners.

There are some who will controvert this statement, but I am certain rates are a tax on occupiers of houses, constituting a house tax falling on occupiers, just as a malt tax falls on beer drinkers, or tea duty on the consumers of tea.

There is yet another very serious grievance from which the owners of land and houses suffer, inasmuch as they are charged income tax on gross receipts instead of net receipts, as all other property is charged, thus, my income from rent of farms was last year £2,000, but repairs cost me £1,500; my net income was £500. I paid tax at 5d. in the £ on £2,000, this obliged me to pay £30, representing no income whatever, being an income tax of 1s. 8d. in the £ on the £500 instead of 5d. in the £, which would have been paid on the same amount derived from railways or Government Stock, or any other investment, and reducing my income of £500 from this source to £465, by charging on a fictitious income of £2,000 instead of the real one of £500. The same injustice applies to house property. I let a house for £80, upon which I have expended in one year £50 in repairs, thus I am charged on £30, only receiving £30. This seems like persistent persecution of owners of real property.

Local taxes have also another inherent effect—that of inequality—one parish paying perhaps 2s. another 4s. for a public purpose; for instance, Ashwell pays 2s. in the £ road rate for making roads for the adjoining parish of Hinxworth, while the latter parish pays only 6d.—in fact the system is a very barbarous method of taxation. A remnant of feudal ages.

In the Report of the Committee of the House of Lords on Intemperance (p. 435) Mr. Rathbone, of Liverpool, says:—"All the evidence indicates that, speaking generally, the increase of intemperance is mainly due to the rapid rise of

wages and the increased amount of leisure of the labouring classes"—which means ability to purchase. If price be raised, or alcoholic strength diminished, it must as a consequence diminish drunkenness.

Mr. Hayter, writing of Victoria, where the duty on ale and porter is 9d. per gallon, about double the price here; on proof spirits, 10s. per gallon; on sparkling wine, 6s.; on all other wines, 4s.; shows that there is less crime there than in any other Australian colony where alcohol is cheaper. Strong evidence this that increased price of alcohol diminishes intemperance.

## Farmers' Clubs.

### BOROUGHBRIDGE.

The members of the Boroughbridge Agricultural Society held their fifty-fourth annual meeting at the Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge, last month, when Mr. H. V. Bennett, Heaton House, read a paper on "Agricultural Depression." He said:—"I will now bring before your notice some of the causes which occur to me to account for the agricultural depression which is the subject I have to introduce; and also some of the remedies which may be applied to enable the British farmer better to compete with the foreign producer than he can do at present. In the first place, the principal cause arises from the over-production in foreign countries of the necessaries of life—more than they can consume themselves—and therefore whatever surplus they have must come to some market where they can dispose of the same. But I take it that we have little to fear from any country except the continent of America, which possesses an unlimited area of virgin soil only waiting colonisation to produce an unlimited supply of food, for even now her railways pass through vast tracts of land yet uncultivated, but ready when cultivated to bring the produce to the seaboard. I may state that between the years 1869 and 1872 17,000 miles of new railways were made in the United States alone, and should the proposed scheme to deepen the mouth of the Mississippi be accomplished, her means of transit will be still further increased and cheapened; and when we find that in 1875 the acreage under wheat in the United States was 26 millions, and in 1878 30 millions, being an increase of four million acres in three years; and should this increase of over one million acres a year still go on, it becomes a difficult matter to know how the British farmer will be enabled to grow wheat at such a price as will enable him to compete with the producer on the other side of the Atlantic. From information received from Mr. Drummond, Her Majesty's Secretary of Legation at Washington, it appears that wheat can be landed at Liverpool, leaving a profit, at from 35s. to 40s. per qr., and it seems to me that the home producer will have to grow it for about that price, which, under the present order of things, he cannot do. Therefore he must be put into such a position as will enable him to do so, or the cultivation of the article of food must be left to the foreigner, and he will have to turn his attention to other productions. Whether it would be well to leave the entire supply of the staple food of this country in the hands of the foreigner is a doubtful matter. A second reason is the high rent paid by the farmers here, owing very much to the demand for farms being greater than the supply, caused in a great measure by persons other than legitimate farmers being anxious to lead a country life, and caring little for any profit to be made out of them. And who can blame the landowner if he tries to get the most he can in the shape of rent? For after all rent is only a bargain between the landlord as seller and the tenant as buyer. A third cause is the burdens laid upon the tenant farmer, consisting of the iniquitous way the income-tax is imposed, and the unfair way the poor, county, and other rates are laid on property in this country. A fourth cause is the way the farmer is often tied down by clauses in agreements, which prevent him from making the most of his capital employed. Another is the great quantity of ground game kept by many of the landlords. And lastly, another cause is the great cost of production in the shape of artificial tillages, high price of labour, &c. All these causes together as they at present stand, make it utterly impossible to compete with the foreign producer. In bad times gone by the farmer looked upon the depression as only temporary. If he had a

bad crop he got a better price for it, and if he had a good crop he knew that he was protected from an influx that would send the value of his produce below what he could afford to grow it. But now things are different. Times are changed. Under free trade he has to face the surplus produce of other nations, and if he is not put into a position to compete with them, he must eventually succumb. Bad harvests are now ruinous. Four years out of the six since 1873 have been bad, twenty to twenty-five per cent. below average, and still the price of wheat has been decreasing. Some may say if wheat does not pay, why not grow barley, or something else? If a much larger breadth of land was sown with barley, of course there would be an extra quantity, and consequently the price would be brought down to a non-paying one. The same applies to other produce, so that were Mr. Gladstone's panacea of farms turned into market gardens, the order of the day, we should soon find an over-production of those articles that market gardens mostly grow. Others may say, let the land be laid down to grass. No doubt the inferior lands will have to be so treated, as they cannot by any possibility be made to pay in tillage; but were a large proportion of land to be put into grass, what would become of the agricultural labouring class? Nothing would be left for them but emigration, and by so doing would it not materially affect and injure the home market for manufactured goods? The remarks I have made with regard to the importation of cereals apply also to other products, such as cheese, &c., and also to foreign meat and live cattle, which trade is only just developing; and here the farmer finds himself at a disadvantage, owing to the importation of the manufactured article, namely, fat cattle, and not a corresponding supply of the raw material, namely, lean cattle. Mr. Drummond states that prime fat cattle can be landed in England to pay at 7d. per lb., and last year there were thirty million head in the United States, and that the increase this year will be five millions. Therefore it is patent that the English grazier has or will have, in the matter of meat, as much to contend with as in corn, &c. And now, having given some of the reasons why the British farmer cannot live under the present order of things, I will state what occurs to me to be some of the remedies that may be applied. First and foremost there will have to be a considerable reduction of rent—not a paltry return of 10 per cent.—but such a reduction as will somewhat approximate to the value of land abroad. It is all very well to say that more capital must be thrown into the land, but will those persons who are now farming highly and cultivating their farms in the best manner, and find that they are losing money, be induced to spend more capital, when they find that what they have employed is not paying; will they not rather be induced to retrench than to expend? Far be it from me to say that there are not a great many farms that do not produce as much as they ought, owing to the want of more capital—but I fancy that a business that does not pay is not an inducement to a person to expand more money in it. Some advocate the division of farms into small holdings. I cannot think that would be any benefit to the nation—for wherever you see a district badly farmed there you would mostly find that the holdings are small, and I think very probably that the want of capital would be found as much in the small farms as in the larger ones. The cost, also, of production must relatively be more in a small undertaking than in a large one. Again, with regard to the very iniquitous way the tenant farmer is charged with a tax on an income that he never possesses, I would ask any farmer if on an average of years he makes an income out of his farm to the extent of half his rental; nay, more, if he has not the last few years been without any income at all out of it; and still he has to pay on a supposition that is not realised. This is a crying shame, and we ought to be united and determined to have it altered. Again, he is unfairly rated to the poor, county, &c. Why should the land be made to bear the principal burden of these rates, and the man whose property is in the funds, bonds, and other securities, be exempt? He has just as much right to help to keep his poorer brethren as the owner and occupier of the land. Mills, coal pits, and quarries also do not bear their proper proportion. Obnoxious clauses in leases and agreements, antiquated and not at all applicable to the times we now live in, are very often a reason why a tenant cannot cultivate his farm to the best advantage. He ought to have the right to manage his holding to the best of his ability, and not be told what he shall do and what his

shall not do by the law agent of his landlord, who very often knows nothing at all about the matter, and can hardly distinguish the difference between a sheep and a goat. The tenant ought to be encouraged by liberal allowances for all unexhausted improvements and manures, and also every facility should be given by the landlord to carry on his business in the best possible manner, in the shape of proper buildings &c. And now, with regard to ground game, there is no doubt a great deal of land made unproductive and food wasted by hares and rabbits, and although farms are often let at a less rent on their account, still the tenant suffers much more than the reduction, often more than the entire rent. Of course the landlord has a legal right to keep what game he likes on his property, but he is morally responsible for the abuse of what is entrusted to his hands. Artificial tillages and labour are also a heavy weight in the race, neither of which can the occupier of the land do without. I do not think that skilled labour will ever be much cheapened; inferior men must come down in their wages. Up to the present time there has not been that difference which there ought to be. Our only hope in this matter must be in improved implements and machinery, and the use of judicious economy in the management of the farm. I was surprised to read a statement made by Sir E. Lacon, M.P., at the Aylesham agricultural meeting. He said, as to agricultural depression, he believed the question was not between the landlord and tenant, but between the tenant and the labourer. I beg to differ from Sir E. Lacon. It is no doubt a question between tenant and labourer, but far more between landlord and tenant. I should be sorry to find the landlords wished to shift the burden off their shoulders entirely upon the labourer. The farmer must look far more to his landlord for assistance than to a great reduction of the labourers' wages. In conclusion, I would remark that any return to protective duties will never be possible either for the agriculturist or those employed in other industries. Whether it was wise entirely to repeal the import duties is a matter of great doubt, but, having done so, we must abide the consequences, and adapt circumstances as well as we can to the new order of things. The Royal Commission, I fear, will not do very much for us. It may give us more information than we at present possess, but it behoves the landlords of this country to meet their tenants in a spirit of liberality and justness, and I have great confidence that a large majority will do so. I was pleased with the remarks made by Mr. Milbank at the Bedale Agricultural Show, when he said that, should the land have to be laid down to grass, the landlord ought to do it, that a return of 10 per cent. was only a sop in the pan, and that there would have to be a re-adjustment of rent throughout the country. Landlord and tenant are both in the same boat, and, if they do not assist each other to keep it afloat, both will most assuredly go down together. But, with a fair reduction of rent, together with the other alterations I have mentioned, with good seasons, and the blessing of God, it is still to be hoped that the British farmer will be enabled to hold his own against the competition of the world. There were several other points relating to the subject, such as the bearing of the law of entail, the malt tax, &c., upon which I hope some other gentleman may have something to say.

#### CETEWAYO'S TOPPER.

Cetewayo now wears a light tweed suit and a tall hat.—Daily paper.

Flash the news from pole to pole,  
 Strange among all sudden changes;  
 Tell how in a savage soul  
 Culture now its nest arranges.  
 Gone the naked heathen king,  
 In his place a dandy proper,  
 Loud let all creation sing—  
 "Cetewayo wears a topper!"  
 Sign of peoples civilised,  
 Emblem of our modern culture,  
 Ugliest headgear e'er devised,  
 Lo, you crown the Zulu vulture.  
 Black barbarian—newly tided—  
 Had you never come a cropper,  
 Ne'er had sung the Muse's child,  
 "Cetewayo wears a topper."

—Boforee.

## THE DAIRY SHOW.

The class for pure-bred Shorthorn cows, in-milk or in-calf, was not well filled; the Marquis of Exeter's Telemacina, Sea Gull, and Telemacina 2nd, were not in their places, and their absence lowered considerably the tone of a small class. Her Majesty's Fawsley 10th was exhibited again this year, and Mr. John Walter showed two common-place animals. The prize winners, as they stood together, were very fair specimens of what dairy Shorthorns should be; big, useful cattle with good bags, and an evident capacity for making both milk and flesh—just such animals as will pay for generous treatment in a milk-walk, or under any system of dairy management. The first and third prizes were awarded to Mr. W. H. Wodehouse for Vesper and Violet, and it will be remembered that he took first prize last year in the corresponding class with Countess, all of them his own breeding. The second place was given to Mr. G. Cooke's Juliet, a very excellent cow by Duke of York (31038), and bred by Mr. J. Evans. The class of pure-bred Shorthorn heifers, not exceeding three years old on Oct. 1, in-milk or springing for calving, were five in number, and rather poor representatives of the breed. Her Majesty's Cawlina 9th, a fairly good Shorthorn, which obtained the reserve number at the Kilburn Royal in a corresponding class, was here placed first, and a useful heifer with twin calves at her side, Countess Mary, bred and exhibited by Mr. W. H. Wodehouse was placed second. The third prize fell to Mr. T. Kingsley's Rose, by Rose Butterfly (24993), a very decent heifer of his own breeding. The two were Japonica 2nd, bred by Mr. W. Arkell, and exhibited by Mr. E. C. Tisdall, and Princess, a plain heifer bred and exhibited by Mr. J. Walter. The pure-bred Short-horn bulls were a much smaller show than last year, but two animals of note were in their places—namely, Telemachus 6th and Telemachus 9th, which took the prizes, of course, Telemachus 6th being placed before Telemachus 9th—another important reversal of the Kilburn awards. The only other exhibits were Mr. Tisdall's Earl of Leicester 6th, bred by Mr. E. H. Cheney, to which third prize was awarded, and Julius, bred and exhibited by Mr. J. Walter; both these animals were plain. The utility of classes for bulls at a dairy show is questionable. They can only be judged by the milking qualities possessed by the stock they have begotten, and it seems to us that the prize money would be better spent in the cow classes.

Shorthorn cattle, not eligible for Herd-book entry, proved the most useful and practical division of the show. All the breeds represented were useful in their way, and all of them adapted to some special feature of dairy work, but these cattle are so thoroughly useful for the combined purpose of giving milk and making beef that they may be considered as the best rent-paying dairy stock of the day. We do not mean to say that pure-bred Shorthorns are not equally useful, for the three prize winners in the class for pure-bred Shorthorn cows would be hard to beat; nevertheless there are far more cattle ineligible for Herd-book entry than there are pure-bred stock, and they will naturally be in greater proportion for some time to come. Therefore, this class, and that for cross-bred cattle, were to us of great interest. The entries were 23 in number, and all of them, we think, were in their places. Mr. R. Stratton took first prize in this class, as he did in the corresponding class last year, and his seven-year-old white cow, Maiden, bred by himself, is a first-rate dairy animal with excellent bag, and is of good scale and good quality. A whole dairy of cattle like her would be an acquisition. The second prize went to the Stand Stud Company for a very capital cow, Beauty, of unknown breeding, and the third prize was awarded to Her Majesty's Honesty, a very useful old

cow for any sort of purpose connected with the dairy. Amongst the rest were many animals deserving special mention, namely, Mr. Stratton's Llanwen 6th, the Stand Stud Company's Polly, Mr. E. C. Tisdall's Mabel, four excellent cows from Messrs. J. Welford and Sons' dairy at Bayswater, and Pollie from Mr. T. Osborn's dairy at Islington. In the corresponding class last year the entries were for pairs of cows; and we miss the name of Mr. B. St. John Ackers and the Aylesbury Milk Company as exhibitors. There was no corresponding class for heifers.

The cross-bred, or mixed-bred, cattle formed a capital class of cows. The first prize was awarded to Mr. T. Birdsey's five-year-old cow, which had as good a show for milk as any animal in the Hall. Mr. S. Cooke's cross-bred cow Cherry was placed second, and both of them showed an admixture of Shorthorn blood, and both were fit for the dairyman and the grazier afterwards. A blue roan cross-bred cow, Lucy, from the Stand Stud Company, took third prize. Amongst the rest, there were five good cows from Messrs. J. Welford and Son, two from Mr. W. Perkins, Werner, two from Messrs. Bradbury and Co., one from Messrs. J. and J. Rumbal, and a "Dexter" cow from Mr. R. B. Kirchoffer, of Cork, which were all of them exceedingly useful. The heifers under the same classification were not so good.

Ayrshire cattle were very well represented, Mr. George Fenne, of Streatham-hill, Surrey, taking all the prizes in the cows' class. Several good animals were also shown by the Stand Stud Company and Mr. G. F. Statter. They were well-bred, and their dairying capabilities were undeniable. There was no class for Ayrshire heifers.

Jersey cattle were very strongly represented both in the cow and the heifer classes, the latter numbering no less than 48 entries, and commended in its entirety by the judges. Of the quality of this division of the show we have already spoken in the highest terms, and there is no race of cattle in this country, or in any other, which shows signs of more careful breeding than the Jerseys. There was also a strong show of Jersey bulls. There were a few Guernseys, which are larger, and perhaps, more generally useful. The Kerries were also very well bred, Mr. R. Good, of Akerlow, Co. Cork, taking first and second prizes, and Mr. J. Robertson, of Malahide, Co. Dublin, the third. There was one Brittany cow, to which a second prize was awarded, and one heifer of the same breed. "Other pure breeds" were represented in the cow class by two Dutch cows from Messrs. J. and J. Rumbal's dairy farm at Upper Clapton, to one of which the first prize was awarded; and to this cow, Spot, seven years old and in-calf, the plate value £10 was awarded as yielding the largest quantity of milk of any animal in the Show. Her yield at the two milkings—morning and evening—was 64½ lb., or more than twenty-five quarts. There were also exhibited a Danish cow, from Mr. A. L. Alexander's dairy at Stepney, to which the second prize was awarded; two Jutland cows from the Suburban Farm and Dairy Produce Co-operative Supply Association (Limited); two Welsh cows from the Stand Stud Company; and a small red "Dexter" cow, from Mr. R. Good, Akerlow, Co. Cork, with a bag which seemed to occupy nearly all her hind-quarters, but it was a fleshy one. Mr. Richard Hall, of Derby, exhibited a bull, cow, and heifer of the Longhorn breed, which were prize-takers at the Kilburn Royal. Loughorns are said to be excellent milch cattle, and it is a pity there were not any specimens of the breed in full profit; especially as an attempt is being made to bring this old race of cattle again into notice and favour. Messrs. E. and A. Stanford showed a Sussex cow and a Sussex bull. Mr. James Long, of Shillington Manor, Hitchin, exhibited a Swiss cow and a Swiss heifer, bred by the late Mr. Schroder, of Mutting-

ham, Kent. The Dutch cattle, entered by J. Heddes, Alkmaar, and S. Z. Purmerend, could not be sent nude the provisions of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.

The British Dairy Farmers' Association is evidently doing a good work, and we congratulate the Society on the exceedingly useful character of the Dairy Shows which have been held under its auspices. We notice this year that there were no classes for entries of threes or twos, and it will be remembered that the Shorthorn cattle ineligible for herd-book entry were in pairs last year, the entries being no less than 55. We are of opinion that classes of this sort, where the entries are difficult and trying to the exhibitor, are of proportionately greater practical value. Mr. W. T. Carrington's three red cows which took the champion prize in the first Dairy Show were good ones, well-matched, and a credit to their breeder; Mr. R. Stratton's first-prize pair last year were good ones, but not well-matched, though certainly a credit to the breeder. And those who paid careful attention to these competitions must have been impressed by the evident difficulty which attends the making-up of entries composed of more than one animal; and the same thing can always be seen in family groups and pens of sheep in our exhibitions of breeding stock and fat stock all over the country. Uniformity is so difficult to obtain, and yet it is so valuable, that we think the prize-money now offering by the British Dairy Farmers' Association for bulls would be far better employed in the direction of dual or triple entries. The value of heifer classes, again, is not very apparent, and we think that a dairy show should consist solely of animals in-milk. The showing of stock of all kinds is now over-done, and the Dairy Show being the latest in the field, we venture to suggest that it cannot expect to do much good on any of the old lines. On the other hand, a practical exhibition of dairy stock in full profit is not only a legitimate speciality, but it meets most opportunely one of the greatest wants of the times.

The show of goats struck us as being smaller and less comprehensive of fancy strains than we have seen at previous Dairy Shows; but as we have not the number of entries for last year's show at hand we cannot be certain in respect of numbers. The silver medal for the goat proving to be the best milk animal was awarded to Mr. Stephen Dickens, of Holloway Road, for his hornless white goat. Mr. Dormer, of Grosvenor Mews, took the prize for the best kid in the show. Mr. Stephen Helmes Pegler, Secretary of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, is making great efforts to extend the keeping and improve the breeding of goats in this country. No doubt goats are profitable consumers of waste pieces of grass, when the time of those who have to attend to the animal is not very valuable, as in the case of children or boys employed in other work in the house or garden. Goats, however, are so mischievous if at large that they should always be tethered when feeding out-doors.

In the cheese department we missed the great piles of Stiltons that have been such remarkable features of previous shows; and the exhibition of this variety of cheese was neither so large nor so good as we have seen, though by no means small. The cheeses for Derby, Leicester, Gloucester, and Wiltshire only contained seven entries. Cheddar was better represented. Indeed, the quality of the English cheese, excepting the Stilton, was much better than we expected to see it after so unfavourable a season. The "Cheese Fair," for lots of not less than a ton each, was one of the best portions of the cheese show, there being twenty-two competitors. Some nice lots of Cheddar were shown in this department; but Mr. Nuttall carried off the prize for a creditable lot of Stiltons. There was a very interesting display of foreign

cheese. M. Noel was very successful in these classes carrying off four first prizes for Gorgonzola, Roquefort, Parmesan, and cream cheeses. Mr. Jubal Webb, of Kensington, had a very attractive stand of foreign cheeses, and he took several prizes.

There was a large show of butter. The Queen was amongst the prize-takers in the English classes, which, on the whole were meritorious. Mr. Bell, of Sandley, Dorset, was first in both classes for fresh butter not the produce of Channel Islands cattle. The English cured butter was not so good as it might have been. The show of foreign butter was a large one, the Holstein dairymen being specially well represented and successful. It was complained that a great deal of the foreign butter shown as fresh was really salted: for the awards we must refer readers to the prize list.

The mechanical department of the show was particularly interesting, as it is to improvement in the manipulation of cheese and butter that we must chiefly look if English makers are not to be left behind by foreigners. The most interesting collection of dairying apparatus was the American one got together by Professor Alvord, of Easthampton, Massachusetts, for the Dairy Farmers' Association, which did not compete for the prize. Davis's swinging churn, shown on this stand, is much used in the United States, and, simple as it is, there is probably no better hand-churn in existence. The motion is horizontal instead of rotary, and the work is particularly light to the operator; still the dash of the cream is all that can be desired. This is probably one of the most primitive forms of churn, as far as action goes, though its internal formation has been greatly improved, so as to secure an effectual motion of the cream. A curious form of churn, not nearly so good as that just named, is the "Monitor," a vessel shaped something like a very short and thick cigar. It is suspended by cords between two uprights, and is worked from one end by being swung to and fro by one hand. Nesbitt's butter press, also particularly attracted attention, as it is an admirably cheap and simple little piece of mechanism for pressing and making up butter without touching it with the hand—a sad tainter of butter. A system of milk delivery, by means of ingeniously stoppered glass bottles of various sizes (exact measures), was also exhibited. It is much in vogue on the better class of milk walks in American towns. The bottles are filled and placed in boxes divided into compartments to suit the different sizes, and they are then taken round to the customers. A full bottle of the required size is delivered, and an empty one taken back at each call of the milkman. Cleanliness and certainty of measure are thus secured. A very excellent form of milk strainer, an equally good cream skimmer, a covered milk-pail, with projecting hopper, into which the cow can be milked while the operator sits on the pail, some butter workers, and a variety of other dairy utensils were to be seen in this collection; which was most courteously and instructively exhibited by Mr. Oliver. Professor Sheldon had charge of the collection. In the collection of butter-making apparatus for competition Edward Hore, of 4, Bishopsgate Street Within, agent for Edouard Ahlborn, of Hildesheim, obtained the first prize. The collection was exhibited at work on each day of the show, and attracted a great deal of attention. De Laval's patent Mechanical Cream Separator, which was shown at Kilburn, where it gained a silver medal. This is a machine for effecting the rapid and complete separation of the cream from the milk by the application of centrifugal force. At the trial of the machine at Kilburn thirty gallons of milk were passed through it under the hour, the cream, churned immediately after the separation, yielding 10lb 3oz. of butter. It was worked by steam power, as were also the churns on this

stand. Some excellent butter-workers and other utensils were also shown in the collection. Bradford and Co., of High Holborn, had a good collection, including the successful "Mid-feather" churn, the "Springfield" butter worker, a swing churn of the American pattern previously described, and a variety of other articles.

Messrs. Neel, Son, and Anderson, of Watling Street, London, showed the Cooley system of cream-raising. The milk is placed in vessels which are submerged in cold water, thus keeping the milk cool and secure from tainting by impure air or smells. When the cream has risen the milk is drawn off by an ingenious method from below, leaving the cream in the vessel. Thomas and Taylor, the Aylesbury Dairy Co., Lloyd, Lawrence and Co., and William Waide were also competitors in this class. The second prize was taken by Alway and Sons. Lawrence and Co., of London, obtained a medal for a milk cooler, the Aylesbury Dairy Co. for a milk can; and John Cumming, of London, got first prize, and Hays and Son, Stamford, second prize in the class of vehicles for the conveyance of milk. In vehicles for use in the retail sale of milk G. H. Hill, of Woolwich, took both prizes, and Alway and Sons, of London, did likewise in the case of milk perambulators. For cow house fittings only one firm, Musgrave and Co., of London, entered. Other exhibitors of dairy utensils on the ground floor of the hall were W. Gilling, W. Waide, and W. J. Harrison, of London; Vipan and Headley, of Leicester, and Lloyd, Lawrence and Co., of Philadelphia and Worship Street. Thomas Higgins, of Northwich, obtained the prize for dairy salt. Amongst the miscellaneous stands on the ground floor are noticed first that of T. Bowick and Co., of Bedford, who showed the "Invincible" corn screen, which is made with apertures of different sizes and shapes suitable for taking various weed seeds out of corn, separating oats from wheat or barley, &c. The zinc screen is kept in shape by means of steel expanders. Another article on this stand was a new boiler for cattle food and other purposes, the peculiar feature of which is that the chimneys run through the boiler, thus saving heat. Mr. Bowick also showed his "Parina" or milk substitute, as a food for calves, and his newly introduced "Botanic Flavourer" for spicing hay, and for use as a condiment for cattle, horses, and other animals. It is claimed for this flavourer that it contains no fenugreek, drugs, or minerals. The most important elements in it are made from the red elm, the red cherry, and from stimulating spices. In these days all well regulated and highly civilized cattle require their condiments, just as we mortals use the contents of the castors, the sauce bottle, and the pickle jar, and a good flavourer is a good thing. The proof of the flavourer, as of the pudding, is in the eating. We tried this; but not having what Mr. Partington terms a "refined beastly taste," we did not like it as well as Worcester sauce or Batty's Nabob pickles. Therefore we must direct our readers to their cows, their bullocks, or their horses for an opinion as to its gustability. Another cattle-food exhibitor was our old friend Joseph Thorley. Jeffery and Blackstone, of Stamford, showed engines and various machines; and Richmond and Chandler, of Manchester, exhibited chaff-cutters, corn-crushers, and pulpers.

Amongst the stands noticed in the galleries were those of Gibbs and Co., Mark-lane, feeding cakes, &c.; Bell and Co., and Gillings and Co., London, dairy utensils; Carson and Toone, Warmminster, cheese presses and dairy utensils; the Suburban Farm and Dairy Produce Co-operative Supply Association, farm and dairy produce; Christy and Co., Fenchurch-street, incubators; Day, Son, and Hewitt, Dorset-street, Baker-street, stock medicines; F. and C. Hancock, Dudley, butter-washing machines; the Universal Cattle Drink Co., London, horse and cattle medicines; W. H. Nicholson and Son,

Newark-on-Trent, agricultural machinery; Hathaway, Chippenham, churns, &c.; and Lawrence and Co., London, refrigerators.

**JUDGES.**—**CATTLE.**—Shorthorn and any other pure and mixed breeds: W. T. Carrington, Croxden Abbey, Uttoxeter; C. Howard, Biddenham, Bedford, Ayrshires, Jersey, Keries, and Brittanias: G. Thompson, Killoskane, Templemore, Ireland; A. Dunlop, Church Farm, Hendon; J. Ross, Grange Farm, Hatfield Broad Oak, Harlow, Essex. **GOATS.**—W. Freeman, The Limes, South Field, Wandsworth; G. Barber, St. John's, Burgess Hill, Sussex. **BRITISH CHEESE.**—W. J. Livesey, 81, Fishergate Street, Preston; J. Allen (Allen and Sons), Shepton Mallet. **BRITISH BUTTER.**—W. Tittley (Tittley and Sons), Bath; H. Oberman, Weasenham, Norfolk. **FOREIGN CHEESE AND BUTTER.**—M. Pratt, 24, New Bond Street; A. Rivet, 3, Rue des Provoives, Paris (Treasurer of the Société de l'Industrie Laitière); G. A. Boysen (Messrs. Ahlman and Boysen), Hamburg. **SALT.**—Dr. A. Voelcker, F.R.S., Salisbury Square, E.C. **DAIRY UTENSILS, FITTINGS, &c.**—J. F. Nichols, Liverpool Road, Islington; J. Hodinott, Lippyat, Bath; E. C. Tisdall, Holland Park Farm, Kensington.

PRIZE LIST.

COWS.

SHORTHORNS.

Eligible for Herd Book.—1 and 3, W. H. Wodehouse; 2, G. Cooke.  
Not eligible for Herd Book.—1, R. Stratton; 2, Stand Stud Company; 3, Her Majesty the Queen; 4, Messrs. J. Welford and Son.

AYRSHIRES.

1, 2, and 3, G. Ferme.

JERSEYS.

1, G. Simpson; 2, W. F. Watson; 3, T. Hepburn.

GUERNSEYS.

1 and 2, Rev. J. Watson,

KERRY.

1 and 2, R. Good.

BRITANNY.

2, H. B. Spurgin.

ANY OTHER VARIETY.

1, Messrs. J. and J. Rumball; 2, A. L. Alexander, CROSSED OR MIXED.  
1, T. Birdsey; 2, G. Cooke; 3, Stand Stud Company.

HEIFERS.

SHORTHORNS.

1, Her Majesty the Queen; 2, W. H. Wodehouse; 3, T. W. Kingley.

JERSEYS.

1, G. Simpson; 2, H. A. Rigg; 3, T. Hepburn.

ANY OTHER VARIETY.

1, L. P. Fowler; 2, G. Ferme, CROSSED OR MIXED.  
1, Stand Stud Company; 2, E. C. Tisdall; 3, J. Walter.

BULLS.

SHORTHORNS.

1 and 2, Marquis of Exeter; 3, E. C. Tisdall.

JERSEYS.

1, G. Simpson; 2, W. J. Beadel; 3, A. Meadows.

ANY OTHER VARIETY.

1, R. Hall; 2, E. and A. Stamford; 3, Rev. J. Watson.

GOATS.

SHORTHAIRED, WITH HORNS.

Females.—1, F. A. Crisp; 2, E. T. Crookenden; 3, W. H. Crisp; 4, H. F. Harrington.

LONG-HAIRED, WITH HORNS.

Females.—1, M. Cazenave; 2, R. Good; 3, Miss A. Jacomb.

LONG OR SHORT-HAIRED WITHOUT HORNS.

Females.—1, J. Weston; 2, H. Malone; 3, W. Chapman.

KIDS.

OVER TWELVE MONTHS AND UNDER TWO YEARS.

Females.—Champion and 1, E. Dormer; 2, S. Holmes; 3, F. A. Crisp.

UNDER TWELVE MONTHS.

Females.—1, T. G. Ward; 2, B. North; 3, J. Kahn.  
Males.—1, E. Tredgald; 2, S. Holmes; 3, F. A. Crisp.

## CHEESE.

## STILTON.

1 and 2, T. Nuttall; 3, J. B. Leadbeater.

## CHESHIRE.

1, G. Mosford; 2, T. Houlbrook; 3, G. Walley.

## CHEDDAR AND SCOTCH CHEDDAR.

1, W. and T. Allen; 2, J. Hoddinott; 3, A. Hiscock.

## DERBY AND LEICESTER.

1 and 2, Aston-by-Budworth Cheese Factory Company; 3, Brailsford Dairy Association.

## GLOUCESTER.

1, J. Smith; 2, G. Harris.

## WILTSHIRE.

W. and T. Allen.

## AMERICAN OR CANADIAN.

1, H. K. and F. B. Thurber and Co.; 2 and 3, Hodgson Bros.

## LOAF.

1 (withheld); 2, T. Walden; 3, C. Crees.

## BRITISH CREAM OR SOFT.

1, Mrs. Cerrott; 2, Crowson and Son; 3, Mrs. Bush.

## CHEESE FAIR.

1, T. Nuttall; 2, A. Hiscock; 3, T. Walden.

## FOREIGN CHEESE.

## GORGONZOLA.

1, L. Noel; 2, G. Pessina.

## ROQUEFORT.

1, E. Coupiac; 2, J. Webb; 3, W. Lingner.

## GRUYERE.

1, J. Webb; 2, Barth and Sterchi; 3, Glasson Freres.

## PARMESAN.

1, L. Noel; 2, G. Pessina; 3, W. Lingner.

## EDAM.

1 and 3, Hastings and Nephew; 2, J. Webb.

## Goudar.

1 and 3, Hastings and Nephew; 2, J. Webb.

## SOFT.

1, L. Noel; 2, Weldermann and Keller; 3, H. Nassau'sch

## ANY OTHER VARIETY.

1, Thurber and Co.; 2 and 3, N. Verestschagin.

## CLOTTED CREAM.

1, T. H. D. Allen; 2, Aylesbury Dairy Company.

## BUTTER.

## FRESH.

Not the produce of Channel Island Cattle.—1 and bronze medal, J. W. Bell; 2, J. C. Butler; 3, Her Majesty the Queen.

6 lb. in 1 lb. prints.—1 and bronze medal, J. W. Bell; 2

Her Majesty the Queen; 3, C. A. Barnes.  
From Channel Island cattle.—1 and bronze medal, R. Fowler; 2, H. A. Rigg; 3, Her Majesty the Queen.

## CURED.

English.—1, C. Cresswell; 2, 3, and reserve, D. F. Leaby.

Irish.—1, M. Anderson; 2, R. J. Mahony; 3, H. M'Can.

## ANY OTHER BRITISH.

1, R. Colley; 2, W. G. Lewis; 3, W. E. B. Smith.

## FOREIGN.

Fresh.—1, L. Van de Wonde; 2, L. Lantzins; 3, H.

Kzoonen.  
Cured.—1, C. Lindenberg; 2, A. Uffhansen; 3, K. Langenheim.

## SALT:

1, Mr. Higgin.

## DAIRY UTENSILS.

## COLLECTION.

1, E. Hore; 2, W. Alway and Son.

## CHEESE MAKING.

1, R. Cluett; 2, Wilkins and Son.

## BUTTER-MAKING.

1, E. Hore; 2, Aylesbury Dairy Co.

## MILK COOLERS.

1, Lawrence and Co.

## MILK CANS.

1, Aylesbury Dairy Co.

## VEHICLES FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF MILK.

1, J. Cumming; 2, Hayes and Son.

## VEHICLES FOR RETAIL, SALE, OR DELIVERY.

1 and 2, G. H. Hill.

## PERAMBULATORS AND HAND TRUCKS.

1 and 2, W. Alway and Sons.

## COWHOUSE FITTINGS.

1, Musgrave and Co.

## HOMESTEADS.

1, H. W. Moore; supplementary first prize, silver medal, and £5, R. Waite; 2, T. Potter.

## SPECIAL.

## MILKING.

For cows.—1 and plate, J. and J. Rumbal.

For heifers.—1 and medal, E. C. Tisdall.

## MEETING OF MEMBERS.

At a meeting of the members held on Oct. 14, at the Agricultural Hall, Colonel E. S. Burreaby in the chair, the Earl of Egmont was duly nominated and elected president of the association for the ensuing year. Mr. Stephen Holmes Pegler, the secretary, presented the annual report which was adopted. It states that the British Dairy Farmers' Association has advanced considerably in strength and prosperity during the last twelve months. Since the last annual meeting, held at the Dairy Show of 1878, 139 new members have been enrolled, seven old members have resigned, and three have died, making the total at the present time 399. In accordance with the resolution passed at the adjourned general meeting of December 11, steps have been taken to register the association under the Acts of 1862 and 1867 as a "limited" society, established "not for gain;" it has therefore now a legal status and is an incorporated society. In pursuance of further resolutions passed at the same meeting, the original committee was, on the 10th of March, dissolved, and the present council elected by the votes of the members. The services of a thoroughly competent gentleman were also engaged as assistant secretary, and a Board-room and offices rented at 446, Strand, the rooms previously used at the Agricultural Hall, through the kindness of the lessees of the building, being too far removed from the centre of the metropolis to be conveniently accessible to most of the members of council. Among other important events should be mentioned a letter received by the president, Colonel Burnaby, from Sir Dighton Probyn, on behalf of the Prince of Wales, expressing the satisfaction felt by his Royal Highness at the success the association was gaining, and acceding to Colonel Burnaby's request to allow the name of his Royal Highness to appear as patron of the institution. With regard to the present Dairy Show, the Council are pleased to be able to report that, in spite of the great agricultural depression, the exhibits are this year far more numerous than at any previous show, exceeding those of 1878 by 220 entries. The proposal to establish a dairy school is a question of great importance, and forms one of the objects the society had in view at its establishment. Having regard, however, to the outlay which such an institution would necessarily involve, and considering that the funds of the association are not adequate to meet any great expenditure, the council have not felt justified to decide upon so important a matter; and Mr. Gilbert Murray's motion has, therefore, been adjourned for discussion from the council meetings to the annual meeting of members.

The proposal to establish a dairy school thus referred to in the report was considered by the meeting, and ultimately it was decided that the Council should nominate a committee to draw up a report, to be submitted to the adjourned annual meeting, which will be held at the end of the year, in Cattle Show week. Canon Bagot, in the discussion which ended in this resolution, gave an interesting account of dairying in Ireland. Mr. G. Mander Allender remonstrated against the common assumption that a dairy school need involve any great expenditure in bricks and mortar or land. He described a dairy school in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, maintained at a cheap rate by a few great landed proprietors for the sons of their foresters and others. An eminent specialist is engaged at

a salary of from £300 or £400 a year, with an assistant, and the young men pay a small fee. The products of the school are sold, and the proceeds go towards paying the expenses. After a few months' study the young men go forth accomplished in the practice and *rationale* of dairy management. Young Englishmen might be sent, if necessary, at a small expense, to the school already established in Mecklenburg. The meeting requested Mr. Allender and Mr. Gilbert Murray to submit their observations in the form of a paper, with statistics, to the committee. Some steps have already been taken to obtain information of this kind. In March a circular was issued from the office of the association, calling the notice of its members to proposals which had been made to establish dairy schools, and asking the opinions of all interested in the subject. Mr. Oliver, of West Harptree, Bristol, a member of the association, contributed a paper to its journal, in which he admitted that we have much inferior cheese and butter in our markets, due to defective dairy management and laid down a scheme of education for factory pupils, and a plan of construction for a model cheese and butter factory.

Another subject mentioned at the meeting was an invitation which has been received from the International Dairy Fair in New York, to the English association, to cooperate in their Dairy Show, which is held annually in December. A desire was shown to entertain this proposal favourably. Mr. F. B. Thurber and Dr. Voelcker also addressed the meeting.

#### FORMATION OF A GOAT SOCIETY.

On Thursday, October 16, a meeting was held at the Agricultural Hall to consider a proposal to establish a Goat Society. Mr. W. Freeman presided. Mr. H. S. Holmes Pegler explained that the objects of such a society would be twofold—namely, to improve the breed of goats and to encourage goat-keeping generally. The only thing now remaining to be done was to agree upon a certain standard of excellence and to endeavour to breed up to it, the chief point at which to aim being good milking qualities. He suggested that one feature of the goal of the new society should be the offering of prizes at the shows of the Royal Agricultural Society and similar bodies. After some discussion it was unanimously resolved to form an association to be called the "British Goat Society," Mr. Pegler being appointed hon. secretary. A committee was then elected to make preliminary arrangements and to convene a general meeting of the members during the meeting of the Smithfield Cattle Show. The annual subscription was fixed at 5s., and most of those present enrolled their names as members. The chairman spoke of the desirability of goat-keeping by cottagers not only on account of the nutritious milk thus obtained, but with a view to utilising the large tracts of waste land in rural districts. Among the speakers was Mr. J. B. Evans, from the Cape of Good Hope, who, it was stated, had kept large flocks of goats successfully and profitably for several years past.

**THE LAW OF MATRIMONY.**—Yesterday morning an old negro man arrived in the city from St. Louis in search of his before-the-war wife. The old man went off into the war with his master, but, undergoing a change politically, deserted him and embraced the emancipation cause, and now, after so long a time, he comes back to the scenes of his childhood. After making a great many inquiries he learned that his wife had married again, and that she and her husband were living down on Second Street. Arriving at the designated house the old man, stiff with rheumatism, hobbled up the narrow steps and fell against the door, which, yielding to the weight of his body, opened. Sitting near the window was a tall, bony woman. Near the fireplace, rubbing a fiddle with a

greasy woollen rag, sat a man. "It seems ter me like," said the visitor, dropping down on a trunk, "that you uster be my wife afore de wah." "Bless de Lord," exclaimed the woman, "it's beginnin' to hitch onto me in de same direction." "What does dis prankin' mean?" said the last husband, dropping the rag and throwing the fiddle on the bed. "Splain yonselfes." "Dis 'oman nster be my nat'ral wife, and I've come hesh ter see if we can't make some sorter 'rangements in regard to it." "Ole man," said the last edition of matrimony, "de bes' and mos' p'lite thing is fer yer to go 'way and ten' ter yer business. Dis 'oman an' myself understands each oder putty tolerable well, an' de bes' thing is fer yer to leve us." "Daniel," said the woman, "when yer was young yer was a pretty squar sort of feller, but now de rheumatiz have cotch yer, and fore God I doan' wante rheumatized man. Dan, you's bow-laiged at de bes'." "Sides all dat, I've changed my 'ligion." "Let me sight yer to a parable in de law, 'cordin to Blackstone," said the second husband. "De fir's deed and de las' will am de mos' powerful. De fir's deed am subject to de las' will. Wasn't it a deed when yer married dis 'oman? wan't de ack of marrin' her a deed?" "Tubber shoah," said the first husband, reflectingly. "Wan't our marriage a will? Wan't it de 'oman's will dat she married me? Answer de question squarly." "Yes." "Well den, 'cordin to de law, de 'oman's mine." "Dat's a fac', Dan," said the woman. "Ain't yer gwine to give me no allum money?" asked Dan. "De law don't mention that," said the victorious husband. Dan arose from the trunk and looked around the room. A tear stood in his eye. Suddenly his face brightened. "Gin' me dat catfish over dar, an' I'll leave you." "De law don't mention de fish, but I'll gin' it ter you." Daniel picked up the fish, ran his finger through its gills, and passed out into the street.—*Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette.*

**EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.**—During the first six months of the current year the number of immigrants into the United States amounted to 52,384, against 37,919 in the same period in 1878. The greatest monthly total was 18,328, in May, while in June the total number of arrivals was 11,692, and in April 11,406. The greater majority of these immigrants came from Europe, and about 80 per cent. of them landed at New York. Germany contributed more than any other nationality; Ireland stands second in point of numbers, and then England, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Scotland, and France. A review of the movement of emigration to the United States during the last 60 years presents some curious features. In 1817 it is recorded that 22,940 persons landed on the soil of America, but up to 1820 no regular account was kept of the number of immigrants. It is estimated, however, than from 1776 to 1819 the total number of Europeans landing in New England was 250,000, and that, from 1776 to 1878 no less than 10 millions of Europeans have gone to settle in the United States. New York has always been the principal port of debarkation, and out of an actual immigration of 8,094,160 during the period from 1848 to 1877, no less than 5,516,746 landed there. From March, 1877, to March, 1879, New York received 5,732,183 immigrants, or twice as many souls as the New England States contained at the end of the War of Independence. Their nationalities are recorded as follows:—Germans 2,165,232; Irish, 2,020,071; English, 742,271; Scotch, 161,537; Swedes, 124,703; French, 110,853; Swiss, 85,943; Italian, 50,581; Norwegian, 49,097; Dutch, 40,103; Danes, 36,993; Russians, 23,083; Belgians, 10,493; Spaniards, 8,952. As the port of New York is the principal landing-place for immigrants, so the State of New York becomes the home of a large proportion of them. Out of 80,000 who landed there in 1878, 30,983 remained in that State; 18,289 settled in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois; 8,370 settled in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware; 8,506 in Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska; 4,424 went to the Pacific States; 1,940 to Utah; and only 1,646 to the Southern States; 6,040 went on to Canada. As to the money value of the "human Mississippi," as this regular stream of immigrants has been called, it is calculated that, if each individual brings on an average 100 dollars, which is believed to be below the mark, the total wealth brought into the country by ten million settlers must have amounted to 1,000,000,000 dollars, or £200,000,000 sterling.—*Times.*

## LORD REAY ON AGRICULTURAL LAWS.

At a meeting of the Social Science Congress on Oct. 6th, Lord Reay, President of the Economy and Trade Section, delivered the opening address. Lord Reay said that no question was of greater importance, not only now but at all times, than that of land tenure. He should not attempt to deal with all the bearings of the question, but call their attention to some facts illustrating the direction which they should not follow, and then point out the line they could safely take. As regarded the land question, in what was known as the French legal system the facility with which land could be acquired was held up to their admiration; the small owner was described in glowing colours; even the condition of agriculture was said to be enviable. This was often effected by the easy process of comparing the position of the limited owner in England, who had an encumbered estate to which he could not do justice, farm buildings and cottages in a deplorable condition, tenants owning no other capital than their votes, without any real agricultural knowledge, the only skilled labour on the estate being that of the solicitor, who was the depository of all the mysteries of its embarrassed condition. To show them how the French system really worked in all its various aspects he should have to introduce to them several characteristic types, in their family surroundings, without attempting an exhaustive survey. He would only speak of land in its agricultural sense. The question of land tenure in Ireland, for building and residential purposes, and for cottage gardening, was not within the scope of his remarks. His remarks would apply only to those districts where the French system had full play to develop itself in its various forms. That system had such a strong hold in the countries where it did exist, that no legislature could for a single moment entertain the idea of altering its main features. He wished to point out how complex the system was, and how its various component parts reacted on each other. After citing an instance to show that the tendency of the system was to keep the land out of the hands of the farmer who would do it most justice, and to place it in the hands of a non-improving landlord and tenant class, he remarked that the process of the accumulation of land was continually going on in France. The first lesson taught by these various facts was that the antagonism between *grande* and *petite* culture was misleading. Under the present conditions of agriculture in the greater part of Europe, capital, agricultural knowledge, and a quick appreciation of the demands of the market were vital requirements. The French system did not offer any guarantees for this. It did not prohibit land from being mortgaged; it hampered the transfer by the tax on "mutations;" exchanges of intermixed lands for the sake of getting continuous fields, which were facilitated in Germany, in Austria and in England through the Inclosure Commissioners, were not encouraged. Compulsory division disturbed agriculture; life tenancy existed in some cases. The great merits of the system no doubt were the variety of the dimensions of the pieces of land which came into the market, and the simplicity of the conveyances, as the seller could draw up a deed of sale himself, and the purchaser could find out on the register to whom it belonged and what were its burdens. The wish to become a landowner was likewise fostered by the system in quarters where such a wish was not in harmony with the exigencies of good agriculture as it ought to be understood in these days. Co-operation might remove many blots; but co-operation was not easily introduced, and the Co-operative Association would perhaps soon degenerate into an institution closely resembling a great landlord working his own estate through a manager. Our system was quite capable with judicious reforms of answering all the needs of the present hour. Everything which interfered with the application of capital and science must be removed. Land should be always held in such a way that it could be disposed of by sale. Powers curtailing the disposal of land by the person who for the time being holds it, in whatever capacity, should not be allowed by law. Whether the power of settlement should be diminished was another question with which he would not deal. From the economic point of view as regarded land tenure it was sufficient to lay stress on the necessity that nothing should stand in the way of a sale of land, whatever might be the motives which induced this sale and whatever restrictions might be put on the investment of the proceeds by settlements or other deeds. If this was done our legislation would be in advance of the Prussian. The transfer and mortgaging of land should be reduced to a simple operation, as it was under the

Torrens system, which prevailed in the greater part of the colonies, in Belgium, and in Germany. This could only be done through highly efficient and competent officials having power to refuse to register deeds not drawn in simple form, so that intending purchasers and lenders of money could at once ascertain the exact condition of the title. The principle of Lord Selborne's Bill, that no transfer and no charge on land should be valid without registration, should be a *sine qua non*. Agricultural training in all its branches—lower, intermediate, and higher—should be much more fully recognised by the Educational Department of the Privy Council as one of the urgent needs of agriculture. Whether there was any need at present for more extensive Government interference might remain an open question. That a tenant should have compensation for unexhausted improvements seemed to him as much beyond doubt as that a landlord should have a claim against a tenant who had exhausted his farm; but if landlords and tenants were foolish enough not to secure themselves by leases against such contingencies it was their own fault. Though under the application of greater facilities of transfer and sale more land would come into the market, still it was very certain that they were not to look forward to an era of small properties. Hence the question of the management of property with a view to its greater productiveness remained of the utmost importance. An intelligent landlord, an intelligent agent, and intelligent tenants, could, working together, and provided capital was in hands of both landlord and tenants, and game and politics were set aside, do more for English agriculture than any law reform would ever achieve. Where these elements existed a landlord would of course undertake all the permanent improvements, leaving the tenants free to do with their capital what they liked, and also giving them more latitude in the rotation of crops, and giving them long leases. Where there were no leases, or where properties had been mismanaged, of course the necessity for a skilful adviser became great. Should anybody be inclined to cut the knot, by saying that the most natural solution would be to put the present tenant-farmers in possession as being the most competent to rely on their own judgment, he could ask where the capital was to come from to put them in possession, though, perhaps, it might be taken into consideration whether the principle contained in the Bright Clauses of the Irish Land Act should not be extended to England and Scotland. The important point, therefore, was to have an increased number of educated tenant farmers. Their education, their independence from restraints, antiquated or dictated by reasons which were non-agricultural; their taking a greater part in local government and in Parliamentary debates, would be of the highest importance to the country. It was remarkable to hear of proprietors, in some English districts, loathing to give leases, with every guarantee of independence and encouragement in the way of permanent improvements, unable to find men willing or able to take a lease; this difficulty could not be met by increased powers of sale, because the new owner would have to solve it as well. The Scotch system of giving long leases, admirably improved by Lord Leicester, and which had spread to parts of England, seemed to him to be capable of being worked so as to satisfy all concerned in agriculture. He did not consider that Scotch tenant farmers and Scotch labourers need envy the small owner whose returns left him hardly any margin of profit, and who was practically in the same position as the rack-rented farmer. Without altering the rights of property, for which he was not prepared, he did not see how they could draw a lease by Act of Parliament, and further secure that it should not be worked in a vexatious way. If farmers refused to enter into bad covenants there would be an end of them. The future of English agriculture depended on the enlightened action of landlord and tenants. Meanwhile the farmers had it in their own power to exact longer leases and better terms by offering higher rents. Referring to the present agricultural depression he remarked that it had nothing to do with our system of land tenure; but it ought to lead us to inquire what were its weak points, and in laying them bare might pave the way to a state of things which might be advantageous to landlord and tenant.

In the concluding portion of his address, Lord Reay said:— Nothing does more harm than to excite a craving for what is not within our reach. Endowment of the greater number of our population with land is hopeless. Improvement of the conditions under which it is held, the practical object of the Farmers' Alliance, is worthy of our most strenuous endeavours. English and Scotch farmers need not despair of the future.

## AMERICAN MEAT.

The *Chicago Tribune* reports:—

Mr. Philip D. Armour, of the well-known firm of Armour and Co., packers, having lately returned from a trip to Europe a *Tribune* reporter called at his office yesterday afternoon to elicit some information in regard to the condition of European commerce, more especially as bearing upon the leading export trade of Chicago. In a general way Mr. Armour stated that his trip had been a very pleasant one, and that the result of his insight into the present capacity of Europe as a consumer of American products was most satisfactory, as was also the future prospect.

As Mr. Armour put it: "Nobody could go to Europe, take a good look around, and come back a bear."

"The promise of an increased provision trade is good, then. To what extent, please, in a general way?"

"I think that the European market will take fully 25 per cent. increase of pork this year; of other products the increase will be somewhat less, but still very marked throughout."

"Then prices will go up during the winter!"

"I could not say about that. There is going to be no speculative demand from that quarter. They are too poor to buy in advance for future necessities. Their purchases will be made as their requirements arise. They have got to buy all we can send them, however, and at any prices we choose to ask. If pork went 10 per cent. above the present price the advance would not have the slightest effect upon the bulk of export."

"How are affairs in England?"

"I observed the situation closely both in England and Ireland, and the prospect for agriculturists in both countries is deplorable. But how could it be otherwise? To put the case in a nutshell, it is land at 300 dols. an acre, and limited in extent at that, to land at 20 dols. an acre—any amount of it, too, and some of it with loam twenty feet deep. The rent which many of the land-owners are asking for their farms is nearly as much as a farm can be bought for in America."

"What does the British farmer—I mean the man who rents and works the farm—think of all this?"

"He is beginning to find out that his occupation in England and Ireland is gone. The landowners will not accept the situation, which is nothing more nor less than that American competition has cut down the value of their property one-half. They insist upon rents which the farmer cannot pay and at the same time live, and when the old tenant surrenders the farm it either is leased by incompetent people or the proprietors themselves hire help and turn agriculturists on their own account, in either of which cases financial disaster is a foregone conclusion."

"Is much of this land being given up by the renting farmers?"

"It is; and the consequence is that an emigration has already begun among the farmers of England and Ireland, which, I think, will be a great blow to those countries. They are a people who, once gone, can hardly be replaced, and it will be a great gain to America to secure them. Conservative to a remarkable degree, the idea of leaving their native land and of giving up the farms they have occupied for years is repugnant to them; but the situation which stares them in the face is so plain that they cannot hesitate. I conversed with a number of farmers in England and Ireland, and they were of the same mind, that the only remedy left for them was emigration."

"Their conservatism will soon vanish after their arrival here."

"Yes; but in the meantime that very feeling is a tremendous power, and has a decided tendency to decrease American exportation. Now, in Ireland, hogs are selling at 60 shillings a hundred, while the American product, which is, to say the least, as good pork, sells for ever so much less. It's even worse in France, where I saw pork selling at 17 cents a pound while I was in Paris."

"That's a remarkable advance over Chicago quotations."

"So it is; but it's a comfort to know that American products are constantly pushing their way everywhere. But how could it be otherwise, when we can land our goods over there for half a cent. a pound, and in less than thirty days. It's only a question of time; sooner or later we are bound to have the market to ourselves, a view which is accepted by the more far

seeing residents across the water. By the way, I can tell you a funny story which exemplifies the dense ignorance prevailing abroad of America and American cities. Our agent at Paris—a very bright and clever Englishman who visited us last winter—told me while I was at Paris of an amusing conversation he had had with his banker. He does his business with a banking-house at Havre, and on his return from America he was questioned by the Havre financier as to his trip, how he had enjoyed it, etc. Naturally enough, our agent was enthusiastic over Chicago's beauty and importance as a trade-centre, and he dilated at length upon the subject pouring into the banker's ear a full description of the stock-yards, of the immense droves of cattle which they contain annually of the elevators and the mighty corn and wheat crop which they garner, of the big fire—everything which an intelligent man who had been to Chicago would talk about, in fact. The banker seemed deeply interested in all, and when our agent got through, asked him, 'Yes, very fine, but what was the name of the place where you saw all this?' And when our friend reminded him that the name of the place was Chicago, the banker showed the fullness of his geographical researches by remarking, 'O yes, Chee-cago. Let me see. That is a city near Buenos Ayres, is it not?'"

Mr. Armour added, on his own account, that, extravagant as the story might seem, it was a fair exposition of the knowledge of American affairs possessed by the average European.

## AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—My attention has been directed to the enclosed statements which appears in a local paper, the *Herets and Beds Express*. It is indeed a sad narrative, and, moreover, one of so much importance generally, that I think it right that it should be brought under your notice. Surely it is a case illustrating the necessity for the Farmers' Alliance, and is a strange commentary upon those gentlemen who fancy matters will right themselves if only farmers will be more economical and industrious, and can and more assistance from their wives and daughters!

I am, Sir, &c.,

Sept. 27.

A BEDFORDSHIRE FARMER.

**A RUINED VILLAGE.**—This village, (Everton, Beds), twelve years ago was one of the happiest and most prosperous in the county. The farms, eight in number, were let to respectable, well-to-do tenants, most of whom were born upon the soil they cultivated, and their ancestors were natives of the village. But since then there has been a total change both in landlords and tenants. Some years ago when the land hunger was at its height, the estate, comprising 1,700 acres, was sold, all the old tenants were evicted, the land was let to strangers at an advanced rental, and an entirely new system of management was begun by the gentleman who took the management of the estate. The farms were not long occupied, the advanced rent like the last straw made its weight felt, and tenant after tenant found themselves obliged to give up their holdings, until at length the village has become almost deserted by farmers. Seven farm houses are unoccupied by farmers—one or two are shut up, and the others are occupied by either bailiffs or labourers. The whole of the land with the exception of one farm and some garden land is in the hands of the estate agent, who is carrying on the cultivation at the expense of the landlord. The labour employed is so small that labourers have to go out of the parish for employment, whereas, during the time when the land was farmed by farmers there was not sufficient labour in the place, and labourers from other places had to be obtained. The land, as might be expected, has not much advanced in cultivation, and the houses and buildings appear to be falling rapidly to decay; the probability is that there is not so much money spent in the village by £2,000 a year as there was twelve years ago. This has made itself felt, and a most despondent tone pervades the whole place. We were informed by a resident that the landlords used to clear £3,000 a year from this estate, but that now and for the last four years he believes that they have lost £3,000 a year. The estate is in the hands of trustees, the gentleman to whom it belongs not yet being of age. It is hoped that when he attains his majority a happier state of things may prevail.

## DAIRY FARMING IN NORTH ITALY

At a time when the improvement of dairy farming is a subject of peculiar interest, a brief account of the system pursued in North Italy will be seasonable.

The production of butter and cheese is an industry of great and increasing importance in the province of Milan. The fresh butter, which is distinguished for its sweetness and rich yellow colour, is exported to France and England, and is sent to various Italian cities. Salt butter is carried to North and South America, India, and the Levant. The principal cheese markets are Milan, Lodi, and Codogno. The "Grana" cheeses are exported to England, France, America, &c.; the "Stracchino" to England, and a small quantity to Germany. The "Grana" cheese is made during eight or nine months in the year, and with skimmed milk; the "Gorgonzola" and square (*quadro*) "Stracchino" cheese are made only between the months of October and January, with unskimmed milk. They are generally consumed in the winter or early spring.

The butter and cheese are generally made on the dairy farm by the "Casaro" or cheese-maker, a salaried servant of the proprietor. There are, however, a certain number of small tenant farmers who sell their milk to a dairyman (*lattaro*), who makes butter and cheese on his own account. The milk is carried immediately after milking, in pails on men's shoulders rather than in tin cans in a spring cart, as it is less liable to be shaken. The separation of the whey before the milk is carried to the dairy would prevent the "Grana" cheese being made, as for this fresh milk is required. Of the above systems, the first is considered the best, as the *lattaro*, in order to secure quick returns, is apt to increase the quantity of butter made to the detriment of the quality of the cheese. The Swiss plan of *laiteries sociales* is as yet but little extended around Milan, though there appear to be many union dairies in the valleys of the Italian Alps. In order to improve the method of making cheese, which is quite empirical, a model cheese dairy (*Stazione Cassificio*) has been established, with Government aid at Lodi. Up to the present time, however, the results do not appear to have answered expectation. The "Morgari," or herdsmen, who come down from the mountains into the plains during the winter and wander from one pasturage to another, have not always near them a dairy farm for making "Grana" cheese, or a centre for the sale of milk. They, therefore, coagulate the milk while it is still tepid, the whey (*stero*) is given to the pigs which accompany them, and the curd (*quagliata*) put into a cloth to dry, is taken to a dairy where it is made into "Gorgonzola," or "Quadro Stracchino" cheese. The quantity of milk produced by a cow varies according to the breed kept on the dairy farm and the quality of the fodder. Swiss cows yield per head and per annum, on an average, 80 hectolitres (660 gallons), cross-breeds 24 hectolitres (528 gallons), or less. The average price of milk is from 10 to 12 lire per hectolitre (22 gallons), when sold to make butter and cheese. The city milkmen pay from 15 to 17 lire per hectolitre (11s. 3d. to 12s. 9d. per 22 gallons).

Great progress has been made of late years in the condition of the dairies on farms; they are now generally clean and airy buildings so as to permit the milk to cool quickly. The "Casaro," or cheese-maker, receives lodging, light, fuel, and provisions (*generi*), to the total value of about 2,000 lire (£75) per annum. His assistant (*sotto casaro*) earns wages to the amount of 800 lire (£30) per annum. The "Casaro" superintends the herdsmen, who are badly paid, not earning more than 500 lire (£18 15s.) per annum. The position of a "Casaro," though generally profitable, is not without responsibility. The weight generally preferred for a "forma" or shape of "Grana" cheese is 50 kilos. (1 cwt.). For from five to a maximum of nine months the cheese are kept at the dairy, after which they are sold to the dealers. In two years they are fit for eating; the superior qualities keep better than the others, and remain good for five years. It is calculated that the total amount of loss from spoiling does not exceed from 25 to 35 per cent., as some of the cheese are able to be sold at lower rates before they are too far gone.

But little stock is raised in the province, the fodder being required to feed the cows, which yield an immediate return in milk, so that it is thought more profitable to purchase than to breed. The Swiss cow, as furnishing the most regular supply of milk, is the favourite. This breed is considered admirably suited to the Lombard meadow lands and fodder. The Swiss cows are also crossed with the native Piedmontese and Brescian, and with the Tyrolese breeds. The cattle are pastured out for three months and a-half, and stall-fed for the rest of the year; the stables are described as bad, and the wages of the herdsmen as low. No animals are specially bred for slaughter, but oxen, when past work, are fattened for the market. There may now and then be some exceptions to the above rule, however, good meat being more appreciated in Italy than was formerly the case. There are very few sheep and fewer goats in the province. In the autumn flocks of sheep are brought down from the mountains and remain in the plains during the winter, feeding in the open pastures to the great damage of the fields, banks, and roads. It is declared to be imperative that this practice should cease. The native breed of pigs is said to prevail, being preferred on account of the larger size of the animal. The number of pigs is on the increase with the greater extension of cheese dairies.

The province is not suited to the breeding of horses on an extensive scale. In the irrigated districts the fodder is too rich and watery, and fitter for horned cattle; in the other parts of the province the estates are, probably, too sub-divided. Such breeding as there is might, however, be more rationally conducted. There are stations for Government stallions at Lodi and Codogno, but the system has not, as yet, given all the results that were anticipated. The greater number of horses existing in the province are imported from other Italian provinces (chiefly Cremona), from Switzerland (principally purchased in the market of Lugano for agricultural purposes), and from Croatia. The wealthy Milanese import and pay

high prices for English carriage and saddle horses. German horses are also imported, and French cobs and ponies are held in good estimation.

With regard to the agricultural machinery and implements in use, Vice-Consul Kelly further states that the principal English makers have agencies at Milan. It is estimated that two-thirds of the machinery used are imported from England, the remaining third from America and other countries, including, however, the machinery and implements made in Italy. The United States supply reaping and mowing machines, and some ploughs, these latter being also made somewhat extensively in Italy, together with some other agricultural implements and machinery. The firm of Pistorus, of Milan, does a large business in English agricultural implements. Steam-thrashing machines are much used in the country, and well known firms find a ready sale for them in Milan, and through their agents in other parts of Italy. Close imitations of the English machines are, however, now met with in the country itself, sometimes at lower prices. The apparently dearer article would, it is believed, prove cheaper in the end, owing to the more solid and perfect workmanship, and consequent wear and durability. That native machinery can be sold at lower rates arises from the very low wages paid in Italy, and from the heavy custom duty on portable steam-engines.

## LAND PURCHASE IN NEW ZEALAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—I read with much pleasure the remarks of your New Zealand Correspondent, particularly as I know the locality from which he writes, and I admire the great force and common-sense of his letters.

Having been in New Zealand, I am constantly asked to advise people whether they should settle in that colony or not. To one and all I give the same advice, and that is, if you wish to leave old England, and have money to purchase land, you cannot do better than go to that colony. I prefer it to any colony; but see your land before you purchase it, and get your title before you pay for it. I give this advice because I was in the colony during 1876-7, and travelled in and about it more than 3,500 miles, and when on the Waikato River, I was offered a large tract of land at 13s. per acre, which I declined, because nearly all of it was an undrained swamp. Since my return home I have been invited to join in purchasing it at a considerable increase, and very much surprised was the would-be vendor when I told him I had ridden over such part of it as would carry a horse, and that I would not have the land as a gift until drained.

I found the Government very ready to sell land, and I agreed to purchase 50,000 acres at 10s. per acre, which with other items would have cost a total of 15s. per acre. This was in the North Island. Afterwards I went to the South Island, and on the 29th January, 1877, the Government wrote to Mr. W. H. Pearson, Commissioner of Crown Lands in Southland, to place before me the Government land remaining for sale. On the 11th of February, 1877, Mr. Pearson submitted 50,309 acres at 20s. per acre, which he described (and signed with his own hand) in the Waimea plain, near to a proposed railway which he has delineated as running from the Elbow to Gore, and *inter alia* says, "The land coloured pink on accompanying map is agricultural land of a good quality." The locality, the price, the railway, were all favourable; but a heavy fall of ruin, which carried away a railway and

destroyed the roads, prevented my visiting the land, and I returned to England without having seen it, and of course without purchasing any of it.

Some time after my return home I discovered from a leader in the money article of the *Times* that this very locality had the character of being infested with rabbits, and in the very next session of Parliament it was affirmed in the House of Representatives that "no less than 1,059,000 rabbits were destroyed" on 24 runs in the locality in one year, and the speaker said "considering that the Government held such a large quantity of land in the South he thought it only fair that they should bring in a measure to keep down the pest.

I had heard of the rabbit pest when in the colony, but never having visited the locality I could not speak from experience, and thought the reports exaggerated misrepresentations; however, on reading the above in the *Times*, I procured the *New Zealand Herald*, in which at page 490, August 16th, 1877, I found the same member saying: "On the same runs there were 153,000 sheep less than were shorn previously; and those runs produced 1,700 bales of wool less than they did formerly. That amount of wool, taken at a moderate computation of £15 per bale, would bring in a return of £25,500, which at 10 per cent. would represent a capital of a quarter of a million. He hoped the House would see the desirability of taking some steps for keeping down this evil. If the Government could not see their way to bring down a separate measure, perhaps they could introduce clauses into the Sheep and Cattle Bill which in some way might remedy the mischief." After reading this I felt that I had lost nothing, and probably saved much, by not having purchased the land. To my surprise, and before the account appeared in the *Times*, I was solicited in England to purchase a block of this very land, or a block near to it, as shown by the respective maps. I have now before me the letter, and the price required was more than ten times the price at which the Government offered me the land. The would-be vendor did not, of course, know when he made the offer to me that Mr. Pearson had placed before me 50,309 acres at the price of 20 shillings, and this, Sir, is the reason why I advise all purchasers to see the land before they purchase it, and to get the title before they pay for it. That the pest has not decreased will be seen from the following extract cut from the *Otago Daily Times* of July, 1879:—

"The rapidity with which rabbits are spreading on the runs between the Teviot and Clyde is, we are informed by a gentleman who has recently travelled over the country in question, almost beyond belief, except to those who are eye-witnesses of their vast increase. Our informant states that he was perfectly astonished at the droves of rabbits which he encountered in the country on the west bank of the Clutha River, between the Teviot and Alexandra. Their evil presence has extended right up to Messrs. Strobe and Fraser's Erusclough station, in the Duustan District, and we understand that on this alone 46,000 were killed during three months of the present year; while on another run, in the neighbourhood of Alexandra, 40,000 were killed last year, and 60,000 the year preceding. There can be no doubt that the evil has become one of very grave import in the portion of Otago above alluded to, as well as in Southland; and the expenditure involved in the endeavour to keep it in check is a very serious item in the annual expenses of the runholders. The employment of a number of professional rabbiters with dogs and guns seems to be the most effective means of keeping the vermin in check. On one of the runs above alluded to a large number of traps were procured and set, but the result was not satisfactory, for in addition to the rabbits which were caught an inspection of the traps showed that a number

of Maori hens and wild cats—the natural enemies of the rabbits—had also been captured, and this mode of destruction was therefore given up. The Maori hen, or *weka*, is a most determined enemy of bunny, and vigorously attacks and destroys both old and young. The wild cats also prove of good service, and on some of the runs litters of kittens are regularly turned loose to join their wild confederates, and in due course take part in the work and destruction."

I am, Sir, &c.,

J. BROOMHALL, J.P.

Burecotts, Surbiton, 26th September, 1879.

### CANADA AND THE COMMISSION.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date Sept.

12:—Messrs. Pell and Read, whose investigations on the condition and prospects of American agriculture are in some undisclosed way to put British farmers on a bee-line to "recuperation," arrived at New York last Sunday. It appears from paragraphs in the Toronto papers that as usual, sundry officials and interests here, see a chance of proclaiming through the commissioners the everlasting "immigration" evangel. The *Mail* says improved farms can always be had in Canada at reasonable rates, and that the agricultural experts will have a "hearty welcome." It omits to add that many of said improved farms would be dearly secured for nothing the omission goes doubtless on the principle of *carrot emptor*. The *Toronto Telegram* also hints that the visit "may" result in drawing the attention of tenant farmers in Great Britain to Canada as "a great agricultural country," and by that means induce immigration hitherwards.

That Messrs. Pell and Read were sent out to promote the emigration to Canada of British farmers had not occurred to me. Nor do I see how the abstraction of British capital and the multiplication of foreign agriculturists can be a remedy for home depression. However, I suppose it is all right. The Canadian government with its usual obtrusive solicitude for delegates had a mentor ready in Senator Reed, who was despatched off-hand to New York, and in whose affectionate embraces the commissioners found themselves when they stepped out of the steamer. Mr. Reed's object was to get them to eschew Codlin in favour of Short, and a telegram in the press here next day represented that he had succeeded, and that they would come to Toronto at once. In visiting New York they asked many questions, and in the cold storage rooms expressed much astonishment at the vast piles of butter and eggs which had been left in the refrigerators since June last. In conversation with a *Herald* reporter, Mr. Reed said he thought it would be necessary to establish similar storage places in Liverpool so that the American meat could be kept fresh. He thought the importation of American meat had depressed prices in England 1d. a lb. They would probably leave for Toronto that evening and visit the shows of Canada, afterwards returning to the United States. Yesterday we heard of them in Horkimer county, United States, where the *Globe* says they were "gathering cheese statistics," Senator Reed, "on behalf of the Dominion Government," still cleaving to them like Ruth to Naomi (probable he will be at their heels wherever they go). The reason why the Ottawa authorities want to get the British "experts" here in such hot haste is that the weather at present, and indeed usually in September and October, is peculiarly pleasant; moreover everything is very gay just now in Ontario because of the provincial tour of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess. All the county fairs are "on." There has been a good harvest and, in short, the province is at its best. The Commissioners, and the "farmer's delegates" whom the cable tells us this morning, left England yesterday, will

make a fatal mistake, however, if they judge the Canadian climate by the fall weather. In a tale called "Cedar Creek" Audry Callaghan defines his Canadian experiences as "six months freezing and six months frying." Without going quite so far as that I certainly must endorse what Mr. Ferrier, ex-M.P., some time ago gave to the *Globe* as the conclusion he had come to after 40 years experience of the Canadian climate:—"If Canadian winters were shorter, and there were fewer roasting hot days in summer, Canada might compare with Britain. But anybody who can live comfortably there would be very foolish to come to Canada." I do not know how it happens, but visitors, delegates, and spys of the land, by some mysterious underground freemasonry, never come save in September and October. When summer scorchings and "flies," and winter snows and blasts are in full reign, their carpet-bags remain unpacked, and the captains of Atlantic steamers know not their patronage. Hence they leave Canada with very imperfect ideas of its climatic conditions. Emigrants who will have to face all Canadian seasons need guides more fully posted than they. The temperature in Ontario ranges from the intense heat of 95 deg. or 100 deg. in the shade in summer, all the way down to 30 deg. or 40 deg. below zero in winter. And the changes are most sudden and trying to the constitution. One day you have summer in all its glow and fire, and next day the mercury has fallen 40 degrees! It is a climate, too, which does not improve on acquaintance. An Englishman stands the heat and cold of the first year far better than the second. In the *Westminster Review* in January, 1874 (or 1875), a writer contends that the climate of America has a continuously deteriorating effect on the British race. Sir Chartes Lyell, too, has put on record the fact that though while on a few months' visit to this continent he was delighted with the clear temperature, cloudless sun, and bright days then prevalent, he was warned that if he stopped a year or two he would feel less vigorous. The same remark was made to me by a medical man when I came to Canada: "You will find yourself grow weaker every year." These facts are well handled in the *Review*, and they account for the glowing panegyrics often penned by inexperienced settlers or visitors, which longer sojourn would modify largely. I do not care a cent about the onslaught of those who, like the *Toronto Globe*, while they are always running down England and sneering at the "ignorance" of the English press, think nobody should express any opinions on matters here save themselves, and therefore I say without hesitation that except for the new blood constantly infused by European immigration the race now here would continuously fade. It is notorious and constantly complained of here that both among Canadians and Americans each successive generation shows more aversion to agricultural labour and to manual work. Hence the demand for imported hewers and drawers. The *Globe* some time ago significantly remarked: "We in Canada naturally expect all the hard work of this country to be done by immigrants." It is immigrants who dig the canals, the town and county drains; build the cities and make the railways; and pretty hard work they find this. Jonathan goes on the same idea. The *Stratford* (Ontario) *Beacon*, one of our leading papers, thus wrote on July 15th last: "There is no use in denying our people are physically degenerating. The generation now growing up has neither the muscle, nerve power, nor pluck of the men and women who settled Ontario. This can be shown in a dozen different ways. Not one in one hundred could now settle and clear the forest." I agree with this, and with the *Westminster Review* writer, and am ready to discuss the whole question of health and vitality on this continent *re* Europeans with anybody.

Just speaking my own views, I think that to begin inquiry into American competition at the Canadian end verges on the absurd. In one case you have forty millions of people, in the other four; on this side of the live exports (of our own produce) are not of much account; and our capitalists are bound to a certain limit—viz., the local demands of a nearly stationary population, scattered over a vast area of country. It is otherwise indeed across the border. It is there is the danger to the home cultivator. It is evident, however, already that the Canadian authorities mean, if they can, so to manipulate the Commissioners' visit as to make it serve merely their own objects as immigration-promoters. This is a complete perversion of the object for which, as I apprehend it, the British exchequer has found funds for a commission to this continent. The investigation was intended to benefit English farmers, not Canadian land-jobbers.

You will not, I hope, have overlooked a very important remark used by the Duke of Argyll on his return to Britain. He found farmers in these parts who told him farming in America did not pay them the interest on capital invested, let alone labour and other charges. But no complaints, said the Duke, were heard from them, because, as one of them frankly admitted, they might want to sell their land (to greenhorns) and so would not say anything likely to depreciate its value. This principle pervades the whole Continent here, and I shall say more thereon hereafter. As regards the 80 farmers who have just arrived from England for Texas I think it is likely you will hear from them ere long. An English paper says their emigration was due to the exertions of a railway agent sent to Britain to beat up for settlers; and the *Toronto Mail* says they bought their localities of a Texas landowner in England at from £150 to £360 for 80 to 160 acres; and hopes they have not been badly taken in. A friend of mine who lately went to Texas, but soon returned, gives a very discouraging account of the poor condition in which he found cultivators there.

The *Toronto Globe* has just come out with some new cattle export statistics, on which I cannot comment in this. So I will merely say at present, they are either intended to hoodwink Messrs. Read and Pell, and the home public or they establish beyond question the existence of smuggling into the dominion during the last two months, in which time crede the organ, we exported to England nearly as many beasts as from January to July! A likely story. A cable from England states that acting on advices from Ottawa Sir John Macdonald gave up his intention to visit Earl Dufferin, and stopped in London to again interview your Privy Council to get new cattle arrangements—which shows, if true, that he and his advisers must be of a singularly hopeful temperament. This was since the extension of the embargo to October 6th. These prolongations of the embargo for a month at a time are very ridiculous. Why not at once forbid imports from the States "until further orders?" The present procedure is, however, only one of many proofs that our administration comprehend neither this gravity of the cattle situation, nor the feeling in England on a matter so vital to British interests. It is now settled that Sir A. T. Galt is to be permanent Canadian Commissioner in England with a town house.

The difficulties which await enquirers such as Messrs. Pell and Read, and also English editors who write on Canadian matters, are well shown in an article from the *Montreal Journal of Commerce*. A Canadian paper some time ago, referring to the defective state of the Dominion health statistics, said that Canada was at the lowest point of civilization as regards its returns relative to births, deaths, and marriages. The same incorrectness marks many other of its statistical tables. No deduction of any value can be based on them,

## INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGY.

The War Department of the United States Army has now for some time past been the head-quarters of a system of weather reports which is under the direction of the Chief Signal Officer, General Myer, which has constantly been extending its area and its usefulness, and which is fairly entitled to claim the cordial co-operation of other countries. The warnings of coming storms which we have lately so often received from America have been due to the labours of this Meteorological Department; and it cannot fail to be interesting to our readers to learn something of the methods by which the records available for such purposes have been obtained.

The most remarkable feature of the United States observations consists of a series of charts which are based upon the state of the barometer, the thermometer, and of the weather generally, in different parts of the globe at the same instant of physical time. The work is so arranged that the observations, say at Washington, St. Petersburg, and Constantinople, are not taken at the same hours of local, or clock time, in the three cities, but precisely at the same moment; and the readers or observers being all actually at the instruments at once, and so for all other stations. The atmosphere over any extent of the earth can thus be viewed as a whole and before any movements or changes in it are possible. The charts on which the observations are recorded give a true synopsis—it might almost be called a photograph—of the atmosphere and its conditions at the instant. The results, which are called "simultaneous observations," are characteristic of the work of the United States Office, were first employed by it for the purposes of prediction in 1870, and are now, at the invitation of the office, taken widely throughout the world. They are collated under the direction of General Myer, at Washington, and are printed and issued daily, forming the "international bulletin of meteorological observations taken simultaneously." They embrace observations taken by almost every civilized power north of the equator, as well as observations taken at sea. In order to satisfy the many inquiries concerning the conditions, scope, and progress of the labour connected with these international simultaneous observations, a special report upon the subject was made by the Chief Signal Officer to the Secretary of War, under date of November 1st, 1875; and of some of the chief features of this report the following is a condensation:—

At a congress of persons charged with meteorological duties, which assembled at Vienna in 1873, it was resolved to be desirable that at least one uniform observation of such a character as to be suited to contribute to the formation of a synoptic chart should be taken, recorded, and exchanged, daily and simultaneously, at as many stations as possible throughout the world. This recommendation has continued to be of practical effect; and by the authority of the United States War Department, and with the courteous co-operation of scientific men and chiefs of meteorological services representing the different countries, a record of observations taken daily, simultaneously with the observations taken throughout the United States and the adjacent islands, has ever since been exchanged semi-monthly. These reports now cover the territorial extent of Algiers, Australasia, Austria, Belgium, Central America, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Greenland, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunis, Turkey, British North America, the United States, the Azores, Malta, Mauritius, Sandwich Islands, South Africa, South America, and the West Indies.

On July 1st, 1875, the daily issue of a printed bulletin exhibiting these international simultaneous reports was commenced at Washington, and has ever since been continued, and a copy of this bulletin is furnished to every co-operating observer. The results afforded by the reports thus collated are considered to be of especial importance, and the bulletin combines, for the first time of which there is any record, the labours of all nations in a work for their common benefit. There is only needed the assistance of the navies of the different Powers (that of the navies of the United States and Portugal being already given) to extend the plan of report upon the seas in order to bring fully within the scope of study observations extending around the whole of the northern hemisphere. This end is to a great extent already attained,

since a number of observations taken on vessels at sea, at the request of the War Department, and in order to complement the synchronous reports of the land service, are now regularly received upon the forms provided for the purpose. The utility of such observations is manifest in their bearing upon the study of storms which are approaching coasts or which may endanger vessels on their departure. The co-operation of the United States Navy, where the vessels may be, has been assured by a general order of the 25th of December, 1876, and has largely increased the data of this class. The required observations have been skillfully taken throughout the service, and the people of the United States are thus the first nation whose army and navy co-operate, as all armies and navies should, under official orders, in the work of simultaneous meteorological observation wherever the forces may be stationed. To facilitate the co-operation of vessels of the mercantile marine, carefully tested barometers of the best make have been prepared as standards, and are placed at New York and San Francisco under the charge of sergeants of the Signal Corps, who attend daily in order to take charge of any ship's barometers which are brought for comparison and to give any information which may be required. The officers of the Signal Service at the different cities and ports of the United States are also instructed to offer every assistance in their power to the vessels of any nation.

With the plans for charting now adopted at the Washington Office, and with the reports now received there, it appears that the meteoric changes occurring over a great portion of the continents north of the equator can be laid down with an accuracy sufficient to permit careful and valuable study. This charting, to be of the greatest attainable value, must be supplemented by the records of observations taken on the seas. A ship at sea becomes one of the best stations for a simultaneous system. The value of the record is enhanced by the change of the ship's position which occurs within each of the twenty-four hours. There is no sea-going vessel which does not carry human life, and each ought to carry, by compulsion if need be, meteorological instruments. The smallest craft in caring for its safety may so use them as to add to the value of the most extensive record. There is no nation which is without interest in the work proposed to be based upon exchanged simultaneous reports, and no nation has hitherto hesitated, when the subject has been properly presented, to aid in a duty which, so easily done as to require very little effort on the part of any one person, has for its object a good to mankind. The work cannot, from its nature, be for the selfish good of any section.

A number of the great steamship companies traversing the principal commercial sea routes have promised to give their powerful influence and aid; and the United States, in the case of maritime observers co-operating in the system, will, when so desired, bear all expenses of forms, postages, &c., and will also, when necessary, lend the required instruments. The number of observations made daily on separate vessels at sea already exceeds one hundred.

Even when predictions are not directly practicable, research has already been carried far enough to indicate the paths through which to learn what sequences will be found on the American western coasts consequent on conditions reported as existing on or near the eastern coast of Asia or on the Pacific Ocean. Similar studies will have reference to the southern and eastern American coasts and the western coasts of the European continent. The time cannot be far distant when vessels leaving any Atlantic port may be informed whether any notable disturbance exists at sea and where it is likely to threaten the voyage. The establishment of permanent stations in lines traversing the oceans over or near the telegraph cables and maintained in telegraphic communication with either continent is not considered impracticable. There is good reason to hope that progress has already been made which will soon remove from the study of practical meteorology some of the chief difficulties against which it has had to contend, and also that atmospheric conditions and changes of condition can be charted with sufficient accuracy over any extent of the earth's surface. If this hope should be fulfilled, meteorological barriers against study will practically cease to exist.

Although the stations are crowded in some localities, each one of them is useful, either by serving to check the work of others or by aiding to close gaps which the failure of others

might sometimes cause. It is even believed that a still more extensive system would permit of generalisations by which meteoric changes might be announced for longer periods in advance than has been hitherto practicable.

The average number of daily simultaneous observations now made in foreign countries is 293. The total number of stations on land and on vessels at sea from which reports are regularly entered in the bulletin is 557. The co-operation of the different nations secured by the plan of exchange renders the additional cost to the United States of the grand system of reports it makes possible but little more than the cost of the preparation, paper, and binding of the international bulletin and the accompanying charts—a cost the greater part of which would have to be incurred for the proper preservation of the records themselves even if the bulletins were not distributed. As one result of the international co-operation which had been obtained, it became possible on the 1st of July, 1878, for the first time to commence the publication of an international weather map, charted daily and issued daily, each chart based upon the data appearing upon the international bulletin of simultaneous reports of similar date. The charting extends round the world and embraces for its area the whole northern hemisphere. The study of such charts makes possible the improvement which will come as the work progresses and as the area of the chart is better filled with the results of observations carefully elaborated by scientific men.

The questions as to the translation of storms from continent to continent and of the times and directions they may take in such movements; the movement of areas of high and of low barometer; the conditions of temperature, pressure, and wind direction existing around the earth at a fixed instant of time, permitting thus the effects of day and night to be contrasted; the distribution and amount of rainfall, and other problems, many and important, which are only suggested by this enumeration, may by such means be settled. It seems not impossible that in the future questions of climatology, and perhaps others bearing upon the prediction of changes far in advance of the time at which they may happen, or questions of the character of coming season even, may be answered by the researches which these charts will render practicable. As a means of better combining the work and the interests of the several nations concerned; of certainly securing that co-operation at sea which will enable the lines of charting to be drawn as fully and as well over oceans as over continents; and which will ultimately give the world as practical a knowledge of the movements of areas of disturbance in the midst of the seas as is now possessed of such movements on some continents, the undertaking is of vast importance.

It is among the advantages of the charting drafted from simultaneous reports that studies by normals not possible in any other way can be made. The normal pressure, temperature, &c., arrived at from observations taken at any one place at the same fixed instant of time every day become established as to that place and time with accuracy, and many sources of error are thus removed. The comparison of such normals with those taken at other places simultaneously with the first and under similar conditions gives results which are trustworthy, and which are very different from those arrived at by the use of normal readings determined in any other manner. The comparison of such normals will show in the case of abnormal changes in any district or section, for any season, whether and how they are attended by compensating variations elsewhere. There are many interesting studies as to what sequences may be expected to follow any given variation occurring over any region or country, either in that region or country or in some other; and how and where the compensating variations occur and with what concomitants or sequences of meteoric changes. In this way, or by investigation which such study may suggest, there is good hope of ultimately gaining knowledge which may greatly benefit the commercial and agricultural interests of the world. The Government of the United States by thus boldly and comprehensively establishing a great scientific undertaking has set an example which can scarcely be too highly commended or too closely followed in other countries.—*Times*.

Lady Tourist. "Are the sheets well aired?" Irish Chambermaid. "Troth, and they are, Ma'am; for the sayson is three month's begun, and they've been well used since!"—*Punch*.

## LAWFUL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The following valuable article appeared in the *Hard-ware Trade Journal* for September 30:—

In continuation of this subject from our August number, in which we referred mainly to the subject of weights, we come now to measures of capacity, of which the gallon has long been the standard unit. By the Act of 1878, just now come into force, the unit or standard measure of capacity, from which all other measures of capacity, as well for liquids as for dry goods, shall be derived, is declared to be the gallon, containing ten imperial pounds weight of distilled water, weighed in air against brass weights with the water, and this at sixty-two degrees Fahrenheit thermometer, and with the barometer at thirty inches. The quart is to be the fourth part, and the pint the eighth part of a gallon; two gallons a peck, eight gallons a bushel, eight bushels a quarter, and thirty-six bushels a chaldron. Previously to the Act of 1825, there were several gallons in use—the wine gallon, the corn gallon, the ale gallon, but these were all abolished by the adoption of the imperial gallon for all kinds of goods. The recent Act makes no alteration in the imperial standard gallon, as declared by the Act of 1825-6, but is merely a confirmation of it as the present standard or unit.

The gallon is a very old English measure, and doubtless derived its name from the Latin of the middle ages, in which it is described as *galo, galona, lagena*, &c. Measures of capacity, in consequence of measure being in primitive times a more convenient method than weight, have been more subject to variation at different times, and in different places, than have standards of length and weight. In the middle of the tenth century, when Winchester was the seat of regal power, King Edgar, among other judicious laws, made one to prevent frauds arising from diversity of measures, and provided standards to be adopted by the whole of his dominions. And this was the origin of the term Winchester, as applied to a bushel which was in use, and by which dry goods were sold down to the year 1826, when it was superseded by the imperial measure. Some old standards are still preserved in the Guild hall of Winchester of the present day, but whether they are the identical ones of King Edgar's time it is difficult to say. King David of Scotland (1124-53) directed that the *lagena* should contain twelve pounds of water; namely, four of sea water, four of still water, and four of running water, but nevertheless the customs of various places in course of time differed greatly.

The weights used in Ireland have generally been the same as in England, corn, &c., being usually sold by weight instead of by measure, and by the act of union between England and Scotland, passed in 1707, the weights and measures of England were to be adopted in Scotland, but their introduction became by no means general. From a table of provincial measures in use in Scotland till so late as 1826, there were more than sixty different varieties of the "boll" of grain. The boll was variously estimated at from 8,600 to 24,005 English cubic inches. In the county of Lanark, for example, the boll of wheat was 9,257 cubic inches; for peas and beans, 13,085 cubic inches, and for barley and oats 13,358 cubic inches. In the town of Lanark, however, the boll for wheat, peas, and beans was 8,789½, but for oats and barley it was 13,236 cubic inches. At Dumfries only the Winchester bushel of 2,150.42 cubic inches was in use; and the Scots' pint was formerly the exact measure of the Newcastle-on-Tyne pint, but both were equal to the English quart. From this it will be seen how little uniformity there was in the measure of various places in the sale of dry goods, though all were originally derived from the one gallon. It is probable that the variation in measure was made in some cases to obtain uniformity in the value of the boll. Scotch liquid measure was regulated by the pint, which was a jug of cast metal preserved in the borough of Stirling, and was supposed to contain 105 cubic inches. It was enacted by James I. of Scotland that the pint should contain 41 ounces troy weight of the clear water of the Tay; and James VI. directed that it should contain 55 Scots' troy ounces of the clear water of Leith. Troy weight was abolished by act in 1618, but was long after used in selling butter, cheese, tallow, wool, hemp, hay, and some other home commodities. The troy pound always contained the same number of ounces avoirdupois as the stone contained pounds. As the water of

the Tay and Leith are alike, this affords a method of ascertaining exactly what troy weight was, which it is not needful now to go into.

That in England various gallons were in use, is evident from the statutes of Henry III. and later kings, in which it was enacted that ale, wine and corn, should be measured by the same gallon, containing eight troy pounds of dry wheat from the middle of the ear. Legislation, however, produced no effect, for distinct gallons for wine, ale and beer, and corn and dry goods, remained in use till the Act of George IV. (1825) came into operation, and established only the imperial gallon for all kinds of goods. In the year 1650 there were three gallons in use, each varying from the others though supposed to be similar. The measure of the gallon in ordinary use was supposed to be of the capacity of 231 cubic inches; but the standard kept at the Guildhall, which was not, however, a legal standard, but was always considered as such, even by the law officers of the crown, was in reality but 224 cubic inches; while the real legal standard kept at the Treasury contained 282 cubic inches. This latter was used as the ale gallon, and Oughtred supposed the difference between the ale and wine gallon to be "that because of the frothing of the ale or beer, the quantity becometh (is) less, and therefore such liquors as do not so yield froth, as wine, oil, and the like in reason have a lesser measure."

In an experiment made in 1688, before the Lord Mayor and Commissioners of Excise, at which Flamstead, Halley, and others were present, it was ascertained that the sealed (stamped) gallon at the Guildhall, which was the standard used for testing measures, contained only 224 cubic inches. Upon the discovery of this, the Commissioners of Excise memorialised the Lords of the Treasury stating the fact, when Sir Thomas Powis, the Attorney-General, replied that: "he did not know how 231 cubical inches came to be taken up, but he did not think it safe to depart from the usage, so that all computations might stand on their old footing." "The fact was," writes Ward, the author of the "Young Mathematicians' Guide," "the Guildhall gallon was an incorrect copy of the old Exchequer standard." Dr. Bernard, as the result of experiments of himself and his predecessors, made the Guildhall gallon to contain 223.549 cubic inches—an agreement with the former trial of Flamstead and Halley, when 224 was obtained, which is remarkable, and which leaves no doubt as to the approximate correctness of both standards.

The ale and beer gallon of the Excise, being measured in the year 1700, was found to contain 282 cubic inches. As 12 is to 231 so is 14 12/20ths to 281½ the cubic inches in the ale gallon, but the ale quart really contained 70½ cubic inches, on which principle, the ale and beer gallon was 282 cubic inches. Ward, a writer on the subject in the latter part of the 17th century, thinks that this ale gallon was meant to bear the same relation to a pound avoirdupois which the wine gallon of 231 inches did to a pound troy; for 231 (inches) is to 282 (inches), very nearly as 5,760 (grains—one pound troy), is to 7,000 (grains—one pound avoirdupois). The corn or Winchester gallon is, however, a much nearer proportional; and it is a curious fact that the imperial standard gallon is very nearly a mean between the old ale and the old corn gallon, containing as it does, 277.274 cubic inches.

This diversity of measures sometimes led to not a little confusion and misunderstanding, and the Excise and Customs' duties were often taken on different standards. In the year 1700, a case was heard in the Court of Exchequer against a wine merchant, for having imported more Alicante wine than he had paid duty for. The merchant had paid duty by the gallon of 282 inches, but the Crown produced the sealed gallon from the Guildhall—said to contain 231 cubic inches, but only really 224—and contended that that was the standard. The defendant, however, stood by the law which required that the standard gallon should be kept at the Treasury, and that contained 282 cubic inches. This was established by the evidence; and by the oldest person in the trade. It was proved that the butts and hogsheads which came from Spain always contained the proper number of gallons estimated on the larger standard of 282 inches. The end of it was, a juror was withdrawn, and the Crown took no further proceedings. "A better instance of confusion," says a writer on the case, "could hardly be imagined. The legal gallon had gradually been diminished more than 50 cubic inches; the merchants in

one particular trade continued to import and pay duty by the real gallon, till they were finally called to account by the Attorney-General, who in common with the rest of the world had forgotten what the real gallon was, and sued for penalties upon appeal to what was no more a legal standard than any measure in a private shop."

Five years later an act was passed, which for the first time recognized by statute the existence of two gallons for different purposes, and defined the contents of the wine gallon to be 231 cubic inches. The act itself was for the union of the two Kingdoms of England and Scotland, and had no reference to weights or measures at all, except the one clause relating to the wine gallon; about as curious a mixture of legislation as can well be imagined.

The division of the gallon into that of wine, ale and beer, and corn measure was not known to arithmeticians till the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the gallon was measured by Mr. Briggs and Mr. Oughtred. They did not divide it into more than two kinds—the ale and the wine. Oughtred, who measured the Winchester bushel, obtained 272½ cubic inches as the capacity of the deduced gallon which he imagined to be the ale gallon, and this gallon was continued in use in Ireland up to the introduction of the imperial measure in 1826. The first time when, and the first person by whom, the distinction of the corn and ale gallon appears to have been made, was in 1650 by Wyberd, in his *Tactometria*. In referring to Mr. Oughtred's gallon of 272½ inches he says of Mr. Reynolds, a mathematician and a clerk in the mint, that "he alloweth of such a gallon measure, but not for any liquid thing, but only for dry things, as corn, coals, salt and other dry things, and so he calleth it the dry gallon measure; and thereupon he will have to be three several gallons, one for wines, which serves for oils, strong waters and the like; another for ale and beer, and a third for corn, coals and the like." Wyberd, however, himself rejected the distinction of dry and ale gallons, and made his wine gallons 224, and the other gallons to be but 266 cubic inches. He was a good and clever experimenter, and it is singular he should have estimated the ale gallon at so much from its exact measure of 282 cubic inches. It has been supposed that the varieties of gallons arose from the varieties of the pounds in use, as the original gallon was based on the weight of grains of wheat forming a pound, as before explained. A close relation between the old weights and the old measures most certainly existed. There was a gallon of 282 cubic inches in the Exchequer; there was one of 272½ inches (the Winchester) in common use; there was also one of 231 inches in common use, and there was one of 224 inches in the Guildhall; and it is curious that 282 is to 232 (as near as can be shown without fractions), in the proportion of the pound avoirdupois to the pound troy, and 272½ is to 224 nearly in the same proportion. The coincidence must be more than accidental, and proves the derivation of the various gallons from different weights.

One of the provisions of the new Act is that all measures of capacity for goods formerly sold by heaped measure "shall be stricken with a round stick or roller, straight and of the same diameter from end to end," or if the article sold cannot from its size and shape be conveniently stricken, the measure shall be filled up as nearly to the level of the brim as the size and shape of the article will admit." This, however, is no new enactment, for in the 15th century a change took place in the use of the standards, and heaped measure which had been confirmed by Henry III. and Henry VI. was declared illegal by a statute of Henry VII. (1483). The cause of the alteration was never explained, and for what purpose it was made no one seems to have known. Heaped measure had always been used, but in that year an Act was passed ordering "8 bushels *raised and stricken*, to the quarter of corn," and in the next year another statute followed to which we referred in our article on weights, defining "the bushel to contain 8 gallons of wheat; every gallon to contain 8 lb. of wheat, troy weight; every lb. 12 ounces; every ounce 20 sterlings, and every sterling to be of the weight of 32 corns of wheat that grow in the midst of the ear, according to the old laws of the land." The sterling was of course the pennyweight, for the silver penny of that time weighed only 15 grains, troy. This enactment for "*raised and stricken*" measure made the *weight* subservient to the *measure*, whereas before that time the *measure* had always been governed by the *weight*; and the theory of the heaped measure was that full weight might certainly be

given. The expression *raised and stricken* introduced a new measure of capacity called "a strike." "To raise," says Dr. Johnson, "is to skim to strike on the surface;" and as applied to a bushel of wheat, it would take away all that portion of corn which constituted *heaped* measure. A *strike*, therefore, by reducing the measure of corn to the brim of the bushel, made some considerable difference to the weight of the bushel. A strike of wheat contained only 62 pounds troy, while a bushel contained 64 pounds; that is, the "*strike*" was a measure less by one thirty-second part than the previous bushel.

Any notice of English measures of capacity without reference to the "quarter" would be unpardonable. The quarter of wheat is a quantity always on people's lips, and constantly quoted in all our newspapers and price currents, and yet how few have any idea from whence the term is derived. Of course everybody knows the quarter contains eight bushels, but what measure or vessel eight bushels are a quarter of is never dreamed of. In a former article we incidentally referred to the cubic by which the Pyramids of Egypt were built, and stated it to be but the two-thousandth part longer than the English two-foot rule. Other points of interest are also connected with the Great Pyramid of Egypt in relation to English weights and measures. In what is called "The King's Chamber," in the Great Pyramid, is a large porphyry coffer, "which," says the old English traveller Sandys, "is the only and one thing which this huge mass containeth within his darksome entrails." It is a simple rectangular vessel carved out of a single block, and has been measured from time to time by the most learned men of Europe. Avoiding small fractions, its inner measure is 77½ inches long, 26½ wide, and 34½ inches deep. As the Pyramid itself has, not without good reason, been supposed to have been built as an unerring and enduring standard for many geographical and astronomical operations, so the porphyry coffer is supposed to have been intended to serve as a standard measure of capacity. It is a curious circumstance that its capacity is exactly that of the "laver" mentioned in Scripture, Exodus xxx., and 1 Kings vii., 38, as it is also a measure of the "molten sea," described in the 7th chapter of the first book of Kings. The sacred "laver" contained 40 "baths," and the molten sea "contained 2,000 baths," 1 Kings vii. It was also equal to four Hebrew "chomers" of wheat, and is believed to have furnished the standard of all measures of capacity to the earliest Greek nations as well as to the Hebrew. Thus, then, the English quarter is exactly the same capacity as the Hebrew chomer. The "*hecteus*" of wheat was a measure made use of by the Greeks, and the Pyramid coffer contained 128 hecteis, and of the Roman *modi* 128 were also equal to the contents of the Pyramid coffer. But the measures of no nation, ancient or modern, bear so close an agreement with the Pyramid coffer as the English. Like the *hecteus* and *modius*, just 128 of our pecks go to make up the measure of the coffer; secondly, thirty-two of our bushels of wheat, or four of quarters would fill a vessel of that capacity, it we had one in use. Taking the mean of the most reliable of the measurements of the coffer, including that of the careful clever traveller Greaves, in 1638, they appear to give 77'806 + 26 599 + 34'298 = 70,982'4 English cubic inches; and as an imperial gallon contains 277'274 cubic inches, which being multiplied for bushels, quarters, and four quarters gives 70,982'144 English cubic inches, the similarity is remarkable, and cannot possibly be the result of accident. It is to the nicety of the one hundred and forty-four thousandth part of a cubic inch contrasted with nearly eighty thousand cubic inches—an infinitesimal quantity indeed, the value of which consists only in its extreme minuteness. It is but logical to conclude that although such a vessel is not still in use, yet that we must have had such a measure in earlier times; since we daily make reference to it. When, therefore, we say eight bushels of wheat are a quarter, we refer to some entire measure, which is exactly equal in capacity to the Pyramid coffer.

Many other interesting particulars might be quoted in which the Great Pyramid appears to have been the standard from whence not only measures but weights and astronomical formula were derived, but want of space precludes. "By these several minute and singular coincidences," says a late writer, "the English nation appears to be more closely identified with the people who founded the great Pyramid than many of those nations of antiquity, who were apparently brought into closer contact with Egypt in the earliest ages."

## THE REARING OF POULTRY.

Mr. E. J. Burnes, of Rose Cottage, Leytonstone, writes to the *Standard* :—

I have read with much interest the correspondence and articles your paper has lately contained on agricultural matters; particularly as regards the rearing of poultry in England. My opinion has long been, and my experience with poultry confirms me in it, that if only farmers and cottagers at home would devote a little regular attention to this form of "stock" nothing would pay them better; and this could be achieved at a smaller outlay of capital for houses and appliances than they would require for any other class of farming. Why, with every agriculturist complaining of bad times do we still go on year after year paying away to foreign countries immense sums for deal poultry and eggs? Even aided by these large foreign supplies, at present poultry and ducks are hardly obtainable in early spring. I have made a fair trial this year of raising poultry for table use—chiefly as a source of amusement—but having succeeded so well I shall extend my operations, and try what advanced poultry farming—hatching in winter and early spring with incubators, breeding good table birds, caponing, and fattening will do for us in this country. A brief *resumé* of my work will, perhaps, prove of interest to your readers, and may induce some of them not to go on neglecting the source of income which their poultry may easily be made to prove to them.

I commenced operations last February by purchasing a hydro-incubator, which I first tried with 17 "shop" eggs, producing me seven chicks. I next put in 85 eggs, principally from my own hens, and got 63 chicks. In April I bought another hydro-incubator, and got the two to work with 85 eggs in each, out of which number I obtained 132 chickens. In May I again put 85 eggs in each of my hydro-incubators, and produced 126 chickens; and in June I got 102 chickens and ducks from 140 eggs entrusted to the two machines to hatch out. The grand total of my hatching was therefore 430 chickens and ducks, all of which, after two days passed in a basket, before the kitchen fire, were put under an artificial mother. One point about these latter appliances deserves most special attention. During all this season not a single chick reared under them has suffered from vermin or parasites such as no bird reared under a hen can be kept free from. The effect of this cleanliness has been to cause my artificially reared birds to grow far stronger and larger, and much more quickly, than the few I have left to hens to bring up. In my opinion the absence of parasites in these young chickens means a very perceptible increase of profit in thus raising them.

I have now got into a regular system of working my hydro-incubators, which I think partly accounts for my success with them. I fill up both the machines on the same day. After seven days I reject the non-germinated eggs, and replace them by fresh eggs, so that my hatching is really only completed on the twenty-eighth or twenty-ninth day. Then for three days I work the hydro-incubators empty, allowing the drawer to remain open for thorough cleansing and purifying. I make, therefore, about one hatch per month for each machine.

I calculate my average hatching to be at the rate of fifty-five out of every seventy fertile eggs, or at the rate of seventy-eight per cent. for the entire season. Out of four hundred and thirty ducks and chickens I have lost thirty-two from various accidents, chiefly from so much wet weather, but all the survivors have been reared artificially.

This next season I purpose beginning to hatch in November, and shall go into it more thoroughly. I mean to have a fine stock of nicely fattened young chickens and ducks before our old friend this "hen" has made up her mind to begin sitting on her eggs.

I should like to say one word more upon another subject which has been mentioned from time to time in your columns, and this is the prickly comfrey. I use it frequently and regularly, both for my fowls and for a lot of Belgian hares which I breed. The fondness of the latter for it is most extraordinary. They will always leave cabbage for prickly comfrey; but its value to me for their keep is that, however much they eat of it, and no matter how frequently I give it to them, prickly comfrey never has the pernicious effect upon

them that too much green food of any other kind produces. For the fowls I hang up a fresh cut bunch for them to peck at, and much they enjoy it. Prickly comfrey answers admirably with me, but of two purchases of it which I made one has turned out worthless, and is, I suppose the wrong sort.

## THE SPEAKER ON AGRICULTURE.

The Right Hon. the Speaker presided at the Glynede Harvest Home, near Lewes, on October 4. According to his annual custom he addressed the assembly on the question immediately connected with the proceedings of the day. He said: It has given me great pleasure to meet you here to-day, as it always does as the years roll by. I am old enough to recollect a great many harvests, but I am bound to say that so far as my memory serves me—speaking from an experience of something like half a century—the present has been the latest and longest I ever remember. We commenced harvest this year on the 19th of August, about four weeks later than usual, and it is not yet completed, because I have still exposed to the elements several acres of barley. The question will very naturally be asked, how is it that the harvest has been so late? I think that your own observation will give you an answer to this question. It has been owing very much to the rain and clouds and the very remarkable absence of sunshine. It so happens that since I have been living here I have taken an account of the rainfall, and I have a record of it for the last twenty years. I find that the rainfall this year, up to the present date, has been larger than that of any year since I have kept a register. The only one which seems to be at all parallel to the present year was 1830, and many will remember what a bad time we had on that occasion. During June, July, and August this year, the most important months for maturing corn, we had a rainfall of 14 inches—nearly double the usual fall in the same period—and it is a very remarkable circumstance that the rainfall in 1830 for these same months was almost precisely similar to this year. That, I think, accounts for the harvest being so very late, but I might also point to the fact which I stated the other day when distributing the prizes at the garden show, that not only have we had a very large amount of rain, but that when the rain has ceased we have not been blessed with that amount of sunshine we generally enjoy. If you will just reflect upon this circumstance it will be quite plain to you that the cause is very clear. I am decided in my own mind that so far as the yield of wheat goes that will prove to be the case, for we rarely find the yield good in rainy and cloudy seasons. The theme of the day is the depression of agriculture. There is no doubt that very considerable depression does exist, and if I were asked the cause of that depression I should say that the principal cause was the weather, and although I admit there are many other minor circumstances which rather increase that depression, I believe the principal one to be that which I have stated. Therefore I think that we may very fairly hope that the depression will prove to be only temporary. Of this I am quite sure, that the only way to meet this difficulty is for all those interested in agriculture, whether landlords, tenants, or labourers, to pull heartily together, and I am bound to say this, I have found among the labourers on my own farm during the late harvest a very hearty co-operation, for which I now thank them. I remember on several occasions you have worked by moonlight, into late hours of the night, doing your best to secure good crops, and I do heartily thank you for the exertions you have made. I am quite persuaded of this, that unless there is hearty co-operation to assist the farmer in his endeavours to till the soil, it will be bad for the landlord on the one hand and the labourer on the other; because what is it after all which provides the funds for the labourers' wages? It is the farmers' profits, and if the farmer make no profits, it is quite plain the labourer can get no wages. Therefore, if you reflect you will see how closely united are all the interests engaged in the cultivation of land. For my part, I have great faith in the future of agriculture, because I am persuaded that if we only proceed with our business in obedience to the laws of Providence our efforts will be rewarded, and that the depression from which we are at the present time suffering will pass away, and the prosperity of former times be renewed. With these few words I will drink the healths of yourselves and families, and trust we may meet together next year under more prosperous circumstances.

## ENGLISH AND FOREIGN WAGES.

"Foreign Work and English Wages, considered with reference to the Depression of Trade," by Mr. Thomas Brassey, M.P., is a work that is certain to attract very wide attention in this and other countries. It is the outcome of an engagement made by the author last winter to deliver lectures at Edinburgh and Hull on the condition and prospects of trade. Having entered into the inquiry which was necessary in order to deal advantageously with his subject, Mr. Brassey was led on from the main subject into several collateral topics, and the result is a valuable collection of statistics and other information compiled from various sources. Disclaiming all pretension of original discovery, the author admits that his work is mainly one of selection and compilation—a record and a registry, and not a work of imagination and theory—and such indeed we find it mainly to be; but it is none the less valuable on that account.

Mr. Brassey's father, as the result of long experience and rare opportunities of comparison, discovered that the cost of work, as distinguished from the daily wage of the labourer, was approximately the same in all countries; and Mr. Brassey himself retains an implicit faith in the British workman, if that much-abused man will but do himself justice, in spite of the prevailing dread of the competition with the ill-paid labour of the Continent. He is equally hopeful as to the continued supremacy of British enterprise in commerce, which he says is to be maintained by diligence, administrative skill, and a high sense of honour and integrity. In an elaborate review of the depression of trade, our author shows that the recent falling-off in our export trade has been one of value rather than one of quantity. He combats the theory that commerce in America is benefited by the Protective system which prevails in that country, and on this head it is hoped that his arguments will be widely read.

In dealing with the depression in agriculture, Mr. Brassey opens with a strange misapprehension of what is an effective remedy. He says of the British farmer:—"He will be called upon to lead a more laborious life. There must be less supervision and more manual labour. The occupier of land and his family must work as the farmers work in the Western States." This advice is only applicable to small farmers, and Mr. Brassey appears to ignore the difference in the sizes of farms in this country as compared with the prevailing area in America. Perhaps even small farmers in this country do less manual labour than the farmers of America get through; but nearly all do work, although they also employ more hired labour than it is customary to employ in the United States or Canada, as the greater perfection of British farming renders it necessary they shall do. But to suppose that the farmer of 300, 400, or 500 acres can make his farm profitable by doing away with the labour of one hand, and, for the sake of effecting that economy, withdrawing his superintendence and brain-work from his business—as he necessarily must to some extent if he works as a day labourer—is a strange misapprehension.

We notice an error on page 22. "After 1873," we are told, "three bad harvests followed in succession." It should be after 1874, as in that year we had one of the best wheat harvests of the present decade, and barley was quite an average crop. Since 1874 we have now had five bad harvests in succession. We notice that Mr. Brassey goes almost exclusively to a statistical paper for his agricultural information, which fact may to some extent account for the want of knowledge of some of the details of agriculture which his book in this and other parts displays. We do not in the least degree intend to detract from the high authority of the journal in question on its special subjects; but upon the details of farming it can scarcely pretend to be regarded as the most complete guide. In referring to the low prices of agricultural produce that have recently prevailed, Mr. Brassey naturally points out how advantageous cheap food is to economy of production in our manufactures. He urges that masters and men should take full advantage of such an opportunity for restoring the briskness of trade, and truly remarks that "the only way in which employers and workpeople can themselves contribute to the representation of trade is by cutting down the cost of production in every item." He adds:—"The workman must fix his own standard of living. He is justified in refusing to accept wages which will not furnish him with the means of supporting himself and his family in that condition of comfort in which he desires they should be maintained. Let him, if he is in a sufficiently independent position, contend against a reduction in his standard of living, and change his employment; but when he proceeds to dictate a commercial policy to his employers, he goes beyond his proper sphere, and pronounces judgment upon a case which he has not fully heard." This is a great rebuke of the leaders of trade unions who are always laying down the law as "reducing the out-put" by making short time.

Having dealt with the Cotton and Iron Trades, Mr. Brassey returns to the affairs of the agricultural interest. He takes a sanguine view of the prospects of wheat-growers in this country when he argues from the statement that the cost of transporting corn from the wheat-growing land of the United States is equal to the rent ordinarily paid by the British farmer. This statement has not been confirmed, as Mr. Brassey thinks it has been, by recent experience, especially, if tithe be added to rent, as it should be. Wheat has been shipped from Chicago to Liverpool during the past Spring at 6s. 6d. per quarter. At this rate, and reckoning the British average wheat crop at 28 bushels per acre, the natural protection to the home-grower is 22s. 9d. an acre, more than ten shillings an acre less than what the probable average amount of rent and tithe is, or rather has been. But as rail freights have recently been raised in the United States, while rents are coming down in England, the balance may be restored. Even in that case it is by no means certain that the British grower, hampered as he is by many expenses and by law-imposed disadvantages, has "nothing to fear from foreign

competition." Similarly, with respect to the cattle trade, Mr. Brassey a little too readily takes Mr. James Caird's dictum for gospel, when that writer estimates the cost of transportation of cattle from America at £4 per head, and assumes that this is an ample sum to enable our graziers to compete against the foreign producer. Mr. Caird was right when he wrote, in estimating the cost of transit, with insurance, to be £4 a head; but recently the amount has been reduced about £1 per head. But the important point is that three pounds, or even four pounds sterling, on a fat bullock is not sufficient to balance the unequal cost of production in Britain and the United States respectively. At present the American farmers have not a sufficient number of well-bred cattle to glut our markets. A few years hence, after they have had time to rear vast numbers of improved cattle, the competition is almost certain to be far more keen than it has been hitherto. Mr. Brassey admits, however, that a temporary reduction of rents may be required, as well as security for the capital of tenants.

We cannot, at least on the present occasion, follow Mr. Brassey in his elaborate and interesting review of the comparative efficiency of English and foreign labour, or in his remarks on trade unions, co-operative associations, and other important topics, although we think those portions of his work which do not deal specially with agriculture are the most valuable. His last chapter is on the Agricultural Commission, the motion for which he seconded. This is by far the most valuable agricultural chapter in the book, as it brings into a small compass a great mass of information collected from various sources—not all to be taken without question, but for the most part the best of its kind. In relation to the proposal to grant aid to agriculture by the imposition of duties on foreign produce, our author says:—"Protection is proposed in the interest of the tenant farmers; but a reference to its debates in Parliament during the period when the corn duties were imposed will show that the advantage of the higher prices secured by the imposition of those duties was appropriated wholly by the landlords." In advocating the reform of the laws affecting the settlement and transfer of land, Mr. Brassey remarks:—"I should be sorry to advocate any legislation which seemed calculated to impair the valuable political and social influence of the hereditary families of this country; but the position of an owner who cannot do justice to his property is miserable to himself and a public calamity." In summing up his conclusions upon the prospects of agriculture in this country, Mr. Brassey cheers us with the following happy sentences, in which we think there is a solid ground of good common sense:—"In urging the necessity for the appointment of a Royal Commission, it has been my duty to dwell only on the gloomier circumstances that affect British husbandry at the present time, and, indeed, it seems not improbable that for some years to come the landowner may suffer a loss of income. But I do not despair of the future. It is not the way of the British nation to surrender to difficulties. We have been successful in rais-

ing agriculture to a high pitch of perfection. If we are to depend on the foreign supply of wheat, the cultivation of our soil will require readjustment, and the period of transition may be a severe trial; but, by the united action of landlords and tenants, and by relieving agriculture of the trammels of an antiquated system of land laws, we shall triumph in the end." These words will have no unfamiliar sound to the readers of this journal. In concluding a necessarily inadequate review of a work so full of matter of interest, from the first page to the last, we may express the hope that we have been able to call forth sufficient interest amongst our readers to induce them to read for themselves this valuable contribution to the economy of commerce, in its broadest sense.

#### HELMINTHOLOGY.

On Wednesday last in the Theatre of the Royal Veterinary College, the students had the advantage of an introductory lecture by Dr. Spencer Cobbold. The medical and veterinary professions are largely indebted to Dr. Cobbold for their knowledge of helminthology, and, indeed, he ranks as the highest and ablest professor of that branch of science. In his address he pointed out to the students the great importance of a study of the entozoa, on the ground of the great influence exercised by internal parasites on the health of man and the lower animals. Dr. Cobbold's patient and laborious research in the field of helminthology has furnished the world with many marvellous facts illustrative of the part played by internal parasites in the life-history of their hosts; and as many of them inhabit the lower animals during some of the stages of their existence, his exhortation to the young men now training for the veterinary profession to study helminths we trust will not be lost upon them. As he very justly remarked, the advantage will not be confined to the Royal Veterinary College, but will be shared by the public, and it is due to Dr. Cobbold to claim for him the gratitude of the whole world for services already rendered in the pursuit of his favourite study. Scarcely a day passes but brings to light some new fact, or a more correct rendering of an old one, in reference to the parts played by living organisms far lower in the scale of life than the entozoa; and the evidence is now clear enough that to these low forms of animal and vegetable life the medical and veterinary professions—which may be correctly designated as two branches of one profession—must look for the origin and explanation of some of the most destructive diseases with which they have to deal. In fact, it is around the vast, and for the most part, unexplored region of parasitism that the greatest interest of naturalists and scientists is now centered. Helminthology, however, commends itself especially to the veterinary profession, and with such a teacher as Dr. Cobbold we shall look confidently to the Royal Veterinary College to supply men who will earn distinction in the pursuit of this particular study. Dr. Cobbold gave a long list of the names of those who have

rendered him assistance, from which it appears that helminthologists are now to be found in every quarter of the globe.

During the course of his remarks Dr. Cobbold urged on the students the necessity of attention to the science of botany, and recommended them to study it from nature. This is excellent advice, for in the generality of instances the knowledge of botany possessed by those who pass the examinations of the medical and veterinary colleges consists for the most part, if not entirely, of mere book learning and an acquaintance with dried specimens of poisonous and other officinal plants, and with cultivated specimens in botanical gardens. We remember a remark made by a botanical examiner to a student who had pleased him in one of these examinations for a certificate:—"Young man, where did you learn your botany?" "In the fields, Sir," was the reply; to which the Professor responded, "Ah, I thought as much." Unfortunately it is not in the power of all students to study botany in the fields, but veterinarians have, as a rule, much country work to do, and Dr. Cobbold endeavoured to impress on them the great necessity for botanical knowledge amongst the profession. He instanced the case of some cattle being poisoned in France—under his own personal notice—by eating cowbane or water-hemlock (*cicuta virosa*), and remarked that he did not call their attention to the circumstance for the benefit of "agriculturists and stock-men," but for their own guidance. This we understood to mean that his remarks were not intended simply to point out the fact that certain animals had died from eating water-hemlock, but to show the necessity for a botanical knowledge of poisonous plants and their effects on the systems of animals. Dr. Cobbold has far too broad a view of the duties and responsibilities of professional men to wish to keep back information of any useful kind from the public. The circumstances in connection with this poisoning by water-hemlock were published in the *Veterinarian* for August, and commented on in our Live Stock Notes on August 11. As then stated, it appears that cattle seldom take to eating this plant, probably on account of its unpalatableness. It is not very common but grows plentifully in ditches and by the side of streams, where it does occur. Not only is a knowledge of officinal plants requisite to medical and veterinary students, but the study of botany is taking a more recognised position in the higher education of the day. Mr. F. Darwin has very justly observed that until a man gets to work on plants he is apt to form a very meagre idea of what life—animated nature—really is, and he has shown us that a knowledge of plants will conduce to a higher conception of the economy of our own lives. Botany should be taught in all our higher-class schools, and it should certainly form part of the curriculum of the agricultural student. Lads now at school who are to be the farmers of the next generation, should make the study of botany one of their first considerations; for it will not only be of practical use to them, but a source of much intellectual delight in their years to come.

Dr. Cobbold gave much other excellent advice to

the students, and tried to impress them with a sense of the importance of their profession; urging them not to lose sight of its higher aims when carrying out the practical and business part of it which has pounds, shillings and pence for its more tangible object. He entreated them to be temperate, and above all to be gentlemen. Sir Paul Hunter, as chairman, made some humorous and sensible remarks, bringing a hearty laugh from Dr. Cobbold by telling him it would be difficult for him to show that the science of farriery had not done more for the comfort of their equine patients by providing comfortable shoes, than the science of helminthology had done by ridding their stomachs of worms. The lecture was listened to with marked attention, and the respect shown to Dr. Cobbold by the students was a proof of their appreciation of the great services he has rendered their profession.

PACKING FOR SARATOGA.—"The man who takes over ten minutes to pack a trunk is a dolt!" said Mr. Bowerman, as he slammed down the lid and turned the key. Mrs. Bowerman had been at it just seven days and seven nights, and, when the husband went upstairs at 10 o'clock, she sat down before the open trunk with tears in her eyes. "You see how it is," she exclaimed, as he looked down upon her in awful contempt, "I've got only part of my dresses in here, saying no-thing of a thousand other things, and even now the lid won't shut down. I've got such a headache I must lop down for a few minutes." She went away to lop and Mr. Bowerman sat down and mused: "Space is space. The use of space is in knowing how to utilise it." Removing everything, he began repacking. He found that a silk dress could be rolled to the size of a quart jug. A freshly-starched lawn was made to take the place of a pair of slippers. Her brown bunting fitted into the niche she had re-erved for three handkerchiefs, and her best bonnet was turned bottom up in its box and packed full of underclothing. He sat there viewing sufficient empty space to pack in a whole bed, when she returned and said he was the only real good husband in the world, and she kissed him on the nose as he turned the key. "It's simply the difference between the sexes," was his patronising reply as he went down stairs to turn on the burglar alarm. When the wife opened that trunk last night—! But screams and shrieks would avail nothing.—*Detroit Free Press*.

A THEORY FOR NOSES.—As the forehead grew outward with increasing brain-growth, and as the jaws retreated backward with decreasing usage, the nasal bone and cartilage were probably pushed forward, as it were, from above, and dragged downward from below. These two movements, slowly continued in the plastic development of the organ for many generations, would finally produce just such a shape as that with which we are now familiar. Of course, it must not be supposed that there was ever any actual physical strain, such as would result from any attempt to push or pull a negro's nose at one trial into the Aryan mould; all that the theory demands is a slightly altered mode of growth to meet the altered circumstances during many thousands of years. The molecules which would once have naturally arranged themselves in one order, would later be driven by slightly different attractions and pressures to arrange themselves in another order. And thus it would finally result that man, when compared with the higher apes, would possess a human nose, and that this nose, short and flat in the small-browed prognathous negroes, would become relatively large and prominent in the straightbrowed, small-mouthed, and delicate-featured Aryan. So that, in the last resort, the nose must be regarded as a product of two other factors, not as a thing in itself. It really depends, if our theory be correct, upon the oint action of the increased brain-cover and the decreased jawbone.—*New Quarterly Review*.

## THE ENGLISH LAND SYSTEM.

## I.

The wide spread feeling, evidenced by the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the causes of agricultural depression, that a concurrence of bad harvests and active competition from abroad have really brought the farmer to a grievous pass seems to make the present a timely opportunity for considering the position, with respect to the land, of the three classes concerned with agricultural production—viz. the landlord, the farmer, and the labourer. Accordingly, in the present and some subsequent articles, we propose to consider how our existing land system tells upon the productiveness of the land, and facilitates or does not facilitate the extraction from the soil of the largest possible return at the cheapest possible rate. With the other numerous and important considerations connected with the tenure of land we do not at the present propose to deal. The importance of maintaining an hereditary squirearchy, for the sake of social discipline and local administration, and the sentiment which favours the keeping together of old estates, and links a race of tenants to a race of landlords, are topics which lie outside the present inquiry. The simple task we shall propose to ourselves is to make out how far the existing conditions of land tenure are encouraging and helpful to the agricultural producer. From this point of view it can scarcely be doubted that the ideal state of things would be one in which everyone connected with the land should have the utmost possible interest in increasing its productive capacity; in which the transfer of land should be cheap and easy, and the title to land simple and easy of ascertainment. How do we stand in respect of these matters?

And, first, as to the landowner. Upon the threshold of our inquiry we are encountered by the fact that the ostensible landowner is very often not free to deal with his land as he pleases. In other words, by far the greater part of the agricultural land of England is "in settlement," and, as has been well said, "has not, and may never have, a real proprietor." This being so, it becomes for our purpose important to consider the nature and effects of a family settlement of land, and the position in which it places the successive occupants of an estate.

"The law," it is innumously said, "abhors perpetuities." Let us see how far this proposition can be maintained. Suppose there has come to John Smith, who has made a large fortune and bought a large estate, the desire of founding a family and associating with the name of Smith for many generations the prestige and dignity of a great landowner. He determines that he will settle his estate by will. The law allows him to settle property during a life or lives in being, and for 21 years after; and John Smith being, we will suppose, well stricken in years, a father, a grandfather—it may be a great-grandfather,—makes his will accordingly, and provides that his son shall take the estate for life; that his grandson shall take estate for life; that his great-grandson, who may at the date of will and of John Smith's death be a babe in arms, shall also be life tenant of the property; and then at last upon the unborn child of this babe he confers an estate tail. What is the result? For a period of fifty, sixty, or, it may be, eighty, or ninety years, not one of the ostensible owners of the land has more than a qualified interest in it, and that interest of uncertain duration. The rents are his so long as he lives; but he cannot sell the land or any part of it, he cannot mortgage more than his own life interest, he cannot dispose of the estate by his will, nor divide it as he pleases among his children. The settlement holds him in a vice. Indeed he is lucky if he gets all the rents. For if the will be "well drawn," provision will have been made for jointuring the widows of life tenants, and for raising portions for the younger children of each successive owner; so that when the estate is in the hands of the third or fourth successor, he finds that from the full tale of rents large sums must be deducted for the payment of his mother's, and perhaps his grandmother's, annuity; or for keeping down the interest on the mortgages upon which the portions of his uncles and aunts have been raised. A man in such a position can hardly, if he would, spend much money upon making the best of his land. His natural desire will be to get as much rent as he can exact, and to lay out upon the estate as little as possible, whether with the object of saving something for his landless

younger children, or merely from the aversion which a limited owner feels to spending money upon that which is not absolutely his own. If improvements are required, the farmer must do them; and the farmer is not always a man of capital and credit enough to raise the requisite amount of money, and further, cannot in all cases be sure that his holding will last long enough to enable him to reap the benefit of the sums which he may expend.

It may be urged that the mischief done by the original settler comes to an end when, in the lapse of years, the life interests are exhausted and the great-great-grandson, the tenant in tail, comes into possession, since, as the law now stands, a tenant in tail can easily convert himself into an absolute owner. But it is not often that the tenant in tail is allowed to come into possession. Before his father dies he has generally been persuaded to join him in re-settling the estate by reducing himself to the position of a life tenant, and entailing the property on his own son. The fable of the tailless fox repeats itself. The man who has himself been shorn of full enjoyment of the property thinks it natural that his son should place himself in a like plight. And there is a provision connected with the law of entail which gives him considerable power in this direction. The framers of the Act of 1833, which mercifully swept away the ancient "fines and recoveries" whereby our ancestors were accustomed to deliver themselves from the fetters of an entail, changed indeed, the *modus operandi*, but changed little else. The Act was drawn with due regard to the preservation of "families" and the keeping together of great estates. Hence it comes to pass that the Act speaks of a personage who is called the "protector of the settlement," and usually this personage is the owner of a life estate created by the settlement. So long as he lives the tenant in tail cannot, without his consent, convert his estate tail into an absolute fee. The utmost he can do is to create the estate called a "base fee"—an estate which, if conveyed to a purchaser, gives, gives him only a precarious hold upon the land. For instance, suppose Richard Smith to be tenant for life of an estate, and protector of a settlement, and William Smith, his son, to be entitled after his father's death to the property as tenant in tail. William would like to cut off the entail, but his father will not consent; therefore William, without his father's consent, executes a disentailing deed, and sells or mortgages the estate, subject, of course, to his father's life interest thereon. In this case, the purchaser, or mortgagee, runs a very considerable risk. If William dies in his father's lifetime, leaving no children, the purchaser may be ousted, or the mortgagee deprived of his security, by the person who, under the settlement, is designated to take the property in the event of William dying without leaving issue behind him. It is obvious that this condition of the law gives a father great hold upon the son. The son may have been extravagant and may wish to pledge the estate for payment of his debts, or he may wish to marry and a provision for wife and children may be demanded of him. In either case he must come to the father, and tradition and custom, and the family lawyer, would incline the father to urge a resettlement of the usual kind. The resettlement takes place, the line of unimproving landlords is continued, and the property, or the splendid husk of it, continues to descend in the Smith family.

It is probable that more than two-thirds of the land of England is under settlement; and it is certain at all events that a very large portion is in this condition. If the tendency of these settlements is to keep land out of the market, and to hinder the proper development of its resources by diminishing in the ostensible owner the inclination and the power to spend money on improvements, it may become a question of pressing importance how far the law shall continue to recognise and allow this liberty of disposition.

## II.

We pointed out a little time back how the English system of entail and settlement was so far inimical to the interests of agriculture that it placed a series of landlords in possession of the soil who, being owners for life only, and unable to deal freely with the land as absolute proprietors by sale, mortgage, or testamentary disposition, were unlikely to have the inclination or the power to spend much money on increasing the productive qualities of the land. To-day we propose to say something as to other characteristics of our land system, considered on its legal side, which tend to place the English agr

culturist in a disadvantageous position. Of the three classes which in England are interested in the cultivation of the soil, the landlord has a fixed rent, and the labourer a fixed wage; but it is always a matter of speculation for the farmer whether he will gain or lose by his farming. The nature of his tenure increases this uncertainty. He cannot be sure that, after a spell of bad years during which he has been putting much into the land and getting little from it, he will be allowed to continue in occupation, and wait for the day when he will find again that which seemed to be lost. The man who farms his own land with competent skill is in a different position. He may be disheartened and crippled by a succession of meagre harvests, but he may console himself with the reflection that when the good time comes at last he will reap its benefits to the full. Anything in the law which tended to help the farmer to become his own landlord would probably promote the interests of agriculture; anything which tended to make that process difficult and expensive would have a contrary effect. Now, how does the law stand in this regard?

The settlement system tends of course to keep land out of the market. It is true that as settlements are now drawn powers of sale are almost invariably conferred on the trustees. But these powers are for most part not to be exercised, except at the request or with the consent of some person who, under the settlement, takes a beneficial interest in the estate; and generally, except in cases where the family has fallen into extreme embarrassment, the powers of sale are not resorted to so long as there is in existence a life tenant of the estate. Even when the estate is sold, the prejudices of lawyers and land agents are in favour of keeping the property together, and the farmer who might be glad enough to buy his own farm, cannot of course give any effect to his desire when the farm is offered for sale in one lot with the rest of a large property.

If settlements tend to keep land out of the market so also does the custom of primogeniture. If a land owner dies intestate his land descends to his eldest son and there is no reason for a sale. Even if the landowner makes a will the customs and traditions of this country make it likely that he will leave his land to his eldest son, subject it may be to charges for the benefit of younger members of the family, but not so much encumbered as to make it politic or necessary to sell the land outright.

Again, such is the state of our law as to title and transfer of land that both buyer and seller must feel that they are embarking in a ticklish and expensive transaction. "A penny-worth of land, a pound's worth of law," is a popular Irish saying which might with much justice be popular in England also. To an eminent solicitor who was examined the other day before Mr. Osborne Morgan's Select Committee, the question was put, "If a man buys a piece of land he never knows what he will have to pay his solicitor?" And the answer was quite touching in its simplicity, "No, he never knows what he will have to pay his solicitor for costs."

Suppose a farmer's holding is in the market and he determines to buy. If he were buying Consols or railway shares to the same value the transaction would be easy and speedy enough. An owner of Consols or of railway shares would be found willing to part with his property; and if the name of the fundholder were in the Bank books, and the seller of railway shares were on the company's register, and could produce the company's certificate that he was holder of so many shares, there would be no further question. The title of the seller, except under very special circumstances, would be taken for granted, and a transfer would confer upon the purchaser an indisputable right to receive the dividends upon the stock or shares he had bought. Certain fees, easily calculable beforehand, would be paid, and without delay, without appreciable rise, without unforeseen expenses, the purchaser would be put in possession of what he wishes to buy.

But turn to the case of the farmer. We will suppose he has entered into what is called an "open contract," *i.e.*, that he has agreed to buy the farm for a certain price, and that no special conditions have been made. In such case, the seller is bound to show, and for the most part the purchaser's solicitor would feel himself bound to require, what is called a forty years' title. Each farm, each plot of ground, has a private individual history. It has been settled, sold, mortgaged, encumbered—been devised by will or descended under an intestacy. For the whole of the last forty years, at

least, this history must be set forth in what is called an "abstract of title," which consists chiefly of setting out at considerable length all the documents relating to the land in question in chronological order, together with notices of such deaths or marriages, or other events as may have a bearing upon the title. The purchaser of stock or shares finds his vendor ready made, he has no difficulty in discovering where the power to sell resides; but the purchaser of land first enters into a contract with a person whom he supposes able to give him a title, and then calls upon that person to establish by a lengthy process that he really can sell according to his agreement. This is often no easy task. To begin with—in the course of forty years, the aspect and description of a particular estate may have greatly changed; fields may have been thrown together or subdivided; the local names may be quite different. The "Long Feedings" may have become "Big Acre," or the "Old Close" appears *mutato nomine*, as "Abraham's Field;" or the property has been re-surveyed, and though the fields are enumerated under their old names, their dimensions are enlarged or decreased. In brief, the property is described in different ways in different documents, and the discrepancy has to be cleared up sometimes with considerable labour and at considerable expense.

And if it is sometimes difficult to determine whether the land offered for sale is the same with that referred to in the abstract of title, it is sometimes still more difficult to establish that the purchaser has got hold of the right vendor, or of all the persons whose concurrence is necessary before the estate can be effectually transferred to him. An owner may have died intestate and without leaving children. It is not always easy to establish that the man who took possession after his death was in fact his legal heir. The farm has been mortgaged to three persons. The mortgage is paid off; but in the meantime two of the three mortgagees are dead. Certificates of their death or burial are demanded. To a skilled conveyancer perusing the abstract, fifty doubts and questions suggest themselves. The doubts must be laid and the questions answered before the purchaser can be recommended to complete his contract, and there is a brisk fire between the solicitors of requisitions and answers, and further requisitions and further answers, and in the end, it may be, the purchaser's advisers are not satisfied; they tell him the title is doubtful; he refuses to complete the purchase; the vendor tries to force him, and the result is an action in the Chancery division—not unattended by expense. This is, of course, an extreme case. Sometimes little or no inquiry is made about the title. A solicitor dealing with a respectable fellow-practitioner, who is acting for some large landowner whose title is well known, will often feel justified in dispensing with strict investigation, and will allow his client to take the land upon the strength of the reputation and respectability of the vendor and his agents. But still the risk, delay, and expense attending a purchase of land under our present system are often great, and nearly always incalculable beforehand. And what has been said of a purchase applies also to a mortgage, with this important difference that, in the case of a mortgage, all the expense falls on the mortgagor, so that if a farmer wants to raise money on his land to lay out in improving his farm, another heavy tax in the shape of costs has to be paid to his own and the mortgagee's solicitor. Whether and how far this state of things admits of remedy it would be beside our present purpose to discuss; but the experience of other countries affords a hope that the problem is not insoluble, and that even in England dealings in land may some day be conducted with cheapness and simplicity, combined with effectual security to the purchaser or mortgagee.—*Economist*.

**WILD FOWL.**—The *London Gazette* contains an order to the effect that the time during which the killing, wounding, and taking of wild fowl, as defined by the Wild Fowl Preservation Act, is prohibited shall be varied in the county of Durham, so as to be from the 1st day of March to the 1st day of August in each year.

**AWARDS FOR FOOD-PREPARING MACHINES.**—At the Royal Netherlands International Agricultural Show at Haarlem recently, Messrs. Woods, Cocksedge, and Co., of Stowmarket, were awarded first prize and silver medal for farmers' grinding mills for maize, linseed, oats, &c.; also the first prize and silver medal for combined turnip slicer, finger-piece cutter and pulper.

## THE PREMIER AND THE AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ACT.

Few people, and perhaps no farmer, can have forgotten Lord Beaconsfield's scathing exposure at Aylesbury of those "stupid and vulgar persons" who had described "by a stupid and vulgar word," "sham," that great achievement of the Government, the Agricultural Holdings Act. These persons, he said, had "never read the Act, nor studied it, nor profited by it." He, of course, had done all three, and was ready to prove that the Act had already been "of enormous benefit" to farmers. He told his hearers what the Act provided, and what it was likely to accomplish. "It would be said," he added, "and of course by those who know nothing about it, that the whole of the landlords contracted themselves out of the Act. It is true," he went on to say, "a great many landlords contracted themselves out of the Act; but I believe that they have since been ashamed of having done so." This was not all. The "stupid and vulgar persons" had said that the Duke of Richmond, who brought forward the measure in Parliament, had contracted himself out of the Act. "My noble friend," said the Premier, "has given leases to his tenants, and it is impossible that he could contract himself out of the Act." The impossibility is not altogether plain; but let that pass. The matter of chief interest is the denunciation of the ignorance of those persons who contracted themselves out of the Act, and of the stupidity and vulgarity of those other persons who have said the Act was a sham. If the Premier, speaking to farmers, was to confine himself to farming subjects, how could he have done better than make this exposure of people who had injured his Government by speaking ill of an Act in which farmers were so much interested, and by making it a dead-letter, as far as they could? The public, including Lord Beaconsfield himself, will doubtless be grateful for any assistance that can be given in continuing and extending the exposure, because it is fair to the Government that the country should know who they are who ignorantly and foolishly bring discredit upon a measure which the Premier says is and is to be "of enormous benefit to farmers." Happily we are in a position to give some assistance in this good work, and to bring to light a nest of "ignorant" persons who lost no time in contracting themselves out of the Agricultural Holdings Act.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners in England are great landowners. It would be rash to say off-hand how many thousands of acres they manage, and how much rent they draw. These Commissioners, more than three years ago, issued a notice to their tenants, of which the following is a copy:—

Mr:—

Take notice that, in pursuance of the provisions of the Agricultural Holdings (England) Act, 1875, we hereby give you notice that the existing contract of tenancy between the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England and yourself shall remain unaffected by the provisions of that Act

Dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1876.

SMITHS AND CORE,  
Agents for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for  
England.

There can be and is no doubt about the meaning of this notice. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners contracted themselves and their tenants out of the Act, and are therefore among the ignorant people of whom Lord Beaconsfield speaks with such just contempt. The public will be anxious to know who these ignorant people, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, are. First of all there are the two Archbishops, and after them come the whole of the bishops in England, along with the Deans of Canterbury, St Paul's, and Westminster. It may perhaps be thought that these high officials may be excused for their ignorance of the Act. They are, presumably, only concerned with the spiritual side of the Commissioners' work, and leave to laymen the business details. Accordingly we pass them by, and go on to the next name on the list of the Commission. The public, at least those of them who do not already know the fact, will be surprised to learn that it is the Lord Chancellor. He, learned in the law, more or less responsible for the legal soundness of the Bills of the Government, is, then, stigmatised by the Premier as ignorant, and as having done an act of which he ought to be ashamed, if he

is not. This is sad; though there is encouragement for hopes of something better in the fact that the Premier has the courage to denounce the ignorance of his chief legal colleague. With this comforting reflection, we pass on to the next name, only to be shocked worse than ever; for it is that of the First Lord of the Treasury, Lord Beaconsfield himself—the same man who said that the Act was only called a "sham" by those who have never read it, nor studied it, nor profited by it. There may seem no possibility of anything surprising after this. Yet the list of the Commissioners does not become less interesting as it is read. After the Premier comes the President of the Council, that Duke of Richmond, of whom Lord Beaconsfield so warmly took up the defence. After him come Mr. Cross and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, no less than five Judges, and nine other members. Really, it is too bad that all these distinguished persons should have laid themselves open to such well-deserved rebukes as those administered to them (and himself) by the Premier at Aylesbury.

If it be said that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as a body have nothing to do with the management of the Commission's estates, the question may be asked, Who has? There are three "Church Estates Commissioners"—the Earl of Chichester, Mr. George Cubitt, M.P., and the Right Hon. J. R. Mowbray, M.P. Mr. Mowbray has held office as Judge-Advocate-General in a Conservative Government, and ought to have some knowledge of law. He and Lord Chichester are members of the general body of the Commissioners, and must be presumed to have kept their colleagues informed of what was being done. It is impossible, therefore, to relieve the Premier, and his colleagues, and the Judges of the stain which Lord Beaconsfield fixed upon all those who contracted themselves out of the Act. But, in view of all this, is there not something to be said for the "stupid and vulgar persons" who used the "stupid and vulgar word" "sham" in connection with the Agricultural Holdings Act? Might there not, indeed, be excuse for anyone who applied the word to Lord Beaconsfield dilating on the merits of the Act? He has never shown any great regard for the recollection or common-sense of the country; but he has rarely carried his disregard of them so far as in this case. He had for his object to convince the farmers that he and his colleagues were their true friends, and to that end he denounced all those who complained that the Government had done nothing for the farmers. Here was this Agricultural Holdings Act, which alone was a monument of the good intentions and good actions of the Government; let the farmers admire it, and let all those who had spoken slightly of it, or who had contracted themselves out of it, be made contemptible. There was not an opprobrious word applied to others that was not strictly applicable to Lord Beaconsfield himself for the reasons he gave. Could more conclusive evidence of the character of the Premier be desired? Could it be more clearly shown that names and not things, the triumphs of the moment and not the truth or justice of what he says, are all he cares for?—*Scotsman.*

**A CURIOUS IRISH LAND CASE.**—An application was made to Mr. Justice Harrison, in Dublin, recently on behalf of George Clarke, and George Clarke, jun., farmers, of county Donegal, for their release from Lifford Gaol, to which they had been consigned after capture under an attachment order issued by the Vice-Chancellor on their refusal to pay rent or give information to a receiver appointed at the instance of the Church Temporalities Commissioners over the lands on which they occupied farms. There are two other farmers against whom the order is in force, but who are not yet captured. The case of the applicants was that the former owner, Mr. Humphries, left the country more than twenty years ago, and his agent had some years afterwards refused to receive any more rent, that no person had received the rents for upwards of twelve years past; and that the tenants had been so perplexed by numerous false claims put forward that when the receiver was appointed with authority they ignorantly distrusted him, but they were now willing to pay the rent due last November, though they were unable to pay the arrears. An order was made for their release on their submitting to pay £10 on account of rent, and to be subject to any other order the Court might make.

## RECIPROCITY AND PROTECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Let me clear old scores before running up new ones. I am charged with “characteristic inconsistency,” simply because I refuse to sink to the dialectic level of a mere political creedmonger. It is no doubt easy to refuse to see any but one, and that our own, side of a question. The economical fanatic—the class bigot—no doubt gets by far the largest majority to keep him company. Anything like a manly intrepidity and moral independence of judgment of public affairs has become almost an impossibility. The penny Press follows in place of reading its penny customers. Your Farmers’ Alliances, your Chambers of Agriculture, whose eloquence is about equally divided between tenants who denounce all landlords who insist on having their rents, colonial touters cracking up rival settlements, and bunkum politicians who make specimen speeches in the view of the next general election, will of course listen to nothing but a struggling tenant’s views of public affairs; and now, as we have Home Rulers stuck up before every constituency, working men’s candidates in all the boroughs, and Agricultural Unions with their Joseph Arches itorating the reaping districts, so farmers are to become unionists in their own way, calling for farmers’ candidates, and tenant members of Parliament, to represent, not impartially, without fear or favour, the honest interests of the whole nation between man and man, but the fancied advantage of an isolated order, that we may be lauded in the old rut of class legislation. Yea or nay—is a senator to be a mere delegate? That seems, after all, what Mark Lane “consistency” seems to drive at. Where is the inconsistency of my praise of Prout and Smith, and my objection to give tenants a license to do what they like, with the instrument handed over to them in high working order? I deliberately repeat the charge I have preferred against the system of letting farmers “do what they like with what is *not* their own,” that vacant farms and unsaleable freehold estates are traceable almost entirely to violation of the rules of culture according to good husbandry. “Liberal Covenants” are a mere euphuism for either getting or taking leave to ruin the land by bad husbandry or deliberate starvation. Prout and Smith prove that high farming bids defiance even to bad seasons and foreign competition. Why have not other cultivators good crops also, but that they do *not* farm highly? That, in short, they avail themselves of leave to adopt liberal covenants, or *take* such covenants *without* leave. Mr. Caird has already disposed of Mr. Prout’s *system*, high as it is. Were it universal it would make artificial manures so costly as to be practically unattainable, while hay and straw would become almost unsaleable. As between tenant and a distant landlord, this *free* and *easy laissez faire* system of culture offers no security that Prout’s or Smith’s processes would ever be applied. The consumption of hay and straw on the farm that produced it is a self-insuring guarantee of manurial sufficiency. Even yet it remains to be proved whether, in a long course of years, the physic of artificial manures is equal in efficacy to the food of honest farm-yard dung.

What does “security of capital” mean? Pray “let the Man in Mark Lane” translate the fine phrase about “consolidation” and “unexhausted improvements.” I am a diligent reader of your journal, and I learn from it that a very large contingent of the farming tenantry absolutely object to the leases by which it is alleged a *quasi* fixity of tenure is secured, and Lord Leicester is regarded as a model landlord by the adoption of an arrangement whereby either landlord or tenant may dissolve the connection between tiller and till whenever either of them pleases. From the same authority I find that 36 per cent. of the arca

of France is held by renting tenants; and that the rented portion is at least as well cultivated and productive as that which is held in fee simple. While I say this, however, and believe that so far as the mere *tenantry* are concerned, primogeniture, entail, settlements, and other land incidents, have little to do with their present position, yet on other grounds I would gladly see those restrictions removed, and a large body of independent yeomen and statesmen introduced to qualify our existing rural economy.

I have been asked where I find the average yield of wheat in New Zealand nine bushels per acre. My conviction is, I found it in the *Mark Lane Express*, although I have not preserved the paragraph. But from your recent columns I extracted the quotation that New Zealand was so poverty stricken as to be “literally flooded with barley and oats from San Francisco, maize from Samoa and Fiji, and wheat and potatoes from Tasmania”—that “the Government tables give 7 bushels 9 lb.” as the yield of wheat per acre in South Australia—and that “from the Antipodes comes a forcible statement of farmers’ difficulties in Victoria,” and a cry for farmers’ members just as we have here. And now it may surprise “the Man of Mark Lane” still more to find an old apostle of the Anti-Corn Law League suggesting that there may be such a thing as riding the theory of free trade to death. I entirely repudiate all sympathy with the principle of taxing the consumers of the community, merely to protect the producers. A tax on bread, either merely for revenue or rent, is a proposition that seems to answer itself. But are we quite sure that reciprocity is not a law inherent in the very nature of political economy? What is commerce but mutuality in the exchange of commodities. If nobody will buy from us, can we buy from anybody? With what is it that we pay foreign producers 178 millions a year for eatables and drinkables, but our capital and the profits of the trade on our goods? What is capital but the accumulations of the profits of the sale of our commodities. The balance of trade is no fallacy. It is quite true, indeed, that the cash or profit we earn from one customer we may pay away to sellers of goods who will buy nothing of us in return, and we may compensate ourselves by larger dealings with other customers. This is the law of self-adjustment which free traders have always assumed as being in infallible operation. Through the whole of the agitation which ended in the opening of our ports, it was taken for granted that other nations would cease to levy protective duties on our goods, when we abandoned that policy ourselves. It never was imagined that America could thrive on a policy of differential restrictions, that she could even send calico to Manchester and agricultural tools to Birmingham and Sheffield; that her producers of food, cotton, and other raw material would submit to be taxed up to the very eyes to nurse into life and thrift a series of expensive manufacturing industries. Seeing that for years our imports have greatly exceeded our exports, and yet that there seemed to be no appreciable check to our prosperity, we have assumed that theory of the balance of trade was a fallacy. But it is so plain a truism that we cannot get rid of it. All trade is the exchange of commodities. Money is the mere instrument whereby custom is reciprocated. An adverse balance truly means consuming more than we produce—living on our capital, and not on our industry—buying and not selling. If A charges B 20s. for what C asks only 15s. for, but pays B 20s. for that which C will either not take at all, or will only buy if sold for 10s., it is pretty clear that A is B’s better customer. Capital—what is it but self-denial, saving, frugality, consuming less than we produce or save? How can we accumulate it if we buy more than we sell? As long as our excess of capital lasts, indeed while our vast savings have enabled us to make large foreign investments, the interests or dividends

on which can be remitted to us in produce, we may not sensibly feel the pinch and check inflicted on the country by the failure in our exports. But as our extravagance gradually exhausts our surplus means, we will be able to sustain a foreign trade only by reducing our prices until they have sunk below the cost of production, when commerce will become impossible. Our coal, our iron, our machinery, our navy and insular position, the enterprise of our middle classes, the industrial training of our skilled labourers, above all our constitutional system of settled Government, enabled us to accumulate and develop resources when revolution and war robbed other countries of these securities without which the "arts of peace" cannot thrive. But Europe and America are gradually availing themselves of the same advantages; everywhere they are doing for themselves what we did for them, and at last the monstrous and unnatural economical phenomenon presents itself, that reciprocity ceases even among ourselves. There is Hodge now. See; he is fresh from ploughing, harrowing. Now he is reaping his master's wheat, extorting from his necessities by the conspiracy of his union, probably two or three pounds per week, and the unfailing beer at hay-time and harvest. From the farm yard, with the wages jingling in his pockets, he trudges to the village, and from the baker buys the loaf made of American flour, from the butterman Dutch butter and cheese, from the grocer Australian beef and Chicago bacon. With the high wages the Sheffield grinder draws from the master cutler he buys a German razor. Rausome, May, and Howard, cannot get their men to work for less than 36s. a week. Look over the hedge into their gardens of a summer evening, after their nine hours' daily toil is over—they are digging with a Cincinnati fork, or perhaps a spade from Elberfeld. Go to Manchester, spinner and weaver, sore bested, are taking ten per cent. after ten per cent. off wages, yet all will not do. They go to short time—the evil is only made worse. "By the living Jingo," the shirts of their winders are made of American calico, and the thread stockings of the factory girls are knitted from Italian yarn. Nay, the Warrington or Bolton glass-blower, after raising wages until his employer can make no profit out of drinking glasses at 2d. a-piece, goes to his club meeting to organise a strike, and drinks confusion to all tyrant masters in Old Tom or Dog's-nose, out of American glasses that the publican has bought at a penny farthing. To cap the climax of economical paradox, the farmer breakfasts off hams fed and cured in Cincinnati, while he sends his own hogs to London, and every other loaf and every second pound of beef or butter his landlord's colony in Belgravia consume come from New York, Rotterdam, or Philadelphia. "Claw me, claw thee," is a vulgar but also a veritable proverb. From whom does the ploughman get the wages that pay for the loaf, or the lord the rent that buys the bullock just landed at the Thames? Buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest! Aye, but suppose nobody will buy in return? Manchester once so tossed her head at the home market that she proposed to work in bond, so jaunty was she over her foreign custom. Where is it now? India, China, Japan grow cotton and silk; have coal, even iron; are raising factories and fixing millions of spindles. American calico invades Lancashire. *Venit in senatu! Etiam in senatu venit!* Sweep away seventy-five millions of rent. Where will be the custom it represented? Annihilate tithes. Who will supply the parson's place with the draper, the grocer, and the tailor? Ignore the principle of reciprocity; let everybody cease to deal with his neighbour and buy only from a foreigner, who will take in payment nothing but cash; let us all trade with those who heavily tax us in protective duties, and take nothing from those who share with us in bearing the burden of 131 millions of imperial

and local taxation, and what must that end in? Have not what you do not want, lest you want what you cannot have. Cheapness is not everything. It is doubtful, indeed, whether in large measure it be not a positive evil. If it tempts to consumption beyond the limits of temperate need—to "using the good things of this world as abusing them"—to exceeding our legitimate means of purchase—to eating or drinking or wearing profusely or wastefully, merely because "we can get drunk for two pence"—of what advantage is it? If "all mankind were brothers," as Jack Cade foreshadowed; if every nation had exactly the same interests, the same burdens, bore the same debts and paid the same taxes, the policy of reciprocity might be ignored, because it would adjust and assert itself. But it is really too plain to need exposition, or admit of argument, that we can ultimately continue to buy only by being in a position to sell; that it is only out of the profits other people give us on our produce that we can continue to import and to subsist; and that if they cease to yield us profit—that is, if they decline to import the fruits of our industry, or if they impose such a tax on its consumption that we can gain nothing by the sale, every farthing that we pay to them because they can produce more cheaply than we is in excess of our income and must lead to ultimate insolvency. At this moment the American tax on British iron is as much as the price of the iron itself! To the extent to which that tax narrows the demand and consumption, it reduces the price and becomes *pro tanto* a tax upon the British producer. Free trade! Aye, with a vengeance, when Hodge asks double pay from Farmer Flamborough, and declines to buy the very flour those wages were paid to grow—when the tenant paying to the State 15s. per acre of local and imperial taxes is expected to sell his wheat at the same price as the squatter of Nebraska who does not pay tithes. Free trade in its very essence means equality, impartiality in the conditions of exchange and production. But if every country in the world—even our own colonies, our Indian empire—exact a heavy toll, often a nearly prohibitive duty, on every commodity we send to them, while we open our ports to them "without money and without price"—nay, while our railways and canals carry their goods to us at a lower charge than they exact on our own—to call that free trade is an entire abuse of terms.

That word cheapness has deluded public opinion, and debauched the dialectics of our political economy. The logic has been thus. What! because brother Jonathan or Johnny Crapaud chooses to tax himself, and to pay dear for what he buys from us, is that any reason why we should refuse to take from him what he can sell for less than we can produce it ourselves, or buy from one another? Bargain hunters, auction frequenters, continually waste their means in buying what they can't use, merely because it is to be had at a "tremendous sacrifice!" Cheap wine, cheap silks, cheap ribbons, and cloth, and cutlery, tempt us to consume the produce of other nations, and to pay the wages and support the industry of other labourers and artisans, without insisting on mutuality of profit, the only condition that could justify our purchases. At last we are beaten in our own markets, and actually in our own specialties of manufacture. £778,000 worth of cotton cloth from France, £290,000 worth from America, besides £177,000 worth of iron implements. Our consul at Shanghai reports: "the American trade in piece goods is increasing with a rapidity that is positively startling." The Birmingham market report owns that "large quantities of French pocket knives are now being imported into Sheffield at prices English makers cannot touch. Americans offer planes in Canada at exactly half the price of the English-made article." Our consul at

Havana warns us our "knives are inferior to those made in the United States and Germany at equal prices, and the same is true of agricultural implements and machinery the American plough, superior to ours, being one third cheaper than the English." Germany, America, France, Italy, Spain, protected to the teeth, shut us out of every port, and tax us up to the eyes, while they beat us in our own staples in our own marts, and give bounties to their sugar refiners to undersell White-chapel, Glasgow, and Bristol.

I rather prefer to state the facts than to draw the inference. Our farmers are leaving us by the hundred, our labourers by the thousand, our skilled artisans by tens of thousands, to help our rivals to beat us. We are parting with our producers. We are actually persuading, helping the very classes to emigrate on whom our whole productive faculty rests. Even those who call for the reform of our land laws complacently contemplate what really involves the extirpation of the entire existing classes of farming tenantry—substituting colonies of Snig's End peasant proprietors. As for the owner of land he is best *debitum fureti, fruges consumere natus*. It is true he has reclaimed the land, built the homesteads, fenced, ditched, drained. But having answered the purpose of others, he may be dismissed to the limbo of destitution. For England, Wales, and Scotland, £ see rent and tithe reach £118,000,000, and Ireland may bring the total to 140 millions. Is it proposed that we should abandon the business of food-producing entirely to the American? Are we to have no more peers, squires, parsons, capitalists, tenantry, the hierarchy of our native fields—the men who have cultivated to such purpose, that, acre for acre, they produce more than double any other body of agriculturists in the world? Is rent to be annihilated? If merely transferred from the owner to the occupier, what better will the country at large be, because Hodge gets that of which Sir Tantivy or Squire Western has been robbed? If it must cease to be an entity in the national income, what is to pay the property tax, the rates, what to make up for the loss of custom to every retailer, to the producer of manufactures which the foreigner who sells in our markets declines any longer to buy? Let this proposition be quite clearly understood. Either the land of these kingdoms can afford to yield its rent as the hire of the instrument of production, or it cannot, under a free trade dispensation. If it cannot, then clearly the nation must lay its account with seeing 140 millions of its yearly income perish with all the taxes, rates, wages, and trade profits they rendered. If it can, then the abolition of rent means the mere virtual transfer of the land from its real owners to those who are not.

I but open the question. What I have set down is suggestive rather than didactic or authenticative. I do not infer conclusions or draw inferences so much as I desire every thinker to reflect on the terms of the thesis, and to see that it has two sides. If my "guide philosopher and friend" in Mark Lane can solve the riddle of protective economies, I give him full leave to convict me of inconsistency, and will frankly thank him into the bargain. I think that we shall agree in this that Free Trade will not afford our present monstrous scale of cereal burdens. Our imperial taxation is 25 millions, our local 15 millions in excess of our real needs, and our capacity of payment. We ought to step out of the circle of European politics altogether, and wrap ourselves round with our insularity and our colonies. Those colonies we should call upon to defend and govern themselves. Plain living and high thinking must be the practical chart of our social economy. To me, the idea of a nation of islanders, hemmed in on every side by the ocean, making up its mind to abandon the culture of its own soil, to blot yeoman and

peasant out of the order of its social economy, and to narrow the classes of its people to handicraft and manufacture seems nothing short of judicial blindness. No cheapness can compensate for such a loss—no economy in mere industrial arithmetic can make up for a blank so fatal to our manhood, our national life. Remember the numbers of our British peasantry, not relatively alone, but absolutely, are less in 1879 than in 1821—that famine swept away two millions of Irish—that there is a rapid exodus now of farmers and farm labourers, bleeding at every pore. It is not a class, a column of statistics alone that is involved, but the nation at large, our breed of men, the securities for our daily bread. While *doctrinaires* are working out a problem in economics, the land is going out of cultivation, what remains is going out of condition, we are buying from everybody, while exports to pay the purchase grow monthly less. Our artisans trained in our factories are imported by our rivals to work under a protective and prohibitive system and send their surplus stocks to undersell us in our home markets. The capital we supplied to our tenantry, the wages paid to our ploughmen saved-up for flight, are carried away to raise the foreign crops that meet us in our markets. "On fair ground we could beat forty of them;" but handicapped by taxes, rates, tithes, a double price for labour—rent if you will—what can we do? "I pause for a reply."

I am, Sir, &c.,

SIDNEY SMITH,

The Manor, Feltham, Sept. 30, 1879.

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH ON IRISH BUTTER-MAKING.—The Earl of Bessborough has issued a circular to his tenants on the subject of butter-making. Having alluded to the great disadvantages Irish butter-makers have to contend with in English markets, he continues—"For the information of those who have not yet been able to make good butter I offer the following suggestions:—Have a proper dairy or a separate room for your milk, well ventilated, but not too light, far away from stable, piggery, or manure heap. The floor should be of flags, tiles, or concrete, very close and evenly made, so that it can be easily washed without leaving any substance behind likely to create a bad smell, as it would be injurious to your milk and butter. Clay floors are very bad. Be sure not to use your milk-room for any other purpose than your milk and butter. Wash or sponge the cow's udder before milking, and your own hands before commencing each cow. Use the finest hair strainer you can get. Keep all your milk-vessels scrupulously clean; never use soap in cleansing your milk-vessels, not even in washing your hands, when engaged with your milk or butter. Do not keep your milk too long standing before churning. Twenty-four to thirty-six or forty-eight hours, according to the temperature of the weather, will be enough. Avoid all touching of the butter by the hand. Use the best salt made very fine. Wash and press all the milk out of the butter before salting, using plenty of cold spring water. You cannot be too careful about this. In packing in firkins, get the best you can of well-seasoned oak, beech, or ash, clean looking and smooth on the inside, and bring them clean to market. In preparing your firkins let them be filled the day before wanted with boiling water, let stand until cold, then rinsed with clean cold water, into which a couple of handfuls of salt has been put. This will make your firkin sweet and staunch. Pack your butter in the firkins as close as possible, and send it to market as soon as you can. Let cleanliness be your constant care, from the milking of the cow until you bring your butter to the market. There are few things a farmer's wife or daughter ought to be prouder of than her dairy and its produce. The butter buyers should encourage the use of the most suitable firkin; and might also be more careful when the butter comes into their hands. The firkins are frequently rolled about on the wet and dirty yards and damp floors, which might be avoided. Railway and steambomb companies treat firkins in the same rough way. All should endeavour to improve, and try to bring our butter in the cleanest and most creditable condition into the English market. Then it would take its proper place, and you would get the highest price, defying foreign competition."

## CARSE FARMING.

In a former communication we examined the utility of freedom of sale of produce as a means of helping carse farmers. Our conclusions were that even if the rotations of cropping usually followed on clay soil were still to be followed, great gain would in certain cases accrue to the farmers by freedom of sale; that there would be no loss to lauded proprietors if an adequate allowance of manure were to be brought back to the farm; that steam cultivation, in the present circumstances of Scotch farming, is not the solution of present difficulties; and that, while much depends on the nearness of a farm to a town or to a railway station, the profitable sale of straw would be much promoted by an easy and cheap mode of packing it as it comes from the thrashing machine.

We are glad to be able to give the testimony of one so thoroughly qualified as Dr. J. B. Lawes to the accuracy of some of the estimates upon which the calculations were based. In a letter dated 21st. ult., Dr. Lawes says:—

"With regard to your figures, in box feeding, when there is no waste, one ton of straw gives about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  tons of dung. Your estimate, therefore, of 270 tons of straw giving 1,000 tons of dung is correct. I would also rather have the 'cheque for £500' than the dung; and I would rather have town dung than yard dung, provided that the former is not mixed with street sweepings and dirt. With regard to the sale of roots, straw, and such bulky articles, the whole question turns upon carriage. A farmer who lives near a railway station and a town might make large profits by selling roots as well as straw, but I think he should trust very much to town dung. When artificial manures are used largely to grow crops, I think the saleable products should be more or less confined to those substances, such as grain, where the money value of the product in relation to the manure ingredients carried away is the highest."

The above letter suggests our next subject of inquiry—viz., the question of freedom of cultivation. Ought farmers not only to be allowed to sell what produce they please, but also to have freedom to crop as they please within some very wide limits?

If there is anything proved by the recent researches of scientific experimenters like Dr. Lawes or by practical farmers like Mr. Mechi and Mr. Prout it is this, that a much more extensive and frequent growing of corn crops than is usual on clay soils is both practicable and profitable. Dr. Lawes has grown continuous grain crops at Rothamsted, under a vast variety of conditions as to treatment, for a long series of years, and his opinion is summed up in the above letter. Where roots are to be grown and sold off he advocates considerable reliance on town dung, but his experience proves that for the growth of grain chemical manures alone can be trusted to keep up the fertility of the soil. Now while some allowance must perhaps be made for the superior natural qualities of the soil and climate of Rothamsted, the following facts are significant: Dr. Lawes has grown wheat continuously for over twenty-five years on the same land, and his average crop has been close on five quarters of grain and two tons of straw per imperial acre. During all that time and for a dozen years previously no dung was applied to the land. Of course artificial manures have been liberally and judiciously applied. For a similar period barley has been continuously grown, with the result of an average return of six quarters of grain and one and a half tons of straw per imperial acre. The most significant fact is that, instead of the crops falling off, they seem rather to increase. But it may be that Dr. Lawes does not farm for profit, but only for the purpose of ascertaining the effects of different modes of treatment. He has at least proved that the discovery of artificial manures, which is a comparatively modern one, has enabled agriculturists to do what was impossible fifty years ago, and that consequently restrictions which may have been necessary then are antiquated now. He has also proved that the fertility of land can be kept up without the dung cart. But does it pay? For answer let us turn to Mr. Prout's interesting experiment. His farm of Sawbridgeworth, Herts, is not said to be fine soil. The first cost of the land sixteen years ago, when land was much dearer than at present, was but £40 per acre. The rent with which he charges the farm is five per cent. on the purchase price, or £2 per imperial acre. He cultivates about 450 acres, and of this area he usually has over 350 acres in wheat,

barley, and oats. This year he has 110 acres of wheat and 220 acres of barley, besides some oats. Of the quality of this year's crop a practical farmer says the wheat promises to average four quarters, although twenty acres of it were cut up by wireworm, and of the 220 acres of barley he says: "Nowhere in Essex, Norfolk, or even in Lincolnshire, certainly nowhere in the Midland Counties, have I seen on one farm, or even in one parish, 200 acres of such level good barley." Five or six consecutive crops of grain are taken, and they, as well as the hay and sainfoin crops, are sold off. No cattle are kept, except only a solitary black cow. There being no root crops grown, and consequently no manure made on the farm, the cartage required is very light. The purchasers cut and carry the grain. No town manure is driven; and since the stubbles are turned over, or rather are "cultivated" and cleaned in autumn by a hired steam plough, there are very few men or horses required on the holding. Notwithstanding recent dull times, Mr. Prout's crops have averaged £10 per imperial acre during the past series of years. In a week or two his annual sale will again take place, and it is expected that even this year his returns will not be below £10 per acre. The land is liberally treated. £1,000 to £1,300 are annually expended on artificial manures, principally superphosphate of lime and bone meal. This is at the rate of £3 per acre, or about half a ton of artificial manure per acre. The labour bill is under £1,000, or £2 per acre, and £1 per acre is allowed for seed and incidental expenses. In all, the expenses are £6, the rent £2, and interest on floating capital 10s. per acre, thus leaving a profit of 30s. per acre when his crop realises £10 per acre. How few farmers of 450 acres have recently been making £600 a year besides paying the above handsome interest on capital.

Mr. Prout can well afford to listen with good-humoured cynicism to the croaking of some of his cautious and perhaps a little bigoted neighbours. They have said—"But you are running out your land." He can reply—"How do you know? I am still getting £10 an acre for my crops. But supposing I were running out the soil as you say, I have at least made as much money during my sixteen years' tenancy, besides paying rent, interest, and all expenses, as would buy a farm half as big. Have you done as well?"

Mr. Gilbert Murray, an extensive factor in Derbyshire, though an Ayrshire man, has recently written an interesting pamphlet on "Agricultural Depression—its causes and remedies." One of the remedies he lays stress upon is greater freedom of cultivation. We may note in passing that he also approves of freedom of sale of straw, and acts upon it, with the proviso that tenants shall bring back 30s. worth of approved artificial manure for every ton of straw sold. Mr. Murray speaks of the theory that a rotation of root and grain crops is necessary to recuperate the exhausted elements of plant food in the soil as an "exploded fallacy," now that the chemical composition of soils and plants and the action and value of artificial manures are known.

Now all the experiences and theories of these gentlemen may be sound as regards England; but what bearing have they on Scottish Carse farming? Do they contribute anything to the solution of the problem with which we started—viz., What is to be done now-a-days with clay land? We think they do.

Let us consider again the case of the supposed clay farm of 280 acres, which we have shown cannot be profitably farmed if cropped in a seven course shift of grain and green crops unless the land be held rent free. Is it possible to borrow anything of Mr. Prout's system, and in the line of Dr. Lawes' experience, which might enable the farmer to meet rent day?

We do not announce the following as a uniform and never failing remedy for all the ills of Carse farming. We merely put it forward as a sample of what might be tried in some cases if the antiquated restrictions as to cropping were removed. If it would not enable farmers to pay their rents, it would not in that respect be worse than the present system, which has been tried and found wanting. And the expense of the system would be less than the present.

The first suggestion we have to make is that a return to the old-fashioned plan of bare fallowing ought to be made. The hazardous and expensive growing of potatoes and turnips, or we may say the attempt to grow them, in clay mist in large measure be given up. It is that which causes the heavy labour bills. English farmers, like Mr. Prout, may

be able to keep their land clean by autumn cultivation of their stubbles in the interval between harvest and autumn wheat sowing. But in Scotland there is seldom any such interval, and so to summer following they must look for the opportunity of clearing off weeds. At the same time the land ought to be well dressed with town or yard dung. After the fallow wheat is reaped a second wheat crop might be sown—the earliness of fallow wheat allowing time to prepare the soil by an autumn cultivation either by horses or by steam power. The second crop might be liberally dressed with phosphates in autumn, with ammonia added in spring. With an application of 6 cwt. per acre of artificial manures the crop would probably be sufficiently bulky and the cost would be smaller, if the labour be reckoned, than a middling quantity of town's dung would cost. Tares for consumption by cattle might follow this crop; and if early the land might be fallowed by the 1st of August preparatory to another crop of wheat, which might be dunged. The advantages of tares over beans are the certainty of destroying much of the wild oats and other annual weeds, and the better opportunity given for cleaning the land by rag-fallowing. After the wheat bare fallow or partly green crop and fallow would again allow of a thorough cleaning process, and the succeeding crops might be wheat, barley, hay, and oats. The rotation would thus be (1) fallow, (2) wheat, (3) wheat, (4) tares, (5) wheat, (6) fallow, (7) wheat, (8) barley, (9) hay, (10) oats. Four-tenths of the farm would thus be in autumn wheat; spring wheat would be abolished. Two-tenths would be in bare fallow, and tares, barley, hay, and oats would each claim one-tenth. The land by the twice fallowing would be kept clean, and the expense for manure would be amply met by the great quantity of straw which might be sold. This mode of cropping would afford fairly regular employment to the horses all the year round. There being no potatoes to lift, the autumn could be given unreservedly to the thorough preparation of the soil for wheat. Half of the wheat being after bare fallow, and a fourth of it after rag-fallow, an early beginning to ploughing for wheat could always be made. The winter would be devoted to ploughing the stubbles and threshing. There would be no turnips to drive, and manure could be driven for the most part in summer when the roads are good. Spring work would be light from there being almost no green crop, and there would generally be time to clean the barley and oat land. Four pairs of horses would be sufficient for the farm, and the straw of the oats and barley crops would suffice for fodder and litter both for the horses and the cattle which would be required to consume the tares and grass if not made into hay. The manure account would, of course, be large, and its items would be determined by the proximity of the farm to the railway and the nature of the soil. The labour account for field workers would be much less than would be the case raising the usual green crops.

We subjoin an estimate of the yearly expenses:—

4 pairs of horses kept up and wrought	£600
Women labour, cattleman during summer, and harvest wages	120
Seed	220
Manure (in addition to quantity made by cattle and horses)	350
Miscellaneous expenses, taxes, &c.	100
Interest on working capital, £2,000 at 5 per cent.	100
Wages to farmer	60
	<hr/>
	£1,550
To meet this there would be 112 acres of wheat at £7	£784
Straw of the same, at 1½ tons per acre and £3 10s. per ton	588
28 acres of barley at £8	224
28 acres of oats at £8	224
28 acres of hay at £10	280
28 acres of tares at £8	224
	<hr/>
	£2,324

If the expenses be deducted a sum of £774 is left for rent and profit. We make no return for cattle, but a few might be wintered on the oat straw so far as not required by the horses.

Now it may be said that "farming on paper is very easy." That is quite true, but it is no less true that except farming

can be shown on paper to leave a profit, it is vain to go on blindly and without reason in a course which confessedly is ruining the majority of tenants who honestly meet rent-day. We do not advocate the above rotation as the best or the most suitable in all circumstances. A division in beans might be preferred for the sake of the straw, or a few acres of turnips in a suitable season might be sown. Where the land is comparatively clear of annual weeds more spring grain might be grown. What we insist on is that the enormous cost of working clay land for green crop ought to be fairly faced. And it is only if a system whereby that expense can be either evaded or reduced that it will be possible for the present rents to be maintained. The liberty of growth and sale of produce, for which we contend, is one of the necessities of the times. Perhaps after the present race of clay farmers is ruined it will be granted to their successors. The majority of leases of Carse land, if not identical in their phraseology, are at least constructed on the same lines as the leases which were the rule half-a-century ago—that is, before artificial manures were known, when farm labour cost a third of what it does now, and when straw was of little or no value. That these leases when framed originally were the perfection of wisdom, and that they were drawn with honest aim to the best interests of both landlord and tenant, we are not concerned to deny. But their authors did not foresee the enhanced value of fodder, they did not dream of the railway system or of the possibility of Scotch farmers having to compete with American backwoodsmen in the areas of Mark Line. It is a grave question whether the Scotch 19-year-lease system has not entirely broken down in these days of rapid change. That a system of yearly tenancy, with compensation for ameliorations at quitting, would be preferable, is becoming the opinion of an increasing number of practical agriculturists. The present writer has just received a letter from an eminent English agriculturist and ex-M.P., in which the extravagant conditions in Scotch leases are thus referred to:—"Scotch rents and leases amaze English farmers. The former must come down 50 per cent. before profits are possible in most cases."—HARROW, in *Dundee Advertiser*.

**THE SECRET OF BEAUTY.**—The secret of beauty is health. Those who desire to be beautiful should do all they can to restore their health, if they have lost it, or to keep it if they have it yet. No one can lay down specific rules for other people in these matters. The work which one may do, the rest he must take, his baths, his diet, his exercise, are matters of individual consideration, but they must be carefully thought of and never neglected. As a rule, when a person feels well he looks well, and when he looks bad he feels bad as a general thing. There are times when one could guess, without looking in the glass, that his eyes were dull and his skin was mottled. This is not a case for something in a pretty bottle from the perfumers, or for the lotion that the circulars praise so highly. To have a fresh complexion and bright eyes, even to have white hands and a graceful figure you must be well. Health and the happiness that usually comes with it are the true secrets of beauty.—*Quarterly Review*.

**A REMINDER.**—There are things which remind us of our boyhood days, and bring one particular occasion distinctly to mind. We thought we would play truant, and we did. The first day was so serene that we tried it again. This time we were troubled. There came up a heavy thunder shower in the afternoon, and we were scared, badly scared, and when we arrived at the maternal mansion late in the afternoon we were met with a request for a private interview. It was granted. The slipper had a good heel on it, and we are not sure but what the imprints are on our person yet. Tears, huge tears, chased each other down our cheek. When we departed for school the next morning we were given a sealed envelope for the teacher. We were suspicious. We were always kind, and we gave that envelope to another little boy who wanted an excuse for being late. He was late—the clock marked 9.15 when he arrived. The teacher read the note, and followed the instructions therein contained to the letter. We were sorry for that boy, but rejoiced that it was not us. The note read thus: "Please whip the bearer, and whip him hard." That little boy and us were never more friends.—*American Paper*.

## Agricultural Societies.

### ABERGAVENNY.

The annual meeting of the Abergavenny Agricultural Association was held at Abergavenny on October 2, when the usual show of horses and general agricultural stock was got up. The *Hereford Times* says:—The Association was established in 1844, and has, therefore, been in existence some 33 years. During that time it has, of course, like most other institutions, experienced varied fortunes, but taken right through it has continued prosperous. The Association's annual exhibitions have enjoyed a wide and a growing popularity, and a good programme is generally got up by the officers for the very large number of persons who usually visit the fine show of horses and stock.

As already intimated the attendance of visitors to the show of horses and stock is unusually large, and this year scarcely proved an exception in that respect, although the weather was about as discouraging as it could be.

This meeting is more particularly a horse show, and therefore the horses formed the great feature. There was really a very strong and a very good show of horses, though, perhaps, not quite so strong or quite so good as on some previous years. There were 22 classes devoted to horses, and all were well filled. The hunter classes were fairly strong, there being 8 entries in the class for the best weight carrying hunter of any age, and 14 in the class for 12 stone hunter. There was also a very good exhibition of hacks, and an exceedingly attractive show of horses in harness.

### NORTH WALSHAM AND AYLSHAM.

Since last year the North Walsham Association has been re-organised, and its area extended so as to include the district of which the populous town of Aylsham is the centre. This alteration was made in accordance with suggestions which have from time to time been made by members of the North Walsham Association. Unfortunately, the weather on the first occasion of the holding of the exhibition for the extended district was of the most wretched character. Mr. R. S. Baker placed a large field at the service of the Association. The rain, which fell from an early hour on the opening morning, converted the show ground into a vast slough, through which it was difficult to pick one's way. It was Kilburn over again, only on a much smaller scale. The weather had a deterrent effect upon the number of exhibits, though the entries in the catalogue were more numerous than in any previous year. The number of animals sent into the yard fell considerably short of them, their owners being deterred from forwarding them by the pitiless rain. The consequence was that there was little, if any, competition in some of the classes. The horses included a few superior animals, but as a whole they were a moderate lot. The jumping attracted some attention; and so did the riding of the winning horse by Master Sapwell. In most of the cattle classes, the competition was limited. The cream of the show were Mr. R. Wortley's fat beasts which would do credit to any exhibition. They will, we are sure, be heard of again, with very honourable mention at some of the great shows of the country. Some good lambs were shown in the sheep classes. The absence of Mr. Sanders Spencer's pigs made a great difference in the swine classes.—*Norfolk News*.

### OSWESTRY.

The eighteenth annual Show of the Oswestry District Agricultural Society was held at Oswestry on Friday, Sept. 26.

The *Oswestry Advertiser* says:—We are sorry to have to report that the Show was not on the whole so good or so successful as former shows of this Society have been. Nor is this at all a matter for surprise when all the untoward circumstances of the present season—the great depression in agriculture, the long continued bad weather and the exceptionally late harvest—are taken into account.

The judges of the root crops made no report of their

own, but they desired the Secretary to state that they found the swedes very good for the season, especially on small farms, far better than they expected to find them. The mangold crop was very inferior to the swedes.

The total number of entries in the cattle classes was 82. Last year it was 97. This is not a very serious decrease considering the unfavourable circumstances in which this year's Show was held. The display of Shorthorns, which last year was one of the most successful features of the Show, was this year, perhaps, not quite so good as usual. The number of entries was 41—only three less than last year. For the President's prize for aged bulls there were five entries, as against eight last year. First honours were awarded to a very fine beast exhibited by Mr. Edward Jones of Pool Quay, and second to Mr. J. W. Edwards, of Park Farm, Oswestry. A bull exhibited by Sir Watkin Wynne, which was highly commended, was a pretty animal, but rather short. In the class for bulls under two years old there was an exceedingly good competition. The number of entries was seventeen (ten last year). Mr. F. B. Owens, of Deefields, Ellesmere, took first prize for a roan bull, a beautiful animal and of admirable quality, with a rich velvety coat, which was bred near Ulverstone. The second prize was awarded to Mr. Edward Jones, of Pool Quay, for a roan bull, Silver Star. His bull was two months younger than Mr. Owen's, and though a very fine and heavy beast, did not show quite the same quality. Silver Star, however, at the Show of the Montgomeryshire Society, took not only the first prize in its class, but also the prize for the best beast in the yard. It speaks well for this class that in it there were no fewer than seven highly commended animals.

Shorthorn cows (in milk or in calf), which last year was a very strong class, was this year a very weak one, in point of numbers. There were only five entries.

A new and very excellent feature of this year's show were competitions for the prizes offered for the best Shorthorn and Hereford cows with not less than two of their offspring. In the Shorthorn competition there were only four entries; but the cows and their offspring were of excellent quality.

We now come to the Hereford cattle, and it is worthy of remark that while last year the show of Shorthorns excelled that of the rival breed, this year the Herefords were in advance of the Shorthorns in point of general quality—in fact, the competition in Herefords was never better at Oswestry Show, if it was ever as good. The number of entries (20) was, however, four less than last year. The prizetakers were animals of pure breed, and in fine condition.

The show of cross-bred stock included a number of very useful animals.

In the sheep classes there were 45 entries (last year 49) of which 29 were Shropshires, and the show, due allowance being made for the bad effects of this disastrous season, was quite up to the average.

The show of pigs was small, as it generally is at this show, but fairly good.

There was a very considerable falling off in the number of horses as compared with last year. The total number was 108; last year it was 232. In 1877 it was 124. The show of agricultural stallions was very limited (four entries) and did not reach a remarkably high standard of excellence. Mr. Arthur Williams, of Welshpool, was first with a bay stallion, a thoroughly serviceable cart horse of rich colour, with grand thighs and shoulders and a big chest. This horse took a second prize at the Montgomery Show last year, but was passed over without notice by the judges at Welshpool last week. Mr. Thomas Studley, of Overton, was second with his grey stallion Young Champion a light hearted, fine bodied horse. His fore legs, however, did not quite please the judges. A dark brown stallion,

the property of Mr. William Roberts, of Meifod, which took second prize at Welshpool last week, was now only commended. The show of mares and foals suitable for agricultural purposes was an exceedingly good one (14 entries). Of hacks and hunters there was a very fair show. Hunting mares and foals were but a weak class. The class for four-year-old hunters was a good one. (Nine entries). The yearling hunters was an exceptionally good class—(seven entries)—much better than is usually seen at district shows. The roadsters were but a moderate class (nine entries). The ponies were an extremely creditable class.

The show of grain was a meagre one. The barley however, made a very fair show.

In the butter and cheese classes there were fifteen entries (last year eighteen). The prize cheese was, on the whole, very good in quality. For the best tub of butter of not less than 60lb. there were eleven entries, and the first prize was taken by Mr. John Morgan, of Mile House, Oswestry. In reporting upon this class Mr. Valentine says:—"The exhibits of salt butter are of the first quality, and reflect the highest credit on the dairywomen. I am surprised that your committee do not offer premiums for fresh butter."

The show of roots were nothing like so good as it was last year, and it was hardly to be expected that it would be.

#### PRIZE LIST.

##### HORSES.

Agricultural stallion, best suited to travel the district in the season of 1880.—1, J. Busby; 2, J. Picken.  
Agricultural mare and foal.—1, J. Busby; 2, J. W. Titterton.  
Pair of horses.—1, W. Allen; 2, T. Jackson.  
Single horse.—1, R. T. Heatley; 2, W. Bevan.  
Colt, foaled 1876.—1, W. B. van; 2, T. C. Powell.  
Colt, foaled 1877.—1, R. Blewitt; 2, W. Dixon.  
Colt, foaled 1878.—R. Jones.

##### HUNTING AND HACKNEY.

Mare with foal for hunting.—1, J. Brooke; 2, W. Swan.  
Hunter.—1, J. Hill; 2, J. H. Edge.  
Hack or roadster.—1, E. Pryce; 2, F. L. Lightfoot.  
Cob, hack, or roadster.—1, C. Kitching; 2, R. M. Leeke.  
Colt, suitable for hunter or hack, foaled 1876.—1, C. B. Wright; 2, Rev. J. Brooke.  
Colt, foaled 1877.—1, J. Paddock; 2, H. Harvey.  
Pony.—1, A. Leach; 2, C. A. Hartley.  
Extra stock class.—1, G. Hunt; 2, S. W. Lewis.

##### CATTLE.

###### SHORTHORNS.

Cows.—1, G. T. Phillips; 2, P. H. Chester.  
Pair of heifers, calved 1877.—S. Dicken.  
Heifer, calved 1878.—1, S. L. Horton; 2, P. H. Chesters.

###### OTHERS THAN SHORTHORNS.

Bull.—J. Hill.  
Cow.—E. Price.  
Pair of bullocks, calved 1878.—2, J. Morray.  
Pair of cow.—1, S. Dicken; 2, J. Bray.  
Extra stock.—1, S. L. Horton; 2, T. Nash.

###### TENANT FARMERS' CLASS.

###### SHORTHORNS.

Bull, of any age.—1, T. Nash; 2, J. Morray.  
Bull, calved 1878.—1, W. H. Goodall; 2, J. Paddock.  
Cows, any age.—O. Bennion.  
Pair of dairy cows.—J. Baker.  
Pair of heifers, calved 1877.—1, S. Dicken; 2, J. Baker.  
Pair of heifers, calved 1878.—1, T. Nash; 2, S. Dicken.

###### SHEEP.

Shropshires, ram, any age.—T. Nock.  
Ram, lambed 1878.—M. Williams.  
Ram, lambed 1879.—1, T. Nock; 2, M. Williams.  
Pen of five ewes, lambed 1879.—T. Nock.  
Ewes, lambed 1878.—T. Nock.  
Ewe lambs.—1, T. Nock; 2, W. Picken.

###### TENANT FARMERS' CLASS.

Shropshires, ram, any age.—1, M. Williams; 2, B. Goodhall.  
Rams, lambed 1878.—1, M. Williams; 2, F. L. Lightfoot.  
Ram lambs, lambed 1879.—1, M. Williams; 2, W. Picken.

Ewes, any age.—1, W. H. Goodhall; 2, M. Williams.  
Ewes, lambed 1878.—1, W. H. Goodhall; 2, J. Pickering.  
Ten wethers, lambed 1879.—H. Woolrich.  
Extra stock.—G. C. Price.

##### PIGS.

Boar, any age.—1, T. Radcliffe; 2, C. Mort.  
Sow in pig.—J. H. Kemp.  
Small breed boar.—1, R. K. Mainwaring; 2, C. D. Hudson.  
Breeding sow.—3, T. Radcliffe; 2, J. H. Kemp.  
Any breed.—1, J. Bray; 2, G. Hunt.

##### CHEESE.

Four thick cheeses.—1, Thornhill Milk and Cheese Company; 2, S. Barker.

Four thin cheese.—1, Thornhill Co.; 2, J. Bourne.

##### BUTTER.

1, J. H. Kemp; 2, W. B. Botfield.

##### WOOL.

1, W. Fowler; 2, A. E. W. Darby.

## SHROPSHIRE.

This society, which up to the present year has been known to the public as the "North Shropshire Agricultural Society," held its annual show at Shifnal, on Tuesday, September 30.

The *Shrewsbury Chronicle* says:—"The society when first formed was only a local one, but being held in a purely agricultural district it soon outgrew its first modest pretensions, and became a very important society in the district, attracting the principal agriculturists in North Shropshire. Up to the present year its operations have been confined exclusively to North Shropshire and the annual shows have been held alternately at Market Drayton, Newport, Shifnal, and Wellington, but in 1878 the question of extending its operation to other parts of the county arose out of a kind of semi-official invitation to visit the ancient town of Bridgnorth. This, however, fell through for two reasons: one was that to carry out that idea the rules of the society would have to be altered, and in the meantime the Shropshire and West Midland had undertaken to visit Bridgnorth in 1880. However, the idea mooted in 1878 bore fruit, as at a meeting of the society in the early part of the present year it was unanimously resolved to alter the rules so that the society might extend its operations not only to the whole county, but to fifteen miles beyond, and at the same time the name of the society was altered from "North Shropshire" to the "Shropshire Agricultural Society." At one time there was in some quarters a belief that the society would amalgamate with the Shropshire and West Midland, but as the former made it an indispensable condition that the latter should drop the title of "West Midland" the matter dropped though, and we doubt whether it will be resuscitated again for some time, as there are many influential opponents to such an amalgamation in the Shropshire Society.

We have previously stated that year after year the society has continued to flourish. Taking the years from 1874 up to the present we find that the amount given in prizes, and the number of entries, have been gradually on the increase. In 1874, at Newport, the amount given in prizes was £438 19s., and the number of entries 669. In 1875, at Shifnal, the prizes amounted to £498 19s., being an increase of £30; the entries being 596, a decrease of 73. In 1876, at Wellington, the prizes were £549 15s., an increase of £50 14s.; the entries 977, an increase of 381. In 1877, at Market Drayton, the prizes were reduced to £484 18s., and the number of entries to 570. In 1878, at Newport, the prizes amounted to £494 11s. Unfortunately we have not the exact number of entries, but we can vouch that they were considerably in excess of the previous show at Newport. This year the amount given in prizes is over £500, and the number of entries was again highly satisfactory.

Whatever falling off was observable in some other departments of the show-yard, none were to be found in

the horse classes. The entries were quite up to the average as regards number, when compared with former years, and for merit the display has probably never been surpassed at any of the society's annual shows. Of the agricultural exhibitions there was a really first-rate display. The next class for mares and foals contained at least three really first-rate exhibits. The pairs of horses made but a small display, but there were several remarkably fine animals, which sold at good prices. In the next class, single horses for agricultural purposes, there was a fine display, and was pronounced by the people to be one of the best they had seen this season. There were four exhibits, and three of them were pronounced fit for any showyard in England. Of colts foaled 1876 there was about an average display, one or two being very smart and promising animals, and the rest not very first-rate. The next class, colts foaled 1877, was very similar as to merit, the animals placed being well worthy of the honours won, and the rest being scarcely up to the mark. The colts foaled 1878 comprised some exceedingly smart animals, fit for exhibition anywhere, and the whole class was a strong one. Of extra stock there were no exhibits. The hunters, four years old and upwards, comprised a capital lot.

The Shorthorns were poor as regards the number of exhibits. No bulls were shown, but among the cows of any age Mr. Phillips had a very good specimen, while the second was a small but very neat animal belonging to Mr. Chesters. The heifers were a good lot as regards quality, although not very numerous, Mr. S. Dicken's being really a pair of beauties. In the classes for other breeds Mr. Hill showed a splendid Hereford bull, the only one exhibited, and Mr. Dicken's pair of cows were smart animals, one especially so. The extra stock contained some very good exhibits.

The display of sheep was not up to the mark, although there were some very fine animals in the show.

#### LIST OF AWARDS.

##### HORSES.

###### AGRICULTURAL.

Stallion best suited to travel the district, in the season of 1880.—1, J. Bashby, Billington, Stafford; 2, J. Picken, Coppice Green, Shifnal.

Mare, with foal.—1, J. Bashby; 2, J. W. Titterton, The Manor, Shifnal.

Pair of horses.—1, W. Allen, Benthall, Broseley; 2, T. Jackson, Sowdley, Cheswardine.

Horse.—1, R. T. Heatley, Eaton Grange, Market Drayton; 2, W. Bevan, Mire Lake, Wellington.

Colt, foaled 1876.—1, W. Bevan; 2, T. C. Powell, Hodnet, Salop.

Colt, foaled 1877.—1, R. Bewitt, Cranmere Lodge, Wrottesley, Wolverhampton; 2, W. Dixon, The Marsh, Rodington, Shrewsbury.

Colt, foaled 1878.—R. Jones, Horton, Wellington, Salop.

###### HUNTING AND HACKNEY HORSES.

Mare, with foal, for hunting purposes.—1, Rev. J. Brooke, Houghton Hall, Shifnal, Salop; 2, W. Saar, Codsall, Wolverhampton.

Hunters, 4 years old and upwards.—1, J. Hill, Felhampton Court, Church Stretton; 2, J. H. Edge.

Hack or roadster, 15 hands or over.—1, E. Pryce, Ancellor House, Newport, Salop; 2, F. L. Lightfoot, Adderley Lodge, Market Drayton.

Cob, hack, and roadster, under 15 hands.—1, C. Kitching, Ockengates, Wellington; 2, R. M. Leeks, Longford Hall, Newport, Salop.

Colt, suitable for a hunter or hack, foaled 1876.—1, C. B. Wight, Rudge Hall, Wolverhampton; 2, Rev. J. Brooke.

For colt for the same purpose, foaled 1877.—1, J. Paddock, Chetwynd Aston, Newport; 2, E. Harvey, Beckbury, Shifnal.

Pony not exceeding 14 hands.—1, A. Leach, Tong, Norton, Shifnal; 2, C. A. Hartley, Tong Castle, Shifnal, Salop.

##### EXTRA STOCK.

(Open to all comers.)

1, G. Hunt, Houghton, Shifnal, Salop; 2, W. S. Lewis, Mossey Green, Wellington.

Cow of any age, but age to be taken into consideration, having produced a calf in 1879.—1, G. T. Phillips, Sheriffoles Manor, Newport; 2, P. H. Chesters, Wallfields House, Nantwich.

Pair of heifers, calved 1877.—1, S. Dicken, Little Ness, Bachurch, Salop.

Pair of heifers, calved, 1878.—1, S. L. Horton, Park House, Shifnal, Salop; 2, P. H. Chesters, Wall Fields House, Nantwich.

##### OTHER BREEDS, NOT SHORTHORNS.

Bull of any age (but age to be taken into consideration).—1, J. Hill, Felhampton Court, Church Stretton.

Cow of any age (but age to be taken into consideration), having produced a calf in 1879.—2, E. Price, Ancellor House, Newport.

##### ANY BREED.

Pair of bullocks, calved 1878.—Prize, J. Morrey, Sutton, Market Drayton.

Pair of cows for dairy purposes, each having produced a calf in 1879.—1, S. Dicken; 2, J. Bray, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal.

EXTRA STOCK. Open to all comers.—1, S. L. Horton, Park House, Shifnal, Salop; 2, T. Nash, Featherstone, Wolverhampton.

##### TENANT FARMERS' CLASSES.

###### SHORTHORNS.

Bull of any age.—1, T. Nash, Featherstone, Wolverhampton; 2, J. Morrey, Sutton, Market Drayton.

Bull, calved 1878.—1, W. H. Goodall, Stoke Grange, Market Drayton; 2, J. Paddock, Chetwynd Aston, Newport, Salop.

Cow, of any age (but age to be taken into consideration), having produced a calf in 1879.—Prize, O. Bennion, Brockton, Newport.

Pair of cows for dairy purposes, each having produced a calf in 1879.—Prize, J. Baker.

Pair of heifers, calved in 1877.—1, S. Dicken; 2, J. Baker.

Pair of heifers, calved in 1878.—1, T. Nash; 2, S. Dicken.

###### SHEEP.

###### SHROPSHIRE OR OTHER SHORT-WOOLED.

Ram, of any age.—Prize, T. Nock, Sutton Maddock, Shifnal.

Ram, lambed in 1878.—Prize, M. Williams, Bishton, Shifnal.

Ram lam, lambed in 1879.—1, T. Nock; 2, M. Williams.

Pen of five ewes, of any age, each having produced a lamb in 1879.—Prize, T. Nock.

Pen of five ewes, lambed in 1878.—Prize, T. Nock.

Pen of ten ewe lambs, lambed in 1879.—1, T. Nock; 2, W. Picken.

###### TENANT FARMERS' CLASSES.

Ram of any age.—1, M. Williams; 2, B. Goodall, Helshaw, Market Drayton.

Ram, lambed 1878.—1, M. Williams; 2, F. L. Lightfoot, Adderley Lodge.

Pen of five ram lambs, lambed in 1879.—1, M. Williams; 2, W. Picken, Hilton, Newport.

Pen of ten ewes, of any age, each having produced a lamb in 1879.—1, W. H. Goodall, Stoke Grange, Market Drayton; 2, M. Williams.

Pen of five ewes, lambed in 1878.—1, W. H. Goodall; 2, J. Pickering, Halston.

Pen of ten wether lambs, lambed in 1879.—1, H. Woolrich, Roughton, Salop.

EXTRA STOCK.—2, G. C. Price, Acton Hill, Stafford, Shropshire.

##### PIGS.

###### LARGE AND MIDDLE BREED.

Boar of any age.—1, T. Radcliffe, Chewell Grange, Newport; 2, C. Mort, Burlton, Shrewsbury.

Breeding sow in pig, or with farrow of sucking pigs.—1, J. H. Kemp, Longford, Market Drayton; 2, C. Mort.

###### SMALL BREED.

Boar of any age.—1, R. K. Mainwaring, The Hill, Market Drayton; 2, C. D. Hudson, Cheswardine.

Breeding sow in piz, or with farrow of sucking pigs.—1, T. Radcliffe; 2, J. H. Kemp.

ANY BREED.

Pen of pigs of the same farrow, above four and under eight months.—1, J. Bray, Weston-under-Lizard; 2, G. Hunt, Houghton, Shipnal, Salop.

SWINDON AND NORTH WILTS.

The fifth annual show was held on Sept. 29 on the premises of the V. W. H. Repository, Swindon, under most favourable circumstances, the weather being beautifully fine and the attendance very large compared with former years. There were 267 entries in all, the cattle and cart-horse classes being well filled. Cheese and butter also excited keen competition. The show in these classes creating a good deal of interest amongst the visitors. In the afternoon the usual jumping and driving contests took place in a field on the Wroughton Road, known as the Croft, and drew together some thousands of spectators. All the events were well contested, and passed off without the slightest hitch.—*Wilt's Times*.

WAYLAND.

The annual show of stock, &c., the property of members of the association resident in the Wayland Hundred, was held on October 1st at Watton. The lateness of the harvest caused the postponement of the show to some weeks beyond the usual time, and to this may, perhaps, be ascribed the fact that as a whole the show was not up to the average of previous years. The weather was by no means favourable in the forenoon, but later in the day the rain cleared off and the sun broke out in splendour. The attendance of visitors was larger than might have been expected, and upon this fact the society is to be congratulated. Few features in the show call for special comment. The cart horse classes were fairly filled, Mr. Jacob's stallion being greatly admired, while Mr. Welcher's cart gelding and filly were deservedly adjudged the prizes in their respective classes. In the cattle classes, Mr. Herbert S. Dixon showed a most useful red shorthorn, which was one of the gems of the show yard; and Mr. R. Horsley had in the same class a capital roan five-year-old cow, which took second honours. The horned heifer class had the most entries, Miss Mason's ex-cutors took first prize in the polled bull and heifer classes, but were beaten in the class for polled cows of any age. The sheep classes brought about an average entry—Mr. P. J. Sharman carrying off the principal prizes for rams and ewes, while Mr. R. Horsley had a pen of splendid lambs twenty-eight weeks old, bred from Mr. H. Aylmer's rams. In the pig classes the only feature noticeable was Mr. Applewhite's sow and litter of pigs of white breed of excellent quality. There was a very fair show of poultry, which did credit to the district.—*Norfolk News*.

WESTMORELAND AND KENDAL.

This event took place on September 25 under circumstances which severely tested the resources upon which the Westmoreland and Kendal District Agricultural Society depends for the maintenance of its highly useful operations. The exhibition was held in a time of severe agricultural depression, and on a day when the weather was unfortunately very unfavourable. There was no luncheon marquee on the ground to be overthrown by the wind, as was the case last year, the experience of the committee on that occasion having determined them to substitute on Thursday a dinner held under a substantial roof for the hazardous plan of a field luncheon in the latter part of September. But if the wind was less boisterous than last year, the rain and the cold more than made up for all deficiencies in that respect. The day's proceedings were marred by intermittent showers of chilly rain, and the field was soaked to a degree that made walking unpleasant and standing still the reverse of comfortable. Under these circumstances the marvel is, not that the entries fell short of the total number recorded last year, and that the visitors were not so numerous, but that the agricultural depression diminished the number of entries by no larger a figure than 60—which was pretty evenly distributed among the various departments, and that the muster of spectators was such that one could hardly have guessed the falling

off in this respect from the appearance of the field alone. The gate-money told a different tale. As regards the quality of the stock exhibited, it fully sustained the reputation which the Westmoreland and Kendal District Agricultural Society has acquired of being one of the best and most "authoritative" shows in the North of England. Animals which had won distinction at previous shows were brought here to receive an imprimatur that is respected not merely in Westmoreland but in the counties of Cumberland and Lancashire, and the judges on Thursday were not at all chary about overhauling decisions given at less important shows. Notwithstanding the weather, the field presented a most animated appearance during the day, most of the county gentry—including the Earl and Countess of Bective and the Hon. Wm. Lowther—being among the spectators, and the admirably systematized arrangements made by the secretary (Mr. J. Swainson) and the committee caused everything to go off smoothly.—*Ulverston Advertiser*.

VIOLENT LANGUAGE OF IRISH AMERICANS.—

The New York *Irish Democrat* of September 20th, writes a correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury*, contains some strong remarks in regard to current British topics. Commenting upon the Irish land agitation, the Editor, after stating that a circular was about to be addressed to the Irish people in America asking for aid, in the agitation of which Mr. Parnell was to be the head and front, and adding that the Irish in America would respond to any call made by the hon. Member for Meath, proceeds—"The landlord rights of Ireland are an anomaly in any State pretending to freedom. They are so indefensible, so offensive to every claim of justice or humanity, that they will not be any longer tolerated. They must go the way of all tyrannies—by persuasion if possible, if not, by any means. Glaring facts before their eyes, and keen want in their homes, will lead Mr. Parnell and his party, by a short cut, to the desired end." The same paper contains a letter from O'Donovan Rossa, ex-Fenian prisoner, alluding to the massacre at Cabul. Rossa writes—"Thanks be to God and the Afghans! The British brigands have got another knock-down blow, and the oppressed people of the world have reason to rejoice. . . . General Cavagnari with all the force he had with him were set upon by the natives and slaughtered to a man; and whether it was in honourable warfare or not, I say 'serve them right.' But what a pity it is that it is not they who plot and plan such robberies who suffer, instead of their unfortunate tools. How much more pleased I would be to hear that a band of those 'Cabools' had laid siege to the Privy Council, in their Council Chamber in London, and blown up all the bricks and Britons around them. That day may come yet, and perhaps Irish skirmishers could be got daring enough to do the deed. I know they could; and it is another pity that they are not let at the work."

MR. ALLSOPP, M.P., AND HIS TENANTS.—Not many months ago we noticed an act of great liberality on the part of Mr. Allsopp, M.P., towards his farm tenants. Another very gratifying announcement has just been made to them, which shows that Mr. Allsopp fully appreciates the magnitude of the difficulties by which the cultivators of the soil are surrounded. The seasons may improve and prosperity may return, but it cannot come in as large a measure as in former times, for foreign competition stands in the way. Mr. Allsopp therefore feels that relief granted to tenant farmers in respect of rent, if it is to be of any real service, must be considerable, and extended over several years, if not made permanent. He believes that, owing to the disastrous state of the weather, all new corn brought to market for some time to come will be in such bad condition as to materially affect the price, and the tenants are informed that the payment of rent falling due on September 29th, and usually payable in December, will be deferred, if agreeable, till March 25th, 1880. Taking into account the depression in agriculture, caused mainly by a succession of bad harvests, Mr. Allsopp proposes to allow his tenants 25 per cent. on their rentals for the next three years, to be expended in lime, bones, linseed or cotton cake; and, further, if the country be not blessed with more favourable harvests and times, he suggests that his farms be re-valued, on a basis consistent with the state of the farming interest at the end of the three years.—*Worcester Journal*.

## A SERMON TO FARM LABOURERS AND UNIONISTS.

We have only recently received a copy of a sermon preached at Orleston church on Sunday evening, August 10th, on the occasion of the attendance of the local branch of the Kent and Sussex Labourers' Union, by the Rev. G. Sarson, M.A., rector. The reverend gentleman's discourse entitled was "Bad times, and the Labourers' Union," the text being taken from the 1st Epistle of St. John, ii, 14: "Ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you." As this address contains much good advice to unionists, as well as some apologies for combination fairly conducted, we give the principal portion of it:—

"We hear on every side that these are 'bad times,' days of depression for the agricultural community. People all around us are crying out in fear for the prospects of agriculture in England. The three classes who are especially interested in the productiveness and the prosperity of the cultivation of the soil, landowners, tenant farmers, and labourers, are all more or less pinched by a combination of circumstances, the most undeniable of which are unfavourable weather and foreign competition.

"It is impossible for me and in this place to discuss with you the causes which are resulting in so much loss and distress. But it is most fitting that we should ask ourselves how we, as individuals; how you, as a strong and united body, upon your honour and mettle, to think of others as well as yourselves, can so behave as unmistakably to help forward the common weal, the good of the community at large. For you are not, as some sharp critics would have you believe, so much dead shingle rolled hither and thither by the surging waves of supply and demand, and you are capable of motives deeper and far more reaching than the fear of a hungry stomach. The Word of God abideth in you. The indwelling voice of God can inspire you with higher, holier desires; larger and better counsels than the love of ease and the shrinking from want. Though the action of supply and demand is, as it were, the inevitable law of gravitation which you have to reckon for and yield to within limits, yet you are no more the helpless slaves of 'supply and demand' than the sailor is of the law of gravitation. Every man here has a will and aspirations of his own, and so has his wife. You may all add so much will-force in one direction or another. The question is how to exercise it in a right direction in these times of unusual difficulty. Each of us is a responsible being, with a responsibility that he cannot shift on to any other shoulders, not even on to the broad shoulders of the Kent and Sussex Agricultural Labourers' Union. We are not animals, to be driven by our appetites or anything else. We have to do God's will for him. We have to pray in our lives and with our hearts, 'Thy will be done on earth, not in spite of and without the co-operation of created wills, but as it is in Heaven, through the loving co-operation of created brethren, with Thee and with one another.' With such inspirations moving us how shall we act?

"Ought you now to disband this Union as an obstacle to the farmers' success? What injures them most must injure you in many ways, and what brings good to them must bring good to you. Though the country at large is undoubtedly better off when the price of corn is low, the agricultural labouring classes have losses which counterbalance the advantages of cheap food. Farmers must find less extra work for you to do when their produce is selling badly, and so your income is reduced even before the scale of wages is lowered. Your interests then are the same as theirs, and theirs are the same as yours. It is for the interest of all who are better off than yourselves, and who are in any way working for their country, that you should be well paid, strong, healthy, and contented. Thus, if your Union really benefits you, it does good indirectly to those to whom you are erroneously supposed to be in opposition, and if it really injures them it must injure you in the long run.

I cannot believe that the effect of your Union can be anything but good for the general interests of agriculture in the future. My friends among the farmers sometimes tell me of very wrong things that some of your leaders say about them, or perhaps are reported to say. I always answer that if some of you make mistakes and blunders, or worse, you are only like every other class who have special interests of their own, and that

that these misdeeds are all the more likely to challenge public disapproval and to be corrected when they are done by a Society whose conduct is open to public discussion. If your leaders make no mistakes they are the only leaders in the world of whom such praise can be uttered. The real question to be answered by those who object to your Union is this— is it reasonable or unreasonable that neighbours who are engaged in the same sort of work should form a Society to discuss and promote, and if need be to protect their own welfare? Whenever I put the question thus to those who argue that your Society is an outburst of error or crime, either suicidal or homicidal, I am always told that you override and destroy individual freedom. How far you do this I cannot discover. Within fair limits you have as much right to curtail individual freedom as the learned professions, the great legal and medical societies, and the Church herself. But this is not the main question. Your opponents may convince me that you do err against the great Christian law of liberty. They have sometimes told me of actions and rules which seem to me with my limited knowledge unjustifiable and I would persuade you to be very watchful of your Society's rules in this respect. But if your Society is, as I feel, a Society such as is called or by reason and fraternal feeling, the thing for your opponents to do is to convince you of your errors, and not to talk as if, because you seem to be wrong in certain details, you ought to cease to exist altogether. Am I to try to destroy or disestablish the Church of England because I am pretty sure that I, as one of her officers, at times say foolish things, or act in a selfish and despotic manner? No; I may wish for a reform or restraint of my own actions and powers, but I should think it madness to wish to destroy a useful Society of any sort, so long as it is possible to root out evils connected with it, but no essential part of it, and so I do not hesitate to bid God speed to your Society, and to feel sure that its existence will do good rather than evil in this crisis which is so distressing to all who have the cause of agriculture at heart.

"But if your Union be what we contend it is, you must make it your special duty to lend a helping hand and heart and mind in these bad times: You can forbear from pressing to your utmost against your employers those powers with which you have furnished yourselves by your praiseworthy providence in the past, and this for your own sake as well as theirs. Be foremost in practical sympathy with those who are struggling against enormous difficulties. You'll do your Union good by every act of generosity towards your employers which you can find an opportunity for. Save them every penny you can. If you take care that the wages which go to the maintenance of your family are never unjustifiably reduced, you are also bound to take care that there is no waste of your employers' materials and time, for his sake and for your own, for they are not only his; they go to form a fund called capital, from which your next year's wages come. It is often said that the Union has destroyed the old sympathetic relationships between farmers and labourers, and that now there is only ill-feeling. Of course, a new movement such as yours must have excited much angry feeling on the part of some of your employers, and I do not imagine that the temper of the labourer is better than that of the farmer. But in proportion as you have been successful it is your duty to be generous and goodtempered, especially in bad times. Be firm in adhering to your rules when you have made up your mind that they are wise rules; but beyond these rules be liberal and cheerful, and willing to make concessions. Win the hearts of your employers to respect, if they cannot love, your society. If your Union be the cause of permanent ill-feeling between neighbours, its benefits will be purchased at a too frightful cost.

"But pray don't suppose that all you can do is to remain patient and inactive till better times. This is, I imagine, peculiarly a time in which you may be doing good work as a society. The most essential and indispensable end for all to aim at is to make the land as fertile and fruitful as possible. One would think that you, as labourers on the soil, have better opportunities than anyone else of finding out how the greatest amount of produce can be reared from the soil. It is for you to puzzle your heads to discover or suggest how farming can be made to pay in England without any reduction of the food and comforts of the labourers who form the vast majority of those interested in the welfare of the land, and so as to afford brighter prospects for them than heretofore.

For, as you well know, there is not an unlimited or the same amount each year over which you and others have to struggle to get the largest share. The more there is to be got out of the soil the more there will be for each party now you are well enough organised to secure your own share.

"And you may be doing more in these bad times than making the present system of agriculture as productive as possible. Is our present system the only system or the best for the future? Does the land at present do the best that it can be expected to do for the nation? If not, how can you turn it to better account? Surely this is a good opportunity for you to be trying experiments as to how far two or three labourers together can possibly become landowners, and if so, whether they can do better for the land and for themselves than at present. Would it not be a fair venture for your Union funds to embark some of them in experiments of small farming on such a scale as may reasonably be expected to be within the power of thrifty and skillful labourers if they could get land for themselves either as farmers or as proprietors? I believe it is quite fair for the advocates of the present system to say that it has not yet been proved that any other system is possible in England, and to question whether present proprietors could tide over the bad seasons which, in our precarious climate, add so much to the difficulties of farming, and make it so hard for the farmer to calculate as to his powers. Personally, in my ignorance as to the practical parts of the subject, I hold it to be highly desirable that a larger number of you who are at present agricultural labourers should have homes and fields of your own. I don't want to shirk the fact that the difficulties appear to be very great; and, doubtless, the anxieties of a labourer assured of employment till a fair old age, and with his hands strengthened through your Union, are small when compared with those of a farmer or peasant proprietor. You, by showing practically what some other methods might accomplish, may earn the gratitude of the nation, including the landowners and farmers, at this crisis, when serious attention is claimed by the existing difficulties of agriculture. Those who experience these difficulties ought especially to be glad to see some of you learning by experience of your own what it is to have land on your own hands, instead of earning weekly wages. Can you do justice to the land if you get it? Can you look forward to the building cottages of your own, and keeping them in repair? Our experience in this parish is that the cottages built by the landowners are so substantial and picturesque that they could not have been erected by anyone who was compelled to have regard to what was the best mercantile investment for his money. Still, within an easy walk from this estate there may be seen tumble-down buildings which have not profited by coming into contact with that almighty capital which we are told that free trade in land would so beneficially introduce into the neglected estates. But it is for yourselves, my friends, to help to furnish an answer to these questions. From you, as a society, an answer may best be expected. Now is a good time for you to get a hearing. Bring your thoughts and discussions and energies and savings to bear upon the experiment.

There are probably insuperable difficulties in your way, which only Parliamentary legislation can remove; but these need not hinder trials, I imagine, in individual cases. You must prove in certain cases the possibility of what you aim at, before you can expect the enthusiastic co-operation of your legislators in promoting the adoption of a new system. It is for you to pave the way and set the example, and then they must listen to your demands.

"And with a view to this you must be more earnest in your study of politics, and of what is going on in the political world. Read the speeches of your best Parliamentary representatives. Always look out for what is to be said on the other side. I wish your Union paper reported political speeches more fully. You must master the difficulties with which you and your representatives have to cope. Don't imagine that any great improvement can be brought about suddenly by an Act of Parliament. All the Parliaments in the world cannot make a dozen blades of corn grow where the cultivation is only good enough to produce six. What Parliament can do, and what you can make a Parliament to do, is to remove unnecessary restrictions on the most desirable and fruitful cultivation of the soil. But can one man in twenty of you here present say what you consider such hindrances to be? Therefore study politics as an indispensable

portion of that duty towards your neighbour, which our Church Catechism teaches us to be one main part of our religion. The agricultural labourers will, before long, if they agitate for it, have a vote as to who shall represent them in Parliament. Prepare to give your vote conscientiously. Let the political questions that are now before the nation be much in your thoughts during the coming long winter evenings. I shall be pleased myself to be instrumental in helping any of you to get information or form opinions. We will have classes for study and discussion on political questions of the day, if you will give your names to me as willing to come together regularly for the purpose.

"You hear all sorts of things said which seem most true, and all sorts of easy reforms advocated which a little knowledge or study would show are not so easy and simple as they seem at first sight. I will take an example that occurs to me, because it has been forced on my attention lately, although I may run the risk of appearing to be personally prejudiced in this instance. Some people say abolish the tithes and so relieve the farmers of a heavy burden, and devote the money to expenses which would fall upon the ratepayers. This is an excellent suggestion if the abolition of tithes would really benefit the whole community more than the maintenance of the parson does. But look carefully at what would happen if the tithes were abolished. The farmer would have to pay as much more in rent as he escaped in tithes or rates, and what you take from the parson would simply go into the landlord's pocket in the shape of increased rent; a most beneficial transfer on this particular estate at this particular time, I can have no doubt. But I must say that I doubt very much whether the people who advocate the abolition of tithes are really anxious to give to the landowners of England money that now goes to the clergy. If ever there are fifty or a hundred of you landowners in each parish instead of one or two as at present, the question would be altogether altered. You will then have genuinely to settle whether the clergy are, or can be made, worth maintaining at the expense of the community. But what I am now pointing out is that a little study and knowledge at once show that a piece of legislation, which would seem at first sight to have but one result, may really involve a very different result, for which those who vote may not at all wish. Thus the study of politics must be pursued with real diligence and zeal.

"I am unwilling to conclude without submitting to your attention a few thoughts on another subject, on which many angry taunts have lately been tossed backwards and forwards. Farmers accuse labourers and their wives of wasting their increased wages in things that do them and their families harm rather than good. And labourers reply that the present generation of farmers are much more extravagant than their fathers were in household matters. I believe that in this parish my friends, the farmers, live every bit as inexpensively as the most frugal labourers. But doubtless in many places there is a good deal of truth in both accusations. To be economical in the present day is far harder, both for farmers and labourers, than it was for their parents, because there are so many more ways of spending money within the reach of everyone, and travelling about has become so much easier. When one thinks that saving sixpence a day means saving a hundred pounds within ten years, and that a labourer at the age of forty-five may have a hundred pounds at the bank if he has saved two-pence a day from the time when he began to earn wages, one does lament that so much misery is so often incurred for lack of a little determined thrift. I believe that thrift is not the most crying necessity in our present country household. What we need is a wiser way of spending and enjoying what we have to spend on enjoyments. Not less amusement, but amusement of a better sort and more of it, if possible, is what most of us require. We want to see everyone aiming at real enjoyment, and not merely at doing what other people think or call enjoyment. If a few pence at the public-house helps you to spend a cheerful and rational hour or two in the company of your friends, those pence are not badly spent, unless your family be in want of them. But don't go beyond real enjoyment because others do. That is the way in which most people go down to the drinker's hell. But it is not the labourers only or who chiefly go wrong from doing what others do. There is the same absence of originality and imagination in other classes. I don't believe that the families of farmers are to blame for seeking more amusement than was customary a generation ago. What they, too, have to take care of is that

they do really enjoy themselves in true rustic fashion. Let them not despise the real enjoyment that they might find close at home, and imitate in an expensive manner the habits of modern towns, where the rich congregate in one quarter and the poor in another. The most natural, and happy, and profitable way of taking recreation and amusement is surely amongst one's nearest neighbours. It is more of such amusement that we all want in the country. People who work together and who ought to worship together, ought also to join together in refreshing recreation, and there heal the sores of rougher daily life. I will not here suggest how this might be carried out, because you my friends cannot take the first step towards such intercourse. But I earnestly commend the subject of country amusement to your most serious attention as a body interested in the elevation of country life. I am sure that the grossest sins that defile village life are very much owing to the dullness and to the absence of regular and frequent opportunities for the healthy play and outlet of high, bounding youthful spirits. Therefore do all you can to get larger and better ideas as to your pleasure making, and try to cultivate such a friendly and respectful demeanour towards your neighbours of all classes that class differences and separations may no longer hinder the general improvement of our country life and morality.

## THE VALUE OF NITROGENOUS MANURES FOR FEEDING CROPS.

BY JOHN W. CROMPTON, RIVINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

A soil too sterile to produce valuable crops is so because it does not contain potash and phosphate of lime, or is incapable of collecting and retaining the nitrogenous element ammonia, which falls in rain and snow.

No soil can be said to be fertile that has not the power in itself to collect from rain and snow, and retain for vegetable growth, nitrogen, or ammonia. In the economy of nature, primary rocks and the soils produced by their decay, contained potash and phosphate of lime, and as plants grew and decayed, a nitrogenous element gathered from the air, was added to the soil. Many plants grow naturally, that is, without cultivation; we do not value them because they are not food for man and animals, and not only so, some of them are the natural enemies of cultivated plants, and thrive at their expense; not a few feed on some of the elements essential to the nutrition of valuable plants, and flourish only on cultivated soil; we call them weeds. In nature they would have as little chance of free development as our cultivated plants, for in a state of nature they, equally with our cultivated plants, would have a hard and often fatal struggle for existence. All farmers know well that a season in which cultivated plants find it difficult to grow because of absence of sun and abundance of rain, is a season in which weeds thrive. A bad season goes against the farmer in two ways; his valuable plants are of low value, and he is in a state of perpetual and costly warfare with a crop of plants that he knows impoverish his soil, and therefore make him poorer.

But few farmers understand the whole lesson this experience may teach us. Why is a bad season for cultivated crops a good season for weeds or a worthless crop? An answer to this question, will I believe also help us to answer another question, which the practical farmer naturally asks the scientific agriculturalist, viz., whence comes my real profit? What can I permanently take away in my crops without having to replace it, and yet leave my soil as fertile as before? If I must return some elements which I carry off in my crops, what is it I have to return and how can I obtain it at the least cost? And the answer is, first, you can continuously, season after season, permanently remove in the crops you grow that portion of the crop which sunshine air and shower have added to the substance of the plant, and which by burning you can restore to the gaseous state in which it originally existed.

Plants have the power of converting gases existing in the air and dissolved in water into their solid substance, and the result of the process, in the case of valuable plants is, a seed or root containing combustible starch, along with incombustible phosphate of lime in combination with nitrogen. The chemical agent in this operation is sunshine, acting with oxygen in the air and potash in the soil.

Animal life depends upon its vegetable food containing phosphate of lime, nitrogen and starch, with potash as a blood purifier; valuable crops then must at least contain these elements more or less. The potash and phosphate of lime must exist in the soil in a soluble form for plant nutrition, the nitrogen and starch may come in breezes, and, if there is moisture with sufficient sun-power, they will thus come and cause the plant to grow. Growth means increase of bulk. In a sunny season the cultivated plant out-grows the weed, in a sunless season the weed out-grows the cultivated plant, and this difference in growth implies a difference in result of the growth; in one case it is valuable food, in the other it is fit only to be rotted into manure. Now why is it good as manure? Partly because it usually contains either or both potash and phosphate of lime; but also because it contains nitrogen. It has even been customary to grow such a crop as mustard to plough in for manure. Now from this it is evident that nitrogen has a double function in the economy of vegetable life. It forms a constituent of the feeding seed or valuable root, and it acts also as a stimulant to the vegetable growth of woody fibre. All farmers know that in a sunless season there is not only great difficulty in getting crops to ripen into good food, but grass does not feed cattle as it ought, and turnips, mangels, and potatoes are small in spite of all that manuring can do, and not only so but potatoes and turnips are particularly liable in wet, *i.e.*, sunless seasons, to decay. As farmers very correctly put it, they do not mature properly. The reason of this is clear—in the absence of sufficient solar influence, nitrogen only forms woody fibre and remains unassimilated in the plant; with it, it forms those nutritious combinations containing starch or sugar, phosphate of lime, and nitrogen, which we call food. It is this double function of nitrogen that causes nitrogenous manure to be so treacherous to the agriculturist. If he forces his turnips with it they become large but decayed. If he forces his grass or clover with it, his hay is liable to over-heat and fire, and his cattle and sheep suffer from hoven. If he forces his grain crops with it, they run to leaf and straw, and the grain is poor.

The practical farmer may naturally ask—if it is true that plants derive nitrogen from the air, either directly, through the leaves, or indirectly, through rain and snow falling on the earth and conveying it to the roots, may not the artificial application of nitrogenous manure be altogether unnecessary and a mistake? Experience teaches quite the contrary—that valuable crops are all increased by its limited application, and that it is, perhaps, the distinguishing characteristic of a cultivated plant not to be able to grow to perfection in a soil destitute of nitrogen.

Experience also teaches that grain crops with small leaf surfaces both require less, and will bear less, nitrogenous manure than cabbages, mangels, potatoes, and turnips, with large leaf surfaces.

We find that a crop may suffer in two ways—from a superabundance of nitrogen in the soil, and deficient solar influence (naturally occurring in wet seasons), causing the crop to fail in quality, although in some cases it may be bulky; and, secondly, a crop may suffer from too little nitrogen in the soil, in which case the quality may be good but crop relatively small. Further, there is no doubt that crops requiring for their full development a

good temperature (mangels, potatoes, and even wheat) require more nitrogen in the north than in the south, even in favourable seasons, and, in bad seasons, they partially fail in spite of it. Nitrogen seems to assist the solar influence in the formation of starch in the plant. A potato grown in a good season without manure resembles in size a potato grown with manure in a bad season. In France, the beetroot grown to produce sugar requires freely manuring with nitrogen; in England, the culture for sugar is not supposed to be profitable at all. Thus, nitrogen must be considered, along with phosphate of lime, as a feeding manure, as well as a forcing manure. To the food plant, it seems it must exist in the soil, although originally it existed only in the air, and other inferior forms of vegetable life gathered it, and it became by vegetable decay fixed in the soil. Some cultivated plants, specially turnips, cabbages, clover, and rape, acquire nitrogen from the air, and are thus doubly profitable crops to the farmer. They feed and fatten the animal, and the manure produced thereby enriches the land and prepares it for the most valuable food plant—*wheat*. Agricultural progress may be said to rest upon this increment of nitrogen, and any land must improve in agricultural value if all that is grown upon it is consumed upon it and returned to it, including the bones of animals. If the agriculturist sells off the crop he must replace the mineral constituents, chiefly potash and phosphate of lime, and it will often pay him to buy a nitrogenous manure, as it is found greatly to increase the crop of food, presumably because it hastens the growth of the roots and leaf surfaces of the plant, and enlarges the area upon which the plant feeds, both in the soil and in the air, during the short season that growth is possible. It is, therefore, the manure for short summers and cool climates, and in a climate like our own it is almost impossible to over-estimate its value. The agriculturist often errs in applying too much nitrogenous manure to one field or one crop, but it would probably be impossible to find a farm in England which would not be benefited by a partial application of nitrogenous manure in the spring. The error of applying too much to one crop may be absolute or only relative. If it is a grain crop it often is absolute, that is to say, the grain crop may actually have more nitrogen than is good for it; or it may be relative, and only need a proportionate supply of feeding manure, phosphate of lime with potash. This is often the case with turnips. Some farmers say they prefer small turnips to large ones, because they keep better. From my own experience I doubt whether any turnip was ever too large, and, if grown with abundant potash and phosphate of lime, the large turnip will keep as well as the smaller one.

This is the whole secret of good and profitable farming. See first of all that your land is well-fed with phosphate of lime and potash, and work upon that with all the nitrogenous manure you can make or get at a reasonable cost. Thus you make the most of your seasons in every way. If you are deficient in phosphate of lime and potash you lose part of your costly nitrogenous manure, as well as your fine season. If you have abundance of the feeding manures, you will get a good crop in a fine season, and it will be sound, though small, in a bad season. If you are deficient in feeding manures, no application of nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, or any other nitrogenous manure, will give you a good crop, and the longer you go on applying them the poorer your soil will apparently become in the absence of potash and phosphate of lime.

**MADE TO ORDER.**—The Chinese Premier, Prince Kung, addressed Gen. Grant in English, so-called. Trying to compliment him by assuring him that he was born to command, he said: "Sire! Brave Generale! you vcs made to order!"

## THE COMING STRUGGLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—The innumerable advisers who have cropped up during these present trying times, alike to agriculturists and commercial men, finding a panacea for the troubles of the former in poultry feeding, vegetable growing, or some such wise proposition in which climatic objections, supply and demand, or similar conditions are entirely ignored, induces me again to write a few more lines on behalf of my much abused class the tenant farmers; and in endeavouring to lay before them what will, I am afraid, be considered a rather alarming view of our present position, I am actuated by no pessimist feelings, but only with a desire fairly to face the worst, endeavour to take the most effectual method of preparing for, I hope, a victorious struggle, and at the same time show that whilst we, the rank and file are with a little sympathy willing and perhaps able to bear the brunt of the battle, we are not more, if so much answerable for the cause as those who have hitherto led us, and are supposed to be in such a far better and more responsible position, at least as regards means, intelligence, and governing power, unduly censured as we are for those extravagant, idle, and luxurious habits, which, growing up in every phase of society, have in some instances found a footing in a mild form in the farm, as well as in the shop of the prosperous trader, and the mansion of the great and wealthy non-producing class. Everybody indeed is ready to point out these notes in his neighbour's eye, but I see few around who retrench their expenses until not only are their own means of paying their just debts exhausted, but they have considerably entrenched on the means of others.

As a working farmer I know of few of my class but are diligent in their business. As a rule, those who have once succumbed to adverse times are those who have striven most manfully to overcome the troubles which have surrounded them. But with rent screwed up to the highest pitch, encouraging an exhaustive system of cropping; the labourers misguided, pampered, and petted by outside influence, increasing their demands, and decreasing their exertions at the most critical periods—forgetful of the unremunerative wages earned in wet and winter times, leading to outlay in expensive machinery, which, on resale seldom fetches half its value; the various local burdens thrown upon the farmer for which he never contracted to pay on entering his occupation, and which eat up the little profit he might otherwise secure; and, finally, such a season as the past one has been, in which the best part of his crops were ingathered after unremitting and expensive labour, utterly unfit for market, or greatly depreciated in value, it is impossible to see how anything but distress can fall upon him.

It is no class misfortune, it is a national one. Were I to judge from my own observations in market, or by the evidence of my own crop of wheat, promising a return of 40 bushels to the acre three months ago, grown on land adjoining that which three years past yielded 45 as the average crop, and which cannot this harvest produce one more than 12 or 13, and of such poor quality that it will be difficult to separate a good sample of seed for next year's sowing, leaving none fit for the miller, I am confident that had it not been for the vast produce from abroad one of the most grievous famines which have visited this land for centuries would have claimed its hundreds of thousands of victims amongst the poor.

Happily all have not been so unfortunate, but still there can be but little doubt that the productive value of the soil from every source connected with agriculture alone as represented by the amount farmers will have to spend in the country between this and next harvest will reach the enormous sum of one hundred millions sterling less

than would have been the case had the year been an average good one, a sum in itself equal to about 70 per cent. of the entire land rental of the kingdom.

In order to show how I have arrived at such an astounding result I give the agricultural losses from various sources in detail, merely remarking that whilst some may not quite turn out so badly there is a vast probability of other items being exceeded:—

Taking the acreage of wheat in round numbers 4,000,000 acres, the deficiency will be about 50 per cent. below the average...	£	19,000,000
To which must be added a further depreciation of 23 to 30 per cent. for damp and thin corn actually harvested.....		3,000,000
Taking the acreage of barley, 3,000,000 acres 10 per cent. deficiency .....		2,000,000
And 20 per cent. depreciation for staided and over heated samples.....		4,000,000
Taking the acreage of other spring corn 3,000,000, oats being an average crop, beans ditto, peas, seed vitches, rye, &c., will show a loss of about.....		1,000,000
Taking the acreage of potatoes, 500,000 acres, 75 per cent. of the crop lost by disease, &c., will most probably amount to £8,000,000, from which deduct increased value of those saved £2,000,000.....		6,000,000
Taking the acreage of swedes and turnips, 2,000,000 acres, 80 per cent less than their feeding value, but say 50 per cent. less than selling on the field .....		2,000,000
Taking the acreage of mangels 500,000 acres; large bulk ploughed up, the balance in many cases will hardly pay for pulling..		3,000,000
Taking the acreage of other green crops, 500,000 acres .....		500,000
Taking the acreage of hops, 70,000 acres, in the best districts, 75 per cent. failed from mildew, &c. ....		1,000,000
Taking the acreage of hay 6,000,000 acres, 70 per cent. of the bulk lost, worthless, or damaged .....		18,000,000
Taking the acreage of orchard and gardens 200,000 acres .....		1,000,000
[The crop of honey has been almost an entire failure, but no estimate can be given—the loss chiefly falling on the cottager, it is from 80 to 90 per cent. less].		
The losses on live stock are, or will be on 18,000,000 sheep 10 per cent. of ewes in lambing, down at their value £2,000,000; 30 per cent. depreciation in value of draught ewes, £1,500,000; 20 per cent. loss of lambs from wet, cold, and disease, £2,000,000; 50 per cent. of the present remaining number be forced into market from scarcity of food, at a great sacrifice, or dying from the poor quality of the food there is left for winter £8,000,000. Consequent loss of wool by enforced reduction of flock and poorness of keep 4,000,000 tods, at 30s. per tod, £1,500,000 .....		
6,000,000 cattle at 20 per cent. reduction in price of all stores for sale, and enforced sale from scarcity of food, £6,000,000; less butter, cheese, and milk from the latter cause, £5,000,000.....		11,000,000
2,000,000 horses (the agricultural returns for the year are greatly below the real number), 20 per cent. depreciation in value from scarcity of food and other causes ...		10,000,000

3,000,000 pigs; this number will be greatly reduced, as farmers will fatten few this year. It cannot be done to compete successfully with foreign importation. Should there be a reduction of 50 per cent., this will amount to..... 3,000,000

[Poultry: the losses from this source of revenue to the small farmer cannot be estimated. They form however no inconsiderable item, both as regards young chicken and eggs].

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£100,000,000

I do not calculate the amount we shall have as a nation to pay for foreign supplies of food, because as the great bulk will probably be paid for in exported goods, that sum only represents so much the less distress amongst certain other classes of workmen, for which we ought to be thankful; but it must not be forgotten that the undoubted and painful evidences of real distress are yet to come, and that there will be no hearth within the kingdom which will not be more or less affected by it. The thing we have now to consider is how to meet it and to preserve that most useful body of men, the farmers, from either utter ruin, general bankruptcy, or from leaving the country. It appears to me that really and truly the first example of retrenchment must be shown by the upper classes of society; less must be spent, not on such matters as give employment to, and distribute money amongst honest workers, but on senseless expensive amusements—less on the rising generation whose education in the art of squandering money at school, college, and afterwards, Paterfamilias is in these times so well acquainted with. Society must more heartily discourage the glaring debauchery which undermines it; foster less the great army of gamblers, blacklegs, and swindlers who infest it and absorb the greater part of the enormous sum, amounting, as I believe, in the past financial year to 33 millions sterling, which by "liquidations," bankruptcies, and other "lawful" systems of robbery were lost to honest traders. Such a course and a few minor self-denials will enable landlords to reduce the rents and give such other necessary advantages as the times require. Education and cheap food will improve the nature of labour, and thus reduce its price; and with such conditions, I for one, will not fear competition with any country in the world, even with our active and soil-exhausting friends across the Atlantic.

But in these trying times the farmer wants the sympathy and not the advice of those who live by his labour, are placed by fortune in a superior position, but know little of the practical difficulties with which he has to contend, and he and his family do not deserve to be debarred from the benefits of civilizing influences to cheer him in the battle of life. At any rate it ill becomes my lords and ladies to sneer at such simple sources of recreation as the "piano" offers, who are not always so sensible in the entertainments of their choice, if I am to believe a newspaper report of the new "game" becoming "fashionable" at country houses, the pleasure of which consists in the manly and maidenly amusement of sliding down stairs in a tea-tray.

I am, Sir, &c.,

October 8th.

WILL WATCH.

[We think our correspondent's estimate of losses is much overdrawn. For instance, does he mean to affirm that the wheat crop will yield less than 2 qrs. per acre.—ED.]

## MEAT REFRIGERATION.

The principle of refrigeration as applied to the transit and storage of fresh meat is now attracting the attention of the whole world, with the exception, perhaps, of our own country. From time to time we have laid before our readers the details of the commercial enterprise which has resulted in placing fresh meat slaughtered in the United States of America in sound and marketable condition in the butchers' shops of Great Britain; but the carcase butchers and purveyors of meat in this country have not yet availed themselves of the same principle to enable them to supply the public with home-killed meat in an equally sound and wholesome condition, in bad weather, say twelve hours after it has been killed! There is probably more good food wasted by English purveyors of meat, and by the English public in their methods of cooking, than by any other nation in the world. In the one case trade apathy, and even trade organisation, may be looked to for an explanatory reason; and in the other we see unmistakable evidence of that stereotyped adherence to old customs—amounting to unreasonable and unreasoning prejudice—for which the English people are proverbially noted.

Four years ago it was practically demonstrated that fresh meat could be sent across the Atlantic from New York to Liverpool in marketable condition, and thereupon sprang into existence the American meat trade. The rapidity with which it grew is familiar to all our readers; and although it is not now on the increase, the cause is not in any way connected with a failure of the principle on which it was based, but simply that a more recently established traffic in living animals has proved more to the interests of the middle men. Of this we do not now intend to speak, except to point out again, as we have done on many former occasions, that whereas a trade in fresh meat tends to bring producer and consumer closer together, the traffic in living animals affords a series of "margins for profit" to a whole army of middle men who thereby increase the price of the article to the consumer, without adding an iota to its value to the producer. We are prepared to prove this in many ways, but that is not now our particular object. It is well known, and freely admitted by those who are practically interested in the importation of fresh meat, that whilst the commercial success of the refrigerating principle employed is an established fact, the details are not perfect. The several means employed are based on one simple method of maintaining a temperature some four or six degrees above the freezing point through the agency of natural ice. The cooled air is either passed directly through the meat chambers fit ed up in Atlantic steamships by means of fans, or these chambers are cooled by pipes, through which this cold air is passed. The principle is the same in all the processes, and the differences are those of detail only. In no case is the cooled air deprived of its moisture, except by very imperfect methods of infiltration. The result is that cargoes of meat come to hand more or less

"out of condition" according to the imperfection of such detail. The system as a whole is sufficiently effective to work a dead meat trade, which is commercially successful, between the United States and the United Kingdom, but it would not suffice for a similar traffic where the transit occupied a longer time. Not only so, but the employment of natural ice in the production of cold has the disadvantage of entailing great cost for space—the one great item to be considered in freightage; and it also precludes the possibility of adapting the same principle to longer voyages through the tropics. In 1877 an experiment was made by a French Company to bring fresh meat from Buenos Ayres to Paris by a system of refrigeration patented by M. Tellier. The result was duly noted in our columns; and, as we then showed, the success of the principle employed was perfect. It will be remembered that the ship *Frigorifique* brought carcases of beef and mutton from the River Plate to Paris, preserved by cold dry air during a voyage which afforded an exceptionally severe trial of the system of refrigeration employed, the greater part of the meat having been in the ship's chambers at least 100 days. A portion of that cargo of meat was sent on to London, by ordinary transit, and was to our knowledge perfectly sweet, and sound, and good—so good that it was sold to retail buyers who had not the least idea of what they were purchasing. The outsides of the meat were unsightly from dessication, which amounted to a large percentage of the original weight of the carcases. For many reasons the experiment has not been repeated. But the complete success of refrigeration by cold air *perfectly dry* was established beyond all possibility of doubt. The cold in this instance was produced by the evaporation of ether, and the opinion we then formed was to the effect that had the cargo of meat been sent from Australia, in which case the quality of the meat would have been very different—say in one of the Orient boats, in something like forty-four days instead of one hundred days—the condition would have been such as to have ensured it a ready sale on any of our markets. But there is one great objection to the use of ether, ammonia, and other chemical agents for the production of cold on board ship, namely, their danger. This would probably be fatal to their employment on mail and passenger steamers. In 1878 Messrs. Bell and Coleman, of Glasgow, brought out a patent for the application of cold to fresh meat in ocean transit, and this appears to us to be the beginning of the end. They produce their cold by the compression and expansion of air, and as this principle is unattended by the danger arising from the use of ether or ammonia, or indeed by any dangerous or objectionable feature whatever, it would appear a certainty that it will at least supersede the processes now in use on Atlantic boats, both in respect of economy of space and greater effectiveness. We have not seen Messrs. Bell and Coleman's system at work, but we have seen one on a similar principle in regular work which is said to be of greater simplicity in detail, and of equal effective-

ness. Through the courtesy of Messrs. H. J. Stevenson and Co., of Liverpool, we had a recent opportunity of inspecting their premises in Victoria Street, in which fresh meats and provisions of various kinds were stored in a chamber cooled down to a temperature of about 36 deg. Fahr. In this case the air was refrigerated by machinery manufactured by Messrs. Hick, Hargreaves, and Co., of Bolton, by which, after compression and expansion, it was deprived of its moisture by the intense cold thus produced, and precipitated at the bottom of the cooling chamber in the form of minute particles of snow. The air, thus cooled and dried was passed into the meat chamber by means of tubes, and the walls of the rooms itself were perfectly dry, although a considerable evaporation was continually going on from the meat hung in it. These stores are used and appreciated by retail butchers, poulterers, and provision merchants, in Liverpool, and their success, both in principle and in practice, is complete. We have no doubt but that this principle of producing and maintaining cold will—for reasons given above—supersede all others in the Atlantic trade, and if the air can be rendered sufficiently dry, we have no hesitation in saying that—judging from the facts supplied by the cargo of the *Frigorifique*—it will suffice to bring fresh meat from the Antipodes in a saleable condition to our markets. The success of refrigeration, as applied to fresh meat, undoubtedly depends on the dryness of the cooled air; and for transit occupying longer than from ten to fourteen days this anhydrous condition of the air must be considered a *sine quâ non*.

It will be necessary to mention here that in 1878 fresh meat in a frozen condition was brought from the River Plate to France, in the ship *Paraguay*, by the Carré-Jullien system of producing cold by means of ammonia. But we have no information as to whether the meat was marketable or not. It is well-known that if meat is perfectly frozen it will keep until it is thawed, whether for weeks, months, years, or ages; but the thawing is the question to be considered. In all branches of the trade in England the freezing of meat is carefully avoided; and as a matter of fact frozen meat will not stand marketing here. Otherwise our markets would have been well supplied long ago, for frozen meat is no novelty. We may therefore dismiss all consideration of freezing processes as failing to possess the elements of commercial success.

The commercial success of the trans-Atlantic meat trade depends more on the treatment the carcasses receive before they are shipped than on the refrigerating processes employed in the ships' chambers. When slaughtered the meat is placed in a refrigerator and cooled through to the bone, so as to lose every particle of the animal heat. When once thoroughly set this meat will not only stand imperfect refrigeration on board ship, but it will also admit of an amount of exposure and knocking about after it is landed, and before it reaches the consumer, which would utterly ruin home-killed meat. In the summer months, and

for that matter, whenever the weather is close and foggy, meat slaughtered in England does not lose its animal heat, and begins to decompose from the bone before it can be consumed. Yet there are no refrigerators in use by our large butchers; no refrigerating stores for the private use of the carcase butchers who buy such a large proportion of the cattle exposed for sale in our great markets and sell them as dead meat, wholesale; and no such appliances to be found in connection with the abattoirs at "foreign animals wharves" at Liverpool, or London, or any other of the ports of debarkation. Why is this? So far as the retail butchers are concerned, perhaps an unwillingness to depart from the time-honoured ways of their forefathers may account for the neglect; but the absence of public and private refrigerator stores on a large scale points to the influence of trade "rings," which are unwilling to reduce their margins of profit by inaugurating a new system of meat supply. There are the refrigerating chambers of the Cold Storage Company, underneath the Cannon Street Railway Station in London; but we have never heard that they have been put to the purpose for which they were intended. The lairage and abattoirs at the port of Liverpool are perfect so far as they go; but they contain no such provision for the public good. If the Dock Companies were to tell the reasons why such obviously necessary provisions were not made, they would, probably, have to disclose an irresistible pressure from the "rings" already mentioned—the old story of the power of the few over the interests and the welfare of the many. In the United States the refrigerator is the basis of all dead meat transactions, and we read of stores of this kind being common even in the far west. Even San Francisco is now being supplied with meat killed some 300 miles inland, at Reno in Nevada, and the same thing is being done to supply Sydney in New South Wales. But in London, and throughout the country, when weather is "bad"—not necessarily hot—fresh-killed meat stinks before it can be cooked, whilst that slaughtered 3,000 miles away remains in an eatable condition after all the unreasonable and unpardonable treatment it has received at our hands. It is impossible to resist the conviction that in this particular matter less waste would entail less want; and, in this season of universal depression, the matter now under consideration deserves the careful attention alike of producer and consumer, for middle men will ignore it as long as they can.

TRICHINOSIS.—A curious case of trichinosis has just occurred in the neighbourhood of Merseburg. The inspector of the district had declared a certain pig killed by his brother-in-law free of the disease, and the pig had accordingly been eaten without suspicion. Shortly after, however, the whole family were taken ill with trichinosis. The brother-in-law died of it, and the flesh inspector was prosecuted for carelessness. The meat was examined by some 100 inspectors in the course of the trial, ten of whom declared the pork free of trichinæ. As, however, experts declared them clearly present, it was evident that the deficiency lay in the microscopes used. This is curious, and shows the danger to which the consumers of raw ham or bacon are exposed even under a system of inspection.—*Leeds Mercury*.

## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL AGRICULTURE.

*Le Globe* publishes advices from the potato producing districts. In the department of Vienne the quality is stated to be very good. In the Seine-et-Oise certain fields give a good yield as to quantity, but half-spoiled, while healthy plots have but a thin crop, so that, on the whole, the return is indifferent. In the Aisne the potatoes are nearly all spoilt, and, even when dug up of healthy appearance, they soon rot. In the Vosges the deficiency will be one-third of an average crop. In Mayenne and the Cotes-du-Nord prospects are equally unfavourable.

M. Vermont, of Bulson, near Sedan, claims to have discovered a process which will cure the potato disease and preserve this esculent from rotteness. The Minister of Agriculture has ordered a full trial to be made of the merits of this discovery at Grandjouan.

A destructive fire caused by a spark from a thrashing engine has occurred at Loulappe (Seine-et-Loir). The materials heaped in the farmyard fed the flames, which after burning to death several cattle and sheep, spread to the adjacent premises, and resulted in a total loss of the value of £5,200, of which £4,000 are covered by insurance.

The Minister of Agriculture has asked for a special grant of £1,200 for the re-establishment of the Institution of Cattle Breeding at Carbon, and has commissioned M. de Laine Marie to proceed to England, for the purpose of buying pure Shorthorn bulls.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date Sept. 19: The outrageous nonsense cabled to-day as having been spoken by Earl Beaconsfield, yesterday, to the Bucks farmers should be humiliating to Englishmen, especially to the agriculturists who may see in it a proof that in the estimation of their "governing classes" they must be surpassingly ignorant. Sir John Macdonald, our wily Prime Minister, was recently dining and wining at Hughenden, and seems over the bottle to have eched his brother "tactician" into the reception of the sublimest fiddle-faddle. The *Toronto Globe* says the Earl made some "curious" statements to the farmers. Curious indeed. It is a scandal to the Empire that the ignorance or gullibility, or worse, of Britain's Prime Minister should be exposed in this way before the world. The statement that nearly all the chief landowners in the extreme Western States of America have sold out, and gone to Manitoba is beneath criticism. The same may be said of the ridiculous invention that the United States are trembling *re* Canadian competition for the European markets. Englishmen in these parts cannot but blush at such a melancholy exhibit.

I enclose from the *Toronto Mail* a report of remarks said to have been made by Messrs. Read and Clay at a public dinner in Toronto on Wednesday. But as reporting in the party papers is very loose, and often rather a representation of what was wanted than what was said, I acquit those gentlemen till further evidence comes of having uttered the nonsense imputed to them. That, on a basis of 48 hours' or less, run-and-read observation and experience—set forth above—Mr. Read should lay it down that the condition of the Canadian farmer is superior to that of the British farmer; and Mr. Clay, in equally hop-step-and-jump style, discover that the "best way" for English farmers to meet American competition is to come and occupy the settled farms of Canada while the harder Canadian seeks employment somewhere else is too strong for easy digestion. And one's scepticism is increased owing to the reporter having made Mr. Read utter the regular emigration elocutionist's euphemism to express

bolting from a farm neither gods nor men could make pay, and then selling it at a fancy figure as an "improved property" to an immigrant greenhorn. It is the stock stereotype when an English delegate mistrustfully inquires why so many "fine farms are always in the market to tell him, in Mr. Clay's words, that "our hardy sons are seeking congenial employment on the frontiers of civilisation." To say that the "expansive energies of a young and vigorous community are always towards the setting sun," is more ornate and encouraging to diffident investigators than to respond that many or most of the improved farms are worked out and worthless, and that their owners or tenants have gone, or are going to the States or Manitoba. As Mr. Clay never could have compassed that "hardy Canadian" and frontier notion without prompting, I conclude that it was due not to him but to the reporter, or somebody at the reporter's elbow. If Mr. Read had been made to say some English farmers were less favourably circumstanced than some Canadian farmers he would be all right. But when he is made to say Canadian farmers as a body are in a superior position to British farmers I must enter caveat. You cannot "do" Canada in an agricultural way in a few hours' happy-go-lucky scamper. If Messrs. Read and Clay really did jump to conclusions in the style set down then one must plainly say they are unfit for their work, and their mission is going to be a snare. Just look at the programme they have marked out for themselves, as reported in to-day's papers:—"They go to Manitoba, Kentucky, Texas, and perhaps California, returning, if time permits, to the Dominion and the Eastern States. They intend to reach home by Christmas." Home by Christmas! Why it is the most screaming farce ever put on the boards. The work of a year or eighteen months, properly done, compressed into about eight weeks!

Monday, September 22:—The Government papers of the Dominion discreetly ignore Lord Beaconsfield's speech, except the *Hamilton Spectator*, which admits the Earl's remarks probably resulted from his conversations with Sir John Macdonald. The speech is just the kind of service we want at present time, and will do more good than fifty emigration agents. The blunders in it are therefore of little account. (A convenient doctrine) The *New York Herald* says it is the most singular display of ignorance since the Duke of Newcastle, when Colonial Secretary, wrote to the island of New England, and could not tell whether Jamaica was in the Mediterranean. The Earl's statements are so preposterous as to justify the suspicion that some travelling Munchausen has been practising on his credulity by tales of which his dense ignorance of America has prevented him seeing the revolting absurdity. No sane farmer in America would think of emigrating to Manitoba, a rude and unsettled wilderness, where produce can find no outlet to market. In fact, the Icelandic colony now in the North-west contemplates a fresh move into Dakotah. Moreover, 16,183 emigrants from Canada, chiefly agricultural, left one Canadian port (Sarnia) last year for the States, and the stream of labourers is steady and continuous from the Dominion. The Earl's reasoning is as futile as his facts are ridiculous. If the agricultural surplus went from Canada, instead of the States, how would that help the British farmer? Cheap grain from Canada would do him as much harm as from the States.

The *Tribune* says it is obvious that the increase of corn cultivators and produce, if they existed, would mean increased competition for the English farmer in his own market.

The *Ottawa Citizen* (Government paper) ridicules Mr. Clay's notion that the Canadian, hardy as he may be,

likes pioneer life. It is a luxury he avoids as much as possible. Mr. Clay's language shows he is quite mistaken as to the general character of the Canadian farmer.

Mr. Robert Spratt, President of the St. George's Society for Assisting and Advising Englishmen, does not seem to be able to endorse Messrs. Read and Clay's facetiously comprehensive views of the Canadian farming position. He writes to the *Toronto Globe* under date of September 9th:—"Unless some different system of farming is adopted in Canada the whole country will be shortly overrun with the terrible Canada thistle, and in place of growing grain, farmers will be spending their time in growing thistles. The increase every year of this noxious weed is enormous. In almost every field thistles are to be found; in many sections they form half the crop—and in some they have almost entire possession of the soil. I have seen this year many fields so full of Canadian thistles that the crop should have been cut and burnt in the fields, in place of being carried into barns."

September 26th.—The American and Canadian press continue unmercifully to chaff Earl Beaconsfield re the magnificent fables imposed on him by the "Great Canadian Wizard." Sir John Macdonald when he humbugged his congenial *ami*, in order to get the Pacific Railway Loan, or guarantee, of course never dreamed his confidential "crans" would get publicity. The leading organs here crushed under the damaging *expose*, discreetly ignore the subject. America, trembling at Canadian competition, says the *London (Ontario) Advertiser*, is like an elephant scared by a canary bird. Though your contemporary would be glad to know Western farmers were emigrating from the States to the Dominion the facts, it says, are unfortunately just the other way. It thinks that when Earl Beaconsfield finds out how he has allowed himself to be stuffed with marvellous inventions he will be chary in future of receiving official tales from this quarter. Well, let us hope so.

Five farmers' delegates have arrived from England with Sir John Macdonald. It would be interesting to know if he tutored them on the voyage in the Beaconsfield style. Part of them have gone, the papers say, to the Eastern Township in Quebec, "under charge of an emigration agent," and the rest have been taken on to Ottawa, under the guidance of Sir John's private secretary. The farce of investigators putting themselves under interested tutelage in this way is conspicuous. So long as they are here they will be strictly under official keeping; and no one allowed access to them who could tell them what they ought to know. An official newspaper says there is only a short time; and that they ought to be hurried through "in two weeks" at most. Why should this be so? Surely no farmers will come out before the spring. This would give the delegates opportunity to stay till April, and see our winter. That seems not to suit the official organ. However, an English farmer will know nothing after a fortnight's run round. A Devon agriculturist might "do" Yorkshire passably in that time, because he knows all about the English climate and conditions of cultivation and living. Here he knows nothing of these, save what he is told. However I trust whatever the "delegates" report, no English farmer will be so insane as to settle in the Eastern townships, or in any part of Quebec Province. As this is a serious business to many, and as the Dominion Government have lately issued a bunkum pamphlet about the Eastern Townships, I have spent a couple of days compiling from this census report some facts and figures by which your practical agriculturist may see how this land lies—which is more than the delegates will discover under convoy of an "emigration agent."

TABLE 1.

Counties .....	11
Area, acres .....	4,315,129
Families .....	27,908
Population .....	155,882
Natives of Britain .....	11,292
Canadians.....	138,840
Persons over 20 years of age not able to read .....	17,650
Over 20 years of age not able to write .....	22,401

TABLE 2.

Occupiers of land.....	20,923
Acres occupied .....	2,120,014
Ten acres and under holders.....	1,386
Occupied land improved—acres ..	956,265
Under crop—acres .....	578,153
Hay and pastures .....	369,430
Gardens and orchards .....	8,682
Occupied land not improved.....	1,163,779

TABLE 3.

Acres under wheat .....	23,936
Produce in bushels .....	246,390
Acres under hay .....	326,360
Produce in tons.....	294,117
Acres under potatoes.....	20,270
Produce in bushels .....	3,101,163
Barley .....	104,538
Oats .....	186,371
Rye .....	20,287
Peas .....	95,677
Beans.....	22,279
Buckwheat.....	464,254
Corn .....	233,981
Turnip .....	235,337
Other roots .....	77,437
Grass and clover seed .....	16,255

The total money value of all these crops at full current district rates I set down at 6,156,634 dollars, or an average for 20,000 occupiers (omitting two-thirds of the 10 acre new), of 307 dollars (£61) field products on the year's operations. Note, however, that the returns of crops are furnished off-hand, by the cultivators themselves to the census officials, and are mere guess work. But the inevitable errors will be certainly towards exaggeration, as no cultivator likes to be thought less successful than his rivals or neighbours.

TABLE 4.

Farming mills .....	4,363
Working horses.....	27,433
Working oxen .....	13,791
Milch cows .....	77,076
Other horned cattle .....	64,294
Sheep .....	143,611
Swine .....	40,043

TABLE 5.

Cattle, &c., killed or sold during the year.	
Cattle .....	27,421
Sheep .....	90,067
Swine .....	40,629
Wool, lbs.....	486,194
Butter, lbs. ....	5,263,354

The fanning-mills being few seed will be imperfectly cleaned, and charged with thistles and other weeds. The working horses, oxen, and live stock comprise those owned in the whole counties, and 7,000 of the population were not engaged in agriculture. If we deduct the horses at the 600 saw and shingle mills, the lumberers' camps,

the railways, manufactories, towns and villages, &c., we leave a very inadequate horse power to supplement the 6,895 yoke of oxen. Many settlers must be dependent on neighbours for ploughing, harrowing, and hauling. For this they must pay 2 dollars a-day, and board of man, or else give two day's work in exchange.

TABLE 6.

Occupiers (owners) .....	19,203
Occupiers (tenants) .....	1,551
Occupiers (employés).....	169

The fact that so many occupiers are tenants shows the hasty way in which Earl Derby made his conclusions in a recent speech in England. It is not a fact that every cultivator in America "owns his land." Very much the other way.

These statistics point to a struggling, hard-toiling, and considerably uneducated body of cultivators, painfully making both ends meet, when they succeed in doing that, but often throwing up. Hence the population increases slowly, despite the tremendous efforts for years past to push in emigrants from Britain. The land after ten years' further exhaustion will be in far worse condition than in 1870. The character of the climate may be gathered from the fact that only 989 bushels of fall wheat were produced in the whole of the eleven counties. Owing to ploughs, harrows, and cultivators being lumped together in the census (37,221), I cannot say how many settlers had not a plough, but there would be a good many. In the Muskoka district in Ontario, in 1870, for 1,008 occupiers there were only 239 harrows, ploughs, and cultivators together; so we need not be surprised that only 13,042 acres were "improved" out of 171,588 occupied. In these eastern counties of Quebec, as we see, 1,163,779 acres were unimproved in the same year. Mr. Clayden and Mr. Arch have shown in their letters what farming and farmers are in Quebec Province. Of course there were exceptions, but they found thousands of cultivators gaunt, bony, and cadaverous, hollow-checked, hard-fisted, thinking only of cents. They found the 100 acre man working himself (and his hired man, if he had one) to the utmost point on a murdered soil, originally not very productive. This is the sort of life before the English agriculturist. He may either squat with his family on a vast forest, and spend his days in excessive and unaccustomed toil, clearing a few acres before he dies; or take up with the "improved," exhausted, and undesirable property which he has been deluded into supposing will be a "cheap," and desirable acquisition, but, where, as he will speedily discover, the reality would come up to the ideal. He will raise a little wheat and oats, some rye and buckwheat, and "taties," of course, sell or kill a cow or ox, and fatten a couple of hogs every year. Slap-jack for breakfast and supper, rye-bread when he wants it, and pork always, "taties" the year round—in short (*vide* Dufferin) "a rude plenty." The old 'ooman, nearly eaten up by black flies and "skeeters," makes him a gritty syrup of sand-water, maple sugar, and dried berries, and thus he repairs the waste of tissue he undergoes wrestling with the stumps and stones, and "swinging his axe on his own freehold" with the mercury either up over blood-heat or down 30 or 40 degrees below zero and the snow piled up over his fences. It would delight John Stuart Mill and Earl Derby to see him (and his old 'ooman) in their new, congenial position of landed proprietorship, when everything (emigration pamphlets) it lovely, and the fertile earth has only to be scratched to teem with productions. The climatic bewitchments of the Quebec eastern townships, especially the wintry developments, I cannot touch on at present, further than this. Mr. Pope, in his new "guide" to these fascinating regions, says:—

"In winter the climate is generally colder than that of the United Kingdom" (He may just "bet" on that), "but it is an undoubted fact (?) that people suffer much less from this drier cold in Canada than they do in England! During the winter the snow which falls remains on the ground, and, packing under foot, forms a smooth road very favourable for teaming and lumbering. This is an advantage peculiar to this country. The snow road offers facilities which are not exceeded, not equalled, in fact, by the best macadamised roads of the United Kingdom."

The "emigration agent," who has charge of the delegate greenhorns will, of course, impose these stereotyped guide book "crams" on his confiding proteges, so I will just remark that the most prominent feature of the Canadian snow is that it does not "pack." It lies three or four feet deep from November to April, and cannot be moulded into a snowball (save in a thaw), but either hardens into a crumbling sort of asphalt under the broad skids of sledges, or flies about like flour under the runners of swifter vehicles. You can walk along the road when sledges, &c., have been a good deal over it; but on a 100 acre farm you will sink in up to your thighs, save on snow-shoes, to walk in which is not easy; or pleasant save to experts.

The great agricultural exhibition, held from the 8th to the 20th of September, in the main building of the late Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, has proved a success in every way. The aggregate attendance numbered over 150,000. The total receipts were £13,000, £3,000 of which were distributed in premiums. The profits were between £5,000 and £56,000. It is proposed to hold another national fair in the same place in 1880. The premiums are to be largely increased. It is said that they will amount to £10,000, £1,000 of which will be offered for the best blooded stallion.

THE LAND AGITATION IN RUSSIA.—We (the *Globe*, learn from St. Petersburg that in consequence of the increasing dissatisfaction of the peasants in regard to the tenure of land, M. Makoff, the Minister of the Interior, has determined to despatch commissions to South and Central Russia for the purpose of investigating the grievances alleged against the landowners. In the meantime, pending the arrival of their reports, he has ordered a manifesto to be posted up outside all churches notifying that the Government has no immediate intention of redistributing the land.

NEW VARIETIES OF WHEAT.—Nine entries have been made in competition for the prizes offered by the Royal Agricultural Society of England for distinctly new varieties of wheat, combining the largest yield of grain and straw per acre, with approved form and size, smooth and thin skin, full and white kernel, and high specific gravity in the seed, and with bright, firm, and stiff straw. Each competitor is required to send one sack of corn, a portion of which will be retained for purposes of comparison; and arrangements have been made for the cultivation of the remainder (divided into equal portions) by skilled agriculturists in four localities differing in respect of soil and climate. The prizes are two in number, viz., £25 and £10, and will be awarded for the best varieties of the crop of 1880, thus cultivated under the Society's auspices. The Society have also determined to offer similar prizes in 1882, in order that the newer and improved specimens then submitted may be tested by them during the ensuing season.

THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL CLIP.—Advices from Melbourne represent the prospects of the Australian wool clip as highly cheering. All the principal sheep stations have finished shearing, and some of the wool to hand is reported fully up to the best descriptions of last season. The fleeces, if anything, are somewhat lighter, which is attributable to the dryness of the season. The greater portion of the finer class of wools is arriving from Riverina and the northern and eastern districts of the colony.—*Wool Trade Review*.

## THE LAND LAWS.

At a meeting of the Social Science Congress, the following paper was read by Mr. F. J. Kingsley, on the question, "What alterations of the Land Laws would be to the Economic Advantage of the Country":—

In respect to their land laws and land system Great Britain and Ireland show a marked contrast to all other civilized countries of the globe. The land laws are absolutely unique; the land system has no parallel in any other country. And it is not as if those other countries differed largely among themselves in this particular. The broad features of their land laws and of their land systems bear a strong resemblance; the differences in the one case are those of detail rather than of principle in the other, of degree rather than substance. But the principle upon which English land laws are based is widely different from that of the others, and the land system is, as I have said, one peculiar to these islands.

Where a peculiar set of land laws exists side by side with a peculiar land system the natural inference is that the one is very largely accountable for the other. The object of this paper is—

1st. To show that the laws relating to the transfer of land have brought about our land system, and that the land system thus by law established has, in turn, been the parent of laws relating to the holding and working of land.

2ndly. To prove that the system thus formed and maintained is disadvantageous to the community, both in respect of its internal working and its results; and

3rdly. To indicate the changes of the land laws that would economically and socially benefit the country.

The first and most obvious point which suggests itself are the laws which relate to the inheritance of real property; and of these, Primogeniture, which, in cases of intestacy, selects the eldest son as the sole heir of his father's possessions when those possessions are landed property, naturally comes first.

There can be no doubt that primogeniture has been made somewhat of a burden by land law reformers. Its effects have been measured rather by its ill-favoured aspect than by its actual misdeeds. The injustice and inhumanity of the law are patent enough—a law which, as Mr. Lowe has put it, 'makes a will for a man who dies without one, such as any right-minded man would be ashamed to make for himself.' It is without question a blot upon our statute-books, and the sooner it is swept away into the limbo of effete feudalism the better. But, for its ugly aspect, it is, as a matter of fact, comparatively innocent. The cases are rare—extremely rare where large estates are concerned—where men die without having made a will, or where the inheritance of the property is not determined by settlement or entail. The then Attorney-General, speaking on a proposition of Mr. Ewart's to abolish primogeniture in 1837, put such cases as only about one in a hundred. But make out the cases to be as rare as you will, there is no valid reason why, when they do happen, the law should step in to do a grievous wrong. A crime is none the less a crime because it is only committed 'once in a way'; and the law which robs the younger members of a family of their portions that the eldest son may be enriched has none the less a criminal savour about it because it seldom comes into operation.

But it is a question whether this law of primogeniture does not take effect much more often than is commonly imagined. True, the great landowners, as a rule, take good care that the succession to their estates shall be cut and dried and labelled for as long a period after their death as legal ingenuity can devise or a complainant law allow. But there can be little doubt that many small men of the trading and working classes not infrequently die without making a will; and such men are (thanks to the building societies) owners of real estate. In an able pamphlet on 'The Right of Primogeniture,' published in 1837, a Mr. Bailey cites many cases of extreme hardship where families have been driven to the workhouse or left dependent on the charity of an elder brother through the working of this law.

But over and above those particular instances of injustice and cruelty of which this unnatural law stands convicted, its moral effect and influence are to be considered. The laws of a country command the respect of its people in just as much as they embody sound popular notions of justice and right. 'No human laws,' says Blackstone, 'are of any validity if contrary

to the law of Nature; and such of them as are valid derive all their force, and all their authority, mediately or immediately from this original.' A law which is palpably bad and unjust not merely stinks in the nostrils of all men who think for themselves, but tends to bring law generally into disrepute. That is one effect of a bad law. Another is to be found among those—a large body—who do not think for themselves, but are ever ready to accept conventional ideas of right and wrong. With such as these a legislated injustice comes to have all the force of a divine right.

The law of Primogeniture, then, as well from the injustice and hardship it entails in particular cases as from its evil influence upon the community, is one which ought no longer to have a place in our statute-books.

I have taken Primogeniture first by the right of the 'first born,' for this law is a relic of pure feudalism—of the days when the holding of an estate meant the furnishing of a regiment, and when colonelcies were hereditary as a matter of State convenience.

That set of laws which has exercised the most powerful effect upon our land-economy—which indeed has built up for us our land system such as it is, are rather the bastard offshoots of feudalism than its lineal descendants. Entails were originally framed to preserve estates from forfeiture to the Crown—they were in effect a legal dodge to evade the obligations laid upon the land by feudalism. But we are not here concerned with their history. It is enough to say that while they originally tied up land in order to avoid Crown appropriation, they afterwards were found convenient instruments for tying up land for purposes of family aggrandisement; and as such they continue down to the present day.

The powers afforded by entails and settlements are, as Mr. Kay tells us, as follows:—

'The owner of an estate in fee—that is to say, whose ownership is not fettered by disabilities imposed upon him by his predecessors—has the power of leaving by his will different interests in his land to a number of persons. And he further has the power of preventing his successor from selling any portion of the land, until some person who was an infant at the time the will was made has grown up and married and had a son, and until that son has attained the age of twenty-one—and not then even, unless all those persons who have any prior interest in the land happen to be dead, or agree in the sale.'

Thus it appears that these so-called 'entails' and 'settlements' sanctioned by law amount to neither more nor less than a legalised restriction upon that free power of sale which political economy stamps as one of the highest elements of value in any commodity. Lawyers who are wont to twit laymen—somewhat unfairly, seeing that the intricacies of the law are not of their weaving—with their ignorance of legal procedure, often urge that this restriction of sale is all moonshine—a mere popular fiction on which to hang platform platitudes. They tell us that strict settlement is a very rare thing nowadays, and that—as I was only told by one of these gentlemen the other day—ample powers of sale are now inserted in all properly executed deeds of settlement. But I do not understand the term 'ample' as distinguished from 'absolute,' when the power of selling an article of universal necessity and benefit is in question. Any restrictions of any kind whatsoever—whether tempered by powers or exceptions or provisos or not—that stand between the man who would sell and the man who wants to buy are, if the laws of political economy are valid, unmitigated evils to the community. Men buy land, as they buy anything else, because they look to get a greater amount of profit, or of pleasure, or of advantage from it than out of any other investment of their money; and men sell land, as they sell anything else, because they fail to derive that profit, pleasure, or advantage from it that its equivalent in other things would give them. So where land changes hands by sale the presumption is that the purchaser, in one shape or form, turns it to better account than the former owner. And where there is a perfect freedom from restriction there is always a constant process of natural selection at work under which the tendency is for those men with the highest capacity for turning land to the best account to become owners of land. But on the other hand where restrictions exist, it cannot fail but that inferior or no-table men must be often retained as landowners, while the natural and healthy supply of 'new men for the old acres' is diverted into other channels. This, is, of course, an evil for the community—since necessarily implying, as we have seen, a

lower return, comparatively, from the land of profit, pleasure, or advantage in individual cases, it represents an actual loss to the people at large.

On this ground alone we have a strong reason for abolishing the powers permitted by entails and settlements of interfering with individual freedom of sale.

But that is not the limit of the effect of entails and settlements. Their interference with free trade in land does not terminate with their restriction upon powers of sale. That may be called their direct interference; but there is an indirect interference, the effects of which are more baneful because more widespread. These, indeed, are felt not in individual cases here and there, but in all cases where land is bought and sold in this country.

The cost, delay, and uncertainty attached to the transfer of land are notorious. Other kinds of property change hands without entailing upon the purchaser 'the law's delay,' the lawyer's fee, and the obscurity that belongs to legal documents, but a transaction in land involves all these. The common routine of buying and selling does not avail to snap the sacred chain of ownership in real estate. An occult science is needed to evolve the title from the legal 'enchancements' that surround it, and so conveyancing prevails where 'real estate' is concerned.

It is evident that where land is tied up from generation to generation, and, while remaining undivided is subjected to the burden of innumerable charges and interests, the title to an estate cannot be a very simple affair. That it is not so the portentous verbiage of wills and deeds bears witness. Speaking of estates held under settlement Mr. Kay says:—'The connection of the titles of many of these estates becomes complicated in the most extraordinary way, until even the ablest lawyer finds it difficult, and often quite impossible, to ascertain the exact state of the legal ownership of such an estate.'

And here is a description by another writer on the subject, also a lawyer, of the condition in which a couple of centuries of perverse legislation has left titles to land:—

'From that time' (i.e. from the passing of the Statute of Uses), says Mr. Wren Hoskyns, 'the title to land became a kind of documentary family history, rivetted by a chain longer and harder than that feudalism ever forged, and written in language unintelligible except to an expert in that class of 'sciences' in which life is spent, and the judgment warped, in reconciling real and fictitious principles: a trying task, even with professional success to soothe the struggle.'

The upshot simply is this, that three elements of obstruction are interposed between land and capital seeking investment in land. These three elements are cost, delay, and uncertainty. The cost of employing experts in the occult science of conveyancing is necessarily great; the delay in concluding a bargain where so much legal obscurity exists is unavoidable; and the uncertainty of a satisfactory issue is never absent. As a result capital is frightened away from land as an investment, and is squandered in foreign speculations, instead of being husbanded at home.

I say that capital is driven away from land as an investment. I doubt whether capital ever goes into land as an investment in the strict commercial sense of the term. Land is said to pay only some 2½ to 3 per cent. on the purchase-money. That is not a return that is likely to attract great capitalists, and therefore when we find such men buying land, we may conclude that it is with any other purpose than that of getting a handsome return on their outlay. And indeed the motives in most cases are not far to seek. It is the men that have made fortunes, and not those that have their fortunes to make, that buy land. One covets political power; another has the ambition to found a family; another seeks social advancement, and therefore *conte que conte* he becomes a landowner, and being wealthy and a man of leisure his purse can bear the strain of preliminary expenses, while the procrastination of the law does not embarrass him. Such a man can hardly be said to invest his money in land. Great capitalists are not the men to be content with 2½ or 3 per cent. as an investment.

And the small capitalists, whose strong partiality for the funds bears witness to the non-deterrent effect upon them at least of a low rate of interest where there is security and certainty, these men are not likely to sacrifice a large portion of their hard-won savings in lawyers' charges—charges which are always heaviest, proportionately, for the small purchasers. In point of fact they are very seldom found investing in

land, unless indeed this term be made to include building speculations in the neighbourhood of towns—which, however, are generally carried out under a lease.

This process, therefore, has been steadily going on for two hundred years. Large estates have, by means of a special legal arrangement, been kept intact from generation to generation, land titles have become complicated, and lawyers a necessary evil and a costly element in the transfer of land. Thus land has become more and more the luxury of the rich man, and less and less the investment of the man of small or moderate means. The old race of yeomen proprietors, once so numerous and thriving, has died out from natural causes, and others have not been forthcoming to fill their place. So has our artificial system of land tenure grown up, and land is now the monopoly of a few thousand persons, while tenants at will and hiring labourers perform the part of cultivators.

It now remains to examine this system. I will not weary you here with strings of figures from Domesday Book, showing how much land is held by how few persons in the United Kingdom. These figures, which have been so largely quoted and commented upon by able writers, are doubtless well known to you. Besides they hardly come within the province of this Paper. It is the facts rather than the figures that we have to consider. There may be some inscrutable national advantage in the great land monopoly which gives two-thirds of the whole land of England and Wales to a number of persons that, in most towns, is not held large and important enough to return a member to Parliament; or nine-tenths of the whole of Scotland to a number of persons that, as far as numbers go, would hardly make up a respectable club. But, to use a homely phrase, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." The question is, how does this landlord and tenant system work?

The test that may be applied to it is twofold. It is obvious that, to be satisfactory, it should fulfil two conditions:—

- 1st. It should turn the soil to the best account.
- 2dly. The classes it embraces should be thriving and contented.

Now, applying the first test, one fact is obvious, viz., that the land does not produce enough food to maintain the people.

Out of a total consumption of £371,000,000, £110,000,000, or not far from one-third, comes from abroad. As for Wheat, we actually import a greater quantity than we raise at home (13,000,000 qrs. against 10,000,000). It is quite evident, therefore, that if, by some chance, our foreign supplies of food were cut off, a vast number of people within these islands would perish by starvation.

But, on the other hand, all our great agriculturists concur in stating that if the land were properly cultivated the produce of the soil would be enormously increased. Mr. Mechi, whose successful and prosperous farming has made him famous, confidently asserts that, under proper management and with sufficient outlay, the home production of food might be doubled. That is to say, the people might be fed without foreign aid. Mr. Lawes, Mr. Prout, Mr. Howard—all practical and successful farmers—teach us to the same effect. Lord Leicester, a thorough agriculturist, said not long since: 'I think I may safely state that the produce might be nearly doubled under a more perfect system of agriculture.' Lord Derby has spoken to the same effect.

Thus one result of our artificial land system seems to be that the land, which *might* be profitably farmed to the extent of supplying the wants of the people, falls very far short of supplying those wants, and needs to be largely supplemented from abroad.

And if we apply the second test and enquire into the condition of the classes that go to form the system, we find that not one of those classes is in a sound and satisfactory condition.

The agricultural labourers are certainly better off now than they were a few years back, when their abject and degraded condition became a matter of public scandal. Their wages are now a little above starvation level, and their hovels are perhaps more weatherproof than they were when Mr. Disraeli penned his powerful description of the home of the merry British peasant in 'Sybil.' Agitation and emigration have done something for them, certainly, but their condition is not one by any means to which Englishmen can point with patriotic pride in witness of wise laws and beneficent institutions.

The land system has not done so well for them that they are deemed worthy to enjoy the rights of citizenship, or that they

can look much beyond the workhouse as an asylum for their old age.

As for the farmers, they are in a very sorry plight just now and perhaps it is not fair to judge of their condition when they have been so heavily hit by a succession of bad harvests. But bad harvests are only the last straw which threatens to break the back of British agriculture. The very rise in the condition of the labourer meant dearer labour for his employer, and that just at a time when foreign competition was cutting down prices to the vanishing-point of profit. Nor was there any corresponding abatement of rents, tithes, rates, or taxes to mitigate this additional strain. In fact, the British farmer has, during the last few years, been subjected to a steady process of compression; fixed outgoings, increasing expenses, and diminishing prices have been arrayed against him in triple alliance, and have squeezed his profits—and in many cases his capital—out of him. It would be easy to fill pages with evidence bearing upon this point. There is not a report of a Chamber of Agriculture, there is hardly an agricultural paper within the last twelve months that does not bear witness to the disastrous state of British farming. In an article in the *Times* of July 2nd on agricultural depression, in which a detailed account is given of the working of a farm of 600 acres since 1866, resulting in a loss during the last three years of £400 per annum, the quoted speech of the farmer—a man of knowledge, energy, and capital, be it noted—is hardly to be wondered at: 'My heart is broken about farming, and I do not care to throw more good money after bad.' There can be no doubt that these words express the feelings of the great majority of farmers just now. Anyone who will refer to Mr. W. E. Bear's recent article on 'Agricultural Depression' in the *Fortnightly Review*, or who will read the reports of the Chambers of Agriculture, or who will study the columns of the *Mark Lane Express*, or the admirable letters of the *Daily News* Special Commissioner that are now appearing, can hardly fail to arrive at the conclusion as it was put by the Marquis of Hartington the other day: 'We are told that, altogether apart from the succession of bad harvests with which we have lately been afflicted, the profession of farming is one in which a man cannot hope to make a living.'

Thus, apparently, we cannot cite the British farmers as a class of men who have thrived and prospered under our agricultural system.

Nor, if we apply the commercial test to a class which is wont to consider itself *extra commercium* in so many senses in this country, shall we find the position of the owners of land a very satisfactory one. We are, of course, familiar with the paltry return which their (so-called) invested capital produces. The landlords themselves are the first to tell us that, as an investment, land is of all things the most barren and unsatisfactory. This is said to be the natural result of competition for an article of strictly limited quantity. But in other countries where other systems are in force land is eagerly sought after by investors—men who look for a substantial return upon their outlay—and in such cases the high prices that prevail are an unfailing indication of good profits. We are forced, therefore, to the conclusion that the difference in the systems has something to do with the difference of results.

But it is not so much the unremunerative character of land as regards the landlords as it is the impecunious relation of the landlords towards the land that is the gravest consideration. However desirable it might be for the landowners to be flourishing in a commercial sense, it is still more desirable that the land should be liberally treated at their hands. But too frequently the outlay of the landlord upon the land is niggardly and utterly inadequate—not from his disposition, but from his position—forced upon him by the system of which he is a part. Mr. Caird thus shortly states the case in a chapter upon 'Land Improvement': 'A very large proportion of the land is held by tenants for life under strict settlement, a condition which prevents the power of sale, and it is also frequently burdened with payments to other members of the family. The nominal income is thus often very much reduced, and the apparent owner of £5,000 a year may have little more than half of it to spend. In such cases there is no capital available for the improvements which a landowner is called upon to make, in order to keep his property abreast of the advance in agricultural practice.' There is obviously something very unsatisfactory in a condition of things under which duties and responsibilities are thrust upon a man which he is too poor to undertake; and I think that,

whether the advantage of the landlord from the land or of the land from the landlord be fairly considered, the system which has built up such relations between them as are often found in this country will be found wanting.

It appears, therefore, that British agriculture fails to meet the two tests of a successful system. Neither is its production satisfactory, nor is its machinery (elaborate and costly though it be) in very sound working order. Parts of that machinery, indeed, under the stress of bad harvests, show signs of breaking down altogether; and the production of the soil threatens to become

Small by degrees and beautifully less,

until we shall be mainly dependent upon the foreigner for our daily bread. The question, therefore, presents itself to us very seriously, Ought we to maintain laws which have built up this system, and which, obstructing the free play of natural economic laws, tends to support and perpetuate it?

But it is not alone the laws that have built up our agricultural system that are responsible for the evils of the system. When tenancy at will became an established rule laws and customs naturally sprang into existence adjusting the relations of landlord and tenant. Whatever class may have had the making of these laws, there can be no doubt that, in the main, they affect the tenant very injuriously; indeed, it is a question whether, if landlords had exacted their full legal privileges in the past, British farming would not have become an impossibility. But English landlords have, as a rule, shown a fairer spirit than that embodied in the laws of the country.

There are two laws regulating the relations of landlord and tenant which affect the latter disadvantageously.

Until the passing of the Agricultural Holdings Act the law decreed that whatever improvements had been effected upon a farm by the occupier should, upon his leaving that farm, whether by his own free will or under notice from his landlord, become the property of the landlord. Of course the direct result of this law was to discourage all permanent improvement on the part of the farmer. It was not in human nature to spend money in improving the property of another without some guarantee of security either of tenure or of outlay. Security of tenure did not exist in England, since tenants were, with few exceptions, liable to quit at six months notice, and security of capital the law did not give. The Agricultural Holdings Act was framed to meet this evil. This Act, as we were told the other day by Lord Beaconsfield, recognises the principle for the first time in the annals of British agriculture that a tenant's improvements by right belong to the tenant and not to the landlord, but it does no more than recognise the principle it does not enforce it. Landlords had the power of contracting themselves out of the Act; and from very full returns collected by the *Mark Lane Express*, and published in that paper on May 1, 1876, it appears that, with few exceptions, they have availed themselves of that privilege. Therefore, for all practical purposes the Act is, in many cases, a dead letter—a fact which is not altogether regretted by some of the tenant-farmers, as its provisions for compensation are regarded by them as anything but fair and just in some respects. Indeed, it is a question whether any cut-and-dried scale of allowances such as that obtaining in the Act would ever work satisfactorily. I have heard it stated by a practical agriculturist that the only sound basis of compensation from landlord to tenant, or *vice versa*, would be the relative values of the farm on entry and on leaving—deducting for increase of value from external causes—*i. e.*, new roads, railways, markets, &c. Such a system of valuation would doubtless have its difficulties, but would not be impossible, and practice would soon ensure accuracy. More difficult assessments are made daily in the commercial world. But there can be no doubt that until some fair basis of valuation is not only 'recognised' as a principle but enforced as a practice in regard to tenants' improvements, tenants will not put forth their full energies nor expend their full resources upon the soil, nor will British agriculture be free from the scandal of such mutual recriminations as were interchanged in the daily papers between the Duke of Westminster and an evicted tenant in the early part of 1877.

Then, again, there is the law of 'Distress' and of 'Hypothec' in Scotland, which gives the landlord a prior claim over all other creditors in case of the insolvency of the tenant, and the right to seize the farm produce in payment of his rent. In his address to the Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture, delivered in February, 1877, Mr. G. W. Latham thus summarised

the effect of this law upon the position of the tenant: 'What,' he asks, 'is the practical result of that law? That the rent is unduly high. It enables a landlord with safety to himself to select the man who will pay him the highest rent, irrespective of his qualities as a farmer; it opens the competition for farms to a class whom the landlord, were it not for this artificial security, would have nothing to do with. It causes the tradesmen to put an enhanced price on their goods to guard against possible loss, and raises the cost of food far above the real value. To my mind the law of distress, which continues on the statute book, and cannot be altered by the landlord, does more to injure the tenant than anything else.' Now, Mr. Latham speaks from the standpoint of a landlord as to experience, but of a tenant-farmer as to sympathies. He is one of those large-hearted landlords of whom a stronger leaven in Parliament would soon cut the Gordian knot of the Land Question. His testimony is of double value, as arising from personal experience and observation, and as not likely to be biased unfavourably against the landlord's interest. It is obviously the true interest of the landlord to obtain the best class of tenants, and to put those tenants on the best footing practicable. And even if the removal of this legal presumption in their favour were to reduce their rents to some extent, the very causes of this reduction—implying, as it would, a careful rejection of men of straw as candidates for their farms—would ensure better farming and more reliable men; while these very men, enjoying the benefits of an extended credit and of lower prices, would ultimately yield a larger return.

It would seem, then, that the landlord and tenant system, the artificial outcome of special legal powers persistently employed during a long period, has not been fostered by the Legislature with that wise regard for its sensitive and delicate structure which was necessary to secure it a fair measure of success. Laws which gave the farmer no well-secured security for his outlay, and which raised rent and tradesmen's charges for him, while lowering his credit, were not likely to promote the heartiest or most effective cultivation of the soil. The marvel is, not that the British farmer has been beaten in his own natural market by foreign competitors, but that, considering the nature of his disabilities, he has held his ground so well. For this we have to thank, to a very great extent, that incomparable British pluck and perseverance which no difficulties and obstructions seem able to utterly abolish and destroy.

And now to sum up the position at which we have arrived.

We have an artificial system of land tenure under which the pride of families rather than the exigencies of individual owners has ruled the disposition of the land. This system has not proved satisfactory. It has neither developed the full resources of the soil nor has it ensured comfort, prosperity, and adequate means for the three classes it involves. Its evils have been aggravated rather than diminished by the laws which regulate its working and under which its relations have been maintained.

It thus appears that a reform of the land laws must run upon two lines:

1. It must aim at a change or modification of the system by doing away with all artificial restrictions upon the free sale and transfer of land as a marketable commodity—thus admitting the free play of natural economic laws.

2. It must aim at putting the system, such as it is, under the best working conditions possible, encouraging energy, enterprise, and outlay on the part of the farmer, and so ensuring a fuller development of the resources of the soil.

Under the first of the heads would come the abolition of entails and the strict limitation of settlements to "lives in being," with a full power of sale ensured to the individual upon whom ownership devolves. A limitation of the periods for which leases may be granted would follow as a corollary. The 99 and the 999 years' leases were very good makeshifts where a transfer of ownership was impossible, but their *raison d'être* would cease when the obstacle to purchase no longer existed. They would probably die a natural death; but the power of one generation to regulate the inheritance of property for a remote unborn generation is one that on obvious grounds of expediency should be prohibited. The very complication of title arising from such a practice is, in itself, enough to condemn it.

The abolition of primogeniture, also, may be taken under this head; though, as was pointed out in the early part of this paper, it is rather its evil influence upon the community and the hardship it entails in particular cases, than its direc-

influence in holding the large estates inviolate and indivisible that brings it within the province of land law reform.

But more than the mere reduction of ownership to an absolute and definite form would be needed to complete the work of cheapening and facilitating the transfer of land—some means of registration of a title, such as that in force in America, where a receipt for the purchase-money and a due entry in the registrar's books form the simple but adequate title to the largest as to the smallest estate. Unquestionably if such a registration system were put in force to-morrow the expense entailed upon owners of land would be considerable—owing to the very obscurities which envelop titles to land under the present system. But the expense would be final; and entails being abolished and settlements restricted within reasonable bounds, a clear and simple title would be established whose value in all future transactions would be inestimable. Without, therefore, seeking to adopt wholesale the particular system of registration in force in America, or in Australia, or any other country, we may look for some equivalent, which if more agreeable to English notions may yet secure its object—simplicity and security.

So much for the reforms which would affect the land system as a whole. Those which come under the second heading—viz., as dealing with the relations of landlord and tenant, may be stated thus:—

Compensation for improvements. A universal, *i.e.*, compulsory measure securing to the tenant the full unexhausted value of his improvements on a uniform but sufficiently comprehensive scale would be little less than a Magna Charta for British tenant farmers. The terms of compensation can only be settled by experts, and it is a question as to whether, as in the Agricultural Holdings Act, the estimate should be confined within certain limits, or whether freedom should be left to adjust individual cases. From the extraordinary varieties of the soils and climates, as also of agricultural practice, in the British Isles that system would seem the best which should allow the freest adaption to particular cases; therefore, a universal enforcement of the principle, allowing a diversity of application, commends itself. Probably compensation based on a valuation taken at entry and on quitting the farm—with deductions for all purely adventitious increase in value—would be the simplest and fairest method.

The abolition of Distress and Hypothec. This would put the landlord on precisely the same terms as any other creditor in the event of insolvency of the tenant; and this change, apart from the evils (already enumerated) that it would remove, would tend to place the relations of landlord and tenant upon a more business-like footing, and would, doubtless, encourage a more business-like discharge of their respective duties.

The tendency of the reforms I have indicated would be twofold. A cheap, sure, and speedy method of land transfer would attract capital to the land. It would bring the acquisition of land within reach of farmers and business-men of moderate means. Even the labourer would have a chance of gaining that strip of ground the possession of which marks the difference so often between thrift and thriftlessness. At least, there would be no perpetual barrier to these men, prohibiting their buying land when prepared to give a good price. There would, indeed, be a national land market, in which all alike might buy and sell according to their means and needs—not as now, a sort of co-operative state—sanctioned monopoly, limited strictly to the aristocracy of wealth or birth.

And under the influence of just laws regulating the relation of landlord and tenant that system which has grown out of past legislation would work more smoothly and satisfactorily. Tenant-farmers less heavily handicapped, and with the confidence born of security, would be better able to meet that foreign competition which now presses them so hardily, while their relations with their landlord, if losing something of sentiment, would gain in business-like accuracy and certainty—the true basis of a good understanding.

It is not easy to measure the economic advantages that would result to the country from these legislative changes. Probably not one of the men who preached Free Trade at the time of the Corn Laws foresaw the tremendous developments that would follow upon its adoption. And so those who now believe that Free Trade in land would be of immense benefit to the country may greatly underrate its power for good. Mr. Cobden has again and again emphatically stated his belief that the blessings of free trade in food are trifling indeed beside those that free trade in land would secure.

**LAND LAW REFORM.**—A meeting of delegates from political and working-men's clubs in London and of other persons was held recently, at the Hall of Science, Old Street, E.C., for the purpose of considering whether to organise a national convention on the necessity of reforming the land laws. About fifty gentlemen were present; the clubs represented being 17 in number. Mr. J. G. Ibbotson was called to the chair. Mr. C. Bradlaugh, who had convened the meeting, explained that he was in favour of the convention being called by the London political clubs as a body. He had received letters from most of the working-men's clubs of the metropolis approving the scheme. Pointing out that the proposal had already met with much favour, he stated that the Durham Miners' Union had already appointed their agent, Mr. W. Crawford, to attend the convention. The latter would probably be held in London, and he thought that he could answer for a large attendance from the provinces. It was perhaps possible to draw up a programme of land reform on which both Irish and English Radicals could agree; and, if that were suggested to the former, they would probably attend the convention in fairly large numbers. It might be asked whether the proposed convention was necessary. It was, because the line likely to be taken by Lord Hartington could not be satisfactory to them, and in the coming general election it would be necessary that they should have some distinct plan of Land Law reform to submit to the country. He moved, "that it was desirable for the political organisations of London jointly to call a conference on the subject of Land Law Reform." Mr. McGee Pratt seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, as was also a resolution appointing a committee, with Mr. R. Forder as provisional secretary, to promote the object in view. The meeting was adjourned for a fortnight.

**SPECULATION IN AMERICAN CHEESE.**—After a long period of depression the market for our description of American provisions—that of cheese—has undergone a change which is perhaps unprecedented. In a space of five weeks the value of the article has risen from 80 to 100 per cent. It appears that the late spring in America had the effect of materially reducing the make in April and May, and the ground thus lost has never been recovered; and finding this to be the case one large cheese merchant in Liverpool promptly went into the market and bought up all the cheese that could be obtained. The sudden demand caused a rise in price, but as the summer in America has been exceedingly hot, and has had the effect of burning up the pastures, the fall make of cheese proves to be less than it has been for some years past, and as all the cheese imported is practically in the hands of this enterprising speculator, he will probably be able to force prices up to a point still higher than they have at present reached.—*Daily News*.

**A LAND DISPUTE AT CASTLE HOWARD.**—Tuesday's *Sheffield Telegraph* says:—"The question of 'tenant-right' is likely to come to the front in a most remarkable manner in connection with some most extraordinary proceedings which took place recently on the estate of the Earl of Carlisle, at Castle Howard. It seems there is some dispute as to the right to an off-going crop of barley and oats on a farm recently occupied by Mr. William Coulson. This farm has been let to Mr. Lamb, of Scarglethorpe, Malton, and the crop is claimed to be his property, as the incoming tenant, according to the agreements of the estate. Mr. Coulson also claimed it, but the corn was cut when ripe by the men on the estate. Yesterday morning, when an attempt was made to remove the crop, matters reached a climax. About six o'clock Mr. Jefferys, the farm bailiff, with a squad of men, went to the assistance of Mr. Lamb, the new tenant, in loading the corn, and as some opposition was feared, the presence of four constables had also been secured. Before operations could be commenced Mr. Henry Coulson, a younger brother of the late tenant, came on the scene and threatened to prevent the work of the men. The police warned him against any breach of the peace, but as an entry was being made into the field through a portion of the fence (the gate being fastened up), Coulson deliberately seized a gun, and shot the first horse of the team dead. The police at once pounced upon him and took him into custody to prevent him doing further harm, and he was removed to the police-station at Malton to await examination. The affair caused the greatest excitement in the district yesterday, and the police had to protect the harvesters at work in the field."

**THE CANADIAN TARIFF.**—The *Philadelphia Ledger* of September 26th says—"The new tariff of the Dominion, according to the trade reports now being furnished, does not work so well in some respects as was promised. The imports for August at St. John were but little more than half as much in value as those for the corresponding month in 1878. The exports for the contrasted months show a decline from 381,000 dols. to 232,000 dols. The products of the forests and fisheries, which have been the main reliance at St. John heretofore, are the chief sufferers. The *Journal of Commerce* says—the same mistaken policy which would include imports from Canada kills off the export trade with equal certainty. Canada is now finding out this simple truth in political economy at her great cost. The St. John returns are identical in this respect with those from all the Dominion ports. In addition to the evil here noted, we hear reports of largely increased smuggling operations along the Canadian line. Formerly the tide of contraband goods was mostly from Canada into the States, but now it is the other way. Border journals say that cotton cloth, crockery, hardware, and all the other manufactures at which the high figures of the Canadian tariff were specially aimed, are smuggled through from this side in farmers' waggons and by all kinds of conveyances. The stories may be exaggerated, but they doubtless have some foundation in truth. It is impossible for the Dominion to watch that long frontier closely enough to prevent smuggling both by land and water. This fact, coupled with the diminished revenues from exports, is very unsatisfactory to the Government of Canada, and makes the repeal or modification in the unpopular tariff not an unlikely event in the early future.

**MUSIC AND FARMERS' DAUGHTERS.**—"A.D." writes to the *Daily News*:—"Some little time ago I spent a few hours one Sunday in the house of a Westmoreland farmer, or, to speak more correctly, of a small statesman (yeoman). His daughter, a fine girl of fifteen, accompanied us to church, dressed in a fashionable and becoming style, and took her place at the harmonium, the usual performer, the village schoolmaster, being absent for his holidays. On our return to the house she played us some sacred music on the piano, a d'saug a few hymns and songs; but after tea she disappeared for a long time, and at last her mother said, "Our servant girl is gone out this evening; so Annie has had to milk." On which we asked to see the cows, and on going to the back of the house there was our accomplished young friend in a dark cotton gown feeding some half-dozen calves which were pressing round her in the yard. When these were satisfied the pigs had to be attended to, and then the young lady, resuming her Sunday attire, went back to her piano. Surely even Lord Burchley could find no fault with a piano under such circumstances?"

**THE DEPRECIATION IN THE VALUE OF LAND.**—At the sale of the Hippenstone Estate of 830 acres at Haugherford on Wednesday last, Mr. Edwin Smith, the auctioneer, announced to a crowded company that this estate was purchased by auction by the late Mr. Whible in 1834 for £13,000, the title being then about £50 a year. It was let on lease at £550 till 1876, when the rent was reduced to £250. When questioned concerning the present title the auctioneer was obliged to acknowledge that since the Title Commutation Act of 1836, when the title was commuted at £131, with the present high averages the title had increased to £150, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners paying £10 towards the land-tax, which was £50. Upon that statement there was raised a cry of "shame." The property was ultimately sold to Mr. Bates, M.P., for £6,700, about one-half of the original price. We hear that several other properties of about 1,200 acres are likely to be brought into the market, as no tenants can be found.—*Reading Mercury*.

**COAL IN NORTH-WESTERN AMERICA.**—Among the things sent by the province of Manitoba to the Inter-Provincial Exhibition, recently opened at Ottawa, are specimens of coal from the Saskatchewan country. It is said that this coal is somewhat soft and imperfect in fossilization, but still combustible. Very fine specimens of lignite from the Souris River, a stream flowing into the Assiniboine about 150 miles north-west of Emerson, have led to the formation of a company to begin mining there next year. Coal from this region can be transported to Winnipeg by the Assiniboine River. A party belonging to the Geological Survey of

Canada have more recently made further discoveries of coal in the North-West, and the apparent abundance of coal in the prairie regions is the most important fact next to the fertility of the soil in regard to the future in the country. The *Emerson International* states that parties belonging to Bismarck, in Dakota, are opening a coal mine about 25 miles west of that place, where the vein is 4ft thick, and expect to lay down coal in Bismarck at 3dols. 25¢. the ton. The country west of the Missouri River appears also to abound in coal beds. A correspondent of the newspaper named above says that in making a trip across the country last autumn to the Yellowstone Valley he frequently observed coal cropping out from the banks of the streams and the sides of the ravines.—*Times*.

**THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT ON THE PROSPECTS OF BRITISH AGRICULTURE.**—In acknowledging the receipt of the copy of a paper recently read before the Farmers' Club by Mr. Owen, of Cowbridge, Glamorgan, the Duke of Beaufort writes from Badminton, Sept. 23:—"There are some parts of the paper, partly opinions of your own, partly those of others, with which I do not agree, and which to my mind are not in accordance with the present state of things in America, and, as far as I can see, are still further from the probable future of the wheat-growing zone or district of the continent, both in Canada and in the United States. On page 12, in commenting upon the unprecedented crop of wheat grown there last year, you state that it is exceptional, and may not happen again for years to come. As a matter of fact, the crop is much larger this year than it was last, and, though the weather was unusually bad and changeable for America, the harvest was well got. As there are now railroads working, others making, and again more contemplated, I believe the surplus of wheat produced beyond the quantity wanted for home consumption in Canada and America will increase every year for some time to come. Also, as they get money from selling their wheat they will invest some of it in manures, and, instead of having eleven bushels per acre to sell, grown on their now unmanured land, they will very much raise the productive powers of their land. Besides this, the wheat zone is enormous, and as the flood of emigration has again set in westward, more acres will be cleared and cultivated. As to the expense, I think that the gentlemen quoted in your paper are in error, for I have no doubt that, though from the very farthest part of the wheat-producing districts it may be more, yet wheat can be landed at Liverpool from the average of the distance from the coast at a cost of 4s. per bushel, or 32s. per quarter. Can you compete with this in England? I say, Certainly not. I put the expenses thus:—

One Acre.	dol. c.	s. d.
Ploughing .....	1 50	6 3
Dragging and sowing .....	1 0	4 2
Seed .....	1 50	6 3
Harvesting .....	2 50	10 5
Thrashing.....	0 52	2 2
Interest on freehold .....	0 48	2 0
	7 50	£1 11 3
Moving to sea-board .....	0 33	1 4½
Freight and landing, insurance, and commission on sale .....	1 98	8 3
	10 31	£2 2 11½

to produce 11 bushels. If the cost come to £2 4s. for 11 bushels, that would be exactly 4s. per bushel, and allowing 1s. 0½d. more than I have calculated, I will put it at that sum. I make this calculation taking the bushel to average 56lb. weight, which brings five quarters to weigh one ton. You have had great experience, and have grown crops that sound almost fabulous in quantity (page 28); but I see that, with all that science and capital could do, for three years you have had crops far less to the acre than for the seven previous years. The fact is that in America the sun never fails them as it does in this climate. Their crops ripen quickly, and it is almost a certainty that they have fine weather for harvesting. Bad weather tests even energy and good judgment. Mr. Osborne, I think, greatly overrates the average wheat produced per acre in the United Kingdom, even in the favourable seasons, when he puts it at 30 bushels. I believe 20 bushels to be much nearer the mark. He is wrong also in saying that it

costs 9d. per bushel railway freight to the coast, which would be £1 10s. per ton. I believe it to be an error also to say that the railways are carrying wheat at a loss. There is not sufficient competition to cause them to do that. The result of my consideration of the subject is this, that climate, steam transport by sea and land, together with the labour question on both sides of the ocean, have made it out of the power of our agriculturists to compete with the growers of wheat on the American continent, and that they must turn their attention to cheaper and better modes of growing beef and mutton, so as not to be driven out of the market also by the Americans. The distance, difficulty, and expense of transport of live and dead meat give us an advantage we shall be wise to improve, instead of wasting time and capital in trying the impossible task of competing with them in growing wheat."

**SEBASTOPOL TO-DAY.**—One of Messrs. Howard's skilled ploughmen—James Curtis—has just returned from the Crimea where he has been for some months past teaching the natives how to handle the Bedford reaping machines, ploughs, and other agricultural implements, and from him we have learned something of the present aspect of that once great stronghold—Sebastopol. Many of the recollections of the Crimean war are passing away, but the memory of the stubborn defence of their hearths and homes which the Russians at Sebastopol made against the combined forces of England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia will not soon be forgotten, and Sebastopol will ever be remembered as a monument to the genius of Todleben, who planned and carried out those forts and earthworks which so long baffled the united powers both by land and sea. Russia does not yet seem to have got over the effects of that terrible war, and as she is now overburdened with the costs of the later war, it is very problematical when that vast but poor country will recover from such enormous waste and destruction of life and property. The old formidable forts of Sebastopol have been partially repaired, but, after nearly a quarter of a century's neglect, the dismantled and ruined public and private buildings in the city, which were destroyed during the bombardment, are now overgrown with tall trees and rank vegetation, the whole scene with its mounds and burial places being indeed a striking picture of the devastating horrors of war. The reign of terror with its burning towns, Siberian exiles, and its gallows-strung victims, afflicts society like a pestilence. On one occasion Curtis narrowly escaped becoming acquainted with the Russian police; after driving all day with an Englishman who is well acquainted with the country and its language, they stopped for the night not far from Sebastopol, at a house where they were accommodated with an unfurnished room; the proprietor stood listening at the door, and hearing Curtis speak to his co-companion in English, he reminded them that the use of any foreign language was contrary to law, and if persisted in he should bring the police. For anyone to belong either to the governing body or to the governed, must be very irksome, but even in Russia, despite all opposition, great progress is being made especially in agriculture; the markets of Western Europe are open to their grain, and they in return require our improved machinery to enable them to grow and garner their corn to advantage. Within a few miles of Sebastopol the land is being thoroughly cultivated, and throughout the Crimea there are now farms in the hands of German colonists, whose management would do no discredit even to the estates of the Duke of Bedford. The Bedford and other English ploughs are extensively used in the Crimea, and some of our readers will perhaps remember the incident, recorded at the time, how on the day after the memorable fight at Inkerman one of our Bedfordshire soldiers—an Elstow man—on discovering a Howard plough lying in one of the adjacent fields, dropped down on his knees and embraced it as an old friend.—*Bedfordshire Times*.

**THE PARSON'S FIRE-GRATE.**—Mr. J. J. Mechi, of Tiptree Hall, Kelvedon, will, for the public good, send (on application accompanied by a postage stamp) instructions for the construction of the "Parson's" or "front-fire grate." The tested gain by the use of this grate is an increase of 15 degrees of temperature with a saving of one-third in fuel.

**MIGHT BE USEFUL.**—A subscriber to a South-western (American) newspaper died recently, leaving four years' subscription unpaid. The editor appeared at the grave, and deposited in the coffin a palm-leaf fan, a linen coat, and a thermometer.

## THE BEST COW IN PERIL.

Old farmer B. is a stiny man,  
He keeps all he gets and gets all he can;  
By all his friends he is said to be  
As tight as the bark on a young birch tree.  
He goes to church and rents a pew,  
But the dimes he gives the Lord are few;  
If he goes to heaven with the good and great,  
He will be let in through the smallest gate.  
Now farmer B., besides dragging the ploughs,  
Keeps a number of very fine calves and cows;  
He makes no butter, but sends by express  
The milk to the city's thirstiness.

"What do the city folks know about milk?  
They are better judges of cloth and silk;  
Not a man who buys, I'll vow, can tell  
If I water it not, or water it well  
If they do not know, then where's the sin?  
I'll put the sparkling water in."  
Thus talked to himself old farmer B.,  
How mean he is, old and young can see.

One night it was dark, oh, fearfully dark!  
The watch dog never came out to bark;  
Old farmer B. in his bed did snore,  
When rap, rap, rap, nearly shattered the door,  
And a voice cried out with hasty breath,  
"Your best cow, neighbour, is choking to death."

Clipping off the end of a rousing snore,  
Farmer B. bounded out on the bedroom floor,  
And the midnight voice was heard no more.  
He pulled on his pants, he knew not how,  
For his thoughts were all on his choking cow;  
He flew to the yard like a frightened deer,  
For his stingy soul was filled with fear.  
Looking around by the lantern's light,  
He found that his cows were there all right.

"I'll give a dime," said farmer B.,  
"To know who played this trick on me;  
May the hand be stiff and the knuckles sore  
That knocked to-night on my larn-house door."  
With a scowl on his face and a shaking head,  
Farmer B. again sought his nice warm bed;  
No good thoughts came—they were all overpowered,  
The little good nature he had was soured.

When he went to water his milk next day,  
The midnight voice seemed to say,  
As he pumped with panting breath,  
"Your best cow neighbour is choking to death,"  
The meaning of this he soon found out,  
For a stone was driven in the old pump's spout.

Old farmer B., when he drives to town,  
Now meets his neighbours with savage frown;  
They smile and ask as they kindly bow,  
"How getteth along the best cow now?"

**CHEMISTRY IN THE KITCHEN.**—Mr. H. Braden Pritchard writes to the *Daily News*: "You make mention under 'Military and Naval' of a little apparatus devised for extracting salt from meat liquors, &c. At present much waste is incurred by sailors in throwing away boilings from 'salt junk' and salt pork, for unless they choose to eat very salt pea-soup nothing else can be done with the liquor. Continued boiling of course only makes matters worse. The salt extractor, which, as you rightly say, is 'the application of a well known chemical process to cooking purposes,' is, in a word, the dialyser of the chemist, and by making use of it the sailor readily gets rid of the salt in his soup. The application, I may mention, is not patented, and as it is of course equally suited to the kitchen as the galley, economical housewives may like to know that a simple form of the apparatus is made by Messrs. Kent, of Holborn, and may be purchased for a few pence.

**IN AN IRISH CABIN.**—Curiosity as to its structure and accommodation led me to accept the invitation. It certainly was the smallest place two human beings ever contrived to exist in. A mass of heather and ferns was piled in one corner, which evidently served for beds; a fire smouldered on some stones, and the smoke found vent through the door,

there being no chimney; a pot of stirabout hung upon a hook, secured by a rope of straw; a small stool (on which stood an ancient candlestick), a curious three-legged chair, a wooden mug (called a mother), a basket (which served as a dish from which they ate their potatoes, and a cradle in families boasting of an infant), and an iron pot, completed a list of their household goods and chattels. The lover of bibelots who has sought Holland and Belgium, or a shop of a marchand de bric-a-brac in Paris, for the charmingly simple and graceful objects of daily use belonging to the Middle Ages, would readily recognise the ante-types of candlesticks and chairs which he has encountered in his researches. The pointed top of the candlestick forms the snuffers, the candle being taken from its socket, which is raised in order to open the apex to cut the wick. My host looked about him with a certain pride and told me it was very warm and comfortable, as there was no windows to let the air in. The woman bent over the pot saying, "He has got used to it now, ma'am, but we had a snug home before the famine" (which seems the epoch from which they date all their misfortunes); "but we were glad to get a shelter anywhere, and the poor man takes as much care of this little place as though it were a great house. All the family are dead or gone to foreign lands, and I stay to care him." Here was another evidence of the love of kindred, and of patience under terrible privations, so common in Ireland, particularly in these highlands. I reluctantly bade adieu to the scene and my interesting host, in whose humble cabin I had found so much true contentment, affection, and hopefulness. As I descended, my friend cried after me a series of good wishes. Two of them struck me as being particularly beautiful—"May the smile of the Lord light you to glory!" "May the sun never be too hot, nor the wind too cold for you."—*Harper's Monthly*.

## TWO DRUMMERS—A LEGEND OF THE ROAD.

It was two rival drummers  
The merits that did blow  
Of safes were in St. Louis made  
And safes from Chicago.

They chanced upon a merchant  
Who fain a safe would buy  
And in the praise of their houses' wares  
The drummers twain did vie,  
Each striving to see which could construct  
The most colossal lie.

Up spake the St. Louis drummer,  
"Once a man a cat did take  
And locked the animal in a safe  
Of our superior make.

They made a bonfire round the safe  
With tar and kerosene,  
And for four-and-twenty hours it blazed  
With raging heat, I ween.

The fire went out, the safe was cooled,  
And I will forfeit five  
Hundred good dollars if that cat  
Did not come out alive."

Then mild upspeak and answered him  
The Chicago safe agent:  
"With our safe one day we did essay  
The same experiment.

We placed the safe selected on  
Of coals a fiery bed;  
And pitch-pine we heaped in coal-oil steeped  
Till the iron glowed bright red;  
And in forty-eight hours we opened the safe,  
And alas! the cat was dead!"

"Was dead? Aha!" his rival cried,  
With a triumph 'nt breath;  
But the Chicago man replied  
"Yes the cat was frozen to death!"

No word that St. Louis drummer spoke,  
But silent he stood and wan,  
While the Kansas man an order gave  
To the Chicago man.

*Chicago Tribune.*

### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT COLCHESTER.

An important meeting under the auspices of the Farmers' Alliance was held at the Town Hall, Colchester, on Saturday, October 19th. The large room was well filled. At the time the meeting commenced, and as the proceedings progressed, fresh augmentations arrived, till at length the gathering was a really crowded one. Although the attendance was so large the opinion of the company, which was principally constituted of tenant farmers' appeared to most cordially in favour of the Alliance.

Mr. J. S. Gardiner, of Borley Lodge, Sudbury, occupied the chair.

The following letters were read by the Secretary:—

Scarborough, Oct. 6th, 1879.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your note of 3rd inst., and regret that circumstances will prevent my being present at Colchester on the 18th. I find it generally impossible to attend meetings out of my own part of the county, but was sorry to miss your meeting at Chelmsford, where much was said that I agree with, but more, I think, that I could not accept.

According to the newspaper reports, Mr. Wood must have misunderstood what I wrote. I believe that security of tenure, or compensation for unexhausted improvements, would be the best things for tenants now practicable; and that the latter is the better, as leaving more freedom on both sides. But I adhere to what I said publicly at Romford—that a moderate corn duty is perfectly practicable, and would indirectly benefit the landowner or tenant without injuring the larger class of consumers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. C. BARING.

Tiptree Hall, Kelvedon, Essex,  
Oct. 16th, 1879.

DEAR MR. BEAR,—I am sorry that I cannot attend on Saturday. You are at liberty to state that I entirely concur in the establishment of the Farmers' Alliance, with a view to its obtaining the desired reforms, which are most necessary for they would lead to a great general improvement of our agriculture, beneficial alike to landowners, farmers, labourers, and the country at large.

Agriculture is the greatest and most important industry in this wealthy kingdom, and should be the most free, independent, and intelligent; but, I am sorry to say, it is neither at present, for it is cramped and hindered by the remaining trammels of a feudal and antiquated system, inharmonious with and unsuited to modern commercial freedom and activity. Set it free, and the much desired and absolutely necessary increased capital would flow abundantly into its new channel. At least £400,000,000 more tenant capital is required, as well as a large landowners' sum on improvements. I speak practically on the matter.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

J. J. MECHI.

Scraps, Kelvedon, 17th Oct, 1879.

My Dear Sir.—I had intended to go to Colchester tomorrow and to attend the Alliance meeting. A severe cold caught at the banquet in honour to my brother on Tuesday has confined me to my room ever since, and may prevent my leaving home. If I do not appear my absence will not be due to any want of respect to you, as you will understand from this explanation.—Ever yours faithfully,

CHARLES PAGE WOOD.

The CHAIRMAN said he ventured once more to occupy the chair at a meeting of the Farmers' Alliance. (Hear, hear) He ran the risk of a repetition of sundry scoldings and much advice administered by some people whom he was very pleased to call friends, although they liked to rub him down a little bit (Hear, hear, and laughter). He would not imitate or copy in the slightest degree the conduct of a gentleman who occupied the prominent position of Chairman at a meeting held a short time ago in a room not far from that place. At that meeting the supporters of the Members for the Easern

Division of Essex, and other members of the public, were called together for the purpose of listening to an explanation from those gentlemen, and also for the purpose of listening to any question any elector might think proper to put or to any remark any elector might think proper to make. Well, he volunteered—(hear, hear, and cheers)—to offer a few remarks on behalf of the interest of the tenant farmers, of which he happened to be a humble member; but he had scarcely commenced making a few observations when the Chairman thought proper to pull him up—(hear, hear)—or, rather, declined to allow him to make any remarks, saying, however, that he might put any question he thought proper (Hear, hear). Now, if their Conservative friends thought that was the way the electors of this Eastern Division of the County of Essex were to be treated they little knew the quality or the stuff of which they were made (Hear, hear, and cheers). He was not an individual who would consent to be snubbed in a public room, and although he respected those gentlemen very much, and esteemed them when they were in their places, to attempt to put the gag into the mouth of an independent occupying tenant farmer was a sign of narrow-mindedness that one would hardly expect to find existing in the minds of country gentlemen (cheers). He would ask another question—Did these country gentlemen and tithe-owners consider themselves to be the Conservative Party? Did they consider themselves as constituting the Conservative Party? He told them if they did they made a very great mistake (Hear, hear). The Conservative Party consisted of tenant farmers, and without the votes of tenant farmers these gentlemen as a Party would not exist. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers). Therefore he maintained they were bound in all courtesy to give a tenant farmer a fair hearing when he got up to put a few questions, and to make some few observations which would not go beyond fair and reasonable criticism—and he might say he did not attempt to go beyond what other persons had attempted to do at that meeting (Hear, hear). At that meeting, if he had been allowed to continue his observations, he should have made some remarks in defence of the Farmers' Alliance, upon which so much abuse had been cast (Hear, hear). And not only should he have done that, but he should to a certain extent have resented the amount of personal criticism that was heaped upon his friend Mr. James Howard (Hear, hear, and cheers). Now, he had known Mr. James Howard for the last 38 years, and he knew him to be a man who had interested himself as much in the tenant farmer's cause as any man in the House of Commons or out of it (cheers). He should have told those Conservatives there the same. Now, he held in his hand a Parliamentary Bill, of which Mr. Howard was the author, and which bore upon its back the names of James Howard and Clare Sewell Read—two very good names (Hear, hear). Had the Government accepted that bill, and carried it through the House of Commons—and they had power enough to do it—farmers would have been in a much better position to fight the battle of life against the competition they were subjected to, and also against the adversity of the elements, than they were at present (Hear, hear). It was clear enough they could not by Act of Parliament prevent bad seasons, but they could by carrying a bill of this character secure to tenant farmers Tenant Right—nothing more than they could justly demand—and make provision so that they should be better able to stand against the vicissitudes of such seasons as they had had during the last five years (applause). But no; this Bill was too radical for the Conservative Government (laughter). Having a large majority, how could they think of passing such a moderate Bill as that of his friend Mr. Howard, securing to the tenant farmer no more than his just rights (hear, hear, and laughter). Well, he asked them, after the abuse that had been heaped upon Mr. Howard, whether they thought he looked like a revolutionist? (laughter). He asked them again, did he look like a firebrand?—(renewed laughter)—and he asked them another question, did he look like a man likely to set the landlords and the tenant farmers at loggerheads? (hear, hear, and cheers). He would ask them again, did he look like a Home Ruler? (loud laughter). He said to a certain extent he did, but not of the Irish extract (hear, hear). There was nothing of Parnell in him (laughter and applause). They might turn him round as many times as they liked, and they would not find an inkling of Parnell's brush (laughter). Mr. Howard did not recommend the tenant farmers to refuse to pay rent to their landlords—(hear, hear)—he knew better than that

but he told the tenant farmers to ask for security and for compulsory compensation for unexhausted improvements—for unexhausted capital that they might have invested in the soil (cheers). He (the Chairman) said just now that Mr. Howard had a little bit of the Home Ruler about him, and so he had, because he was an advocate, not only of Tenant Right, but of reform and readjustment of local taxation (renewed cheering). How could they have reform and readjustment of local taxation unless they interfered with home matters? Why, they were all Home Rulers (Hear, hear, and laughter). He hoped every man in that room was a Home Ruler, and he hoped they would all combine for the special purpose of demanding from the Legislature of this kingdom those rights which they thought they had been deprived of for a great many years (loud cheers). They were called upon to compete with the Americans and with the colonists in the markets of the world, and he asked them, as farmers and cultivators of the soil, if they thought they stood a fair chance of successfully competing against them while their land was subject to the heavy local charges that it was now subject to, and for which in these foreign countries and the colonies they could not find a parallel (Hear, hear). The raw article, land, that they and he had to deal with was more heavily burdened and more heavily taxed than any other raw article they could lay their hand upon. There was no comparison to it anywhere; it was unparalleled in the world (Hear, hear). That was the raw article they had to put their capital into, and out of the profits from which they had to pay the landlord his rent, the tithe-owner his tithe, the rate-collector the rates, and the income-tax collector his taxes (Hear, hear). He was quite sure they had heard enough from him (Cries of "No, no," and "Go on"). He was anxious to hear what his friend Mr. Fowler had to say. He could introduce him to them as the late member for Cambridge (Hear, hear), an eminent member of a highly respectable family connected with agriculture—in fact, a brother of the late Mr. John F. Fowler, the author of the steam plough (cheers). When he had said that he was sure he had said enough to show them that Mr. Fowler only came forward to recommend reforms of a practical character that might be beneficial to the agricultural interest at large (prolonged cheering).

Mr. W. FOWLER said: I think that if there had been no other reason for my coming here to-day, I should have come if I had only read the article which appeared this morning in one of your local papers (laughter, and "Hear, hear"). I don't think that I look like a "false man," or a "dangerous and deceptive man," and yet I am told that if we join the Farmers' Alliance we are sailing under false colours, and we are dangerous people. Well, I am come here to speak for myself. Before I say anything more—although I think that a man who scatters his flowers of rhetoric so freely does not deserve much quarter from anybody—(Hear, hear)—I am inclined to say a word about the way the Alliance began, so that you may see we have nothing to conceal, and therefore we don't conceal anything (Hear, hear). Now I was asked, when this association commenced, to meet a few gentlemen to consider whether anything could be done in this way. I went, and I said to them, "I don't know that I have very much to say, because I sympathise with your movement entirely. But I have studied the other side of the question more, and I don't think you will settle this question of the land till you have dealt with the owners as well as with the farmer" (applause). That is what I said to them; so I recommended there should be a wider programme than you have got on your paper. But it was said—and it was a Conservative farmer who said it—"I don't think that will do, because if we begin talking about owners we shall get to loggerheads with them and it won't answer our purpose, and we had better stick to our own business." I did not agree with him, but the meeting came to the conclusion that in order that there might be no misunderstanding as to what they were after, they would confine themselves to the question of the farmers' grievances, and not in their programme go into the question of the ownership of the land (Hear). Many in the room were of the same opinion as I was, but out of deference to those who were of a different opinion the programme was framed as it is now (Hear, hear). Then we are told that we are Radicals in disguise, and so on. Well, if I was called a Radical I don't know it would be very far off (laughter and cheers). But then I don't treat the land question, and I never have treated it, as a Party question at all (Hear, hear). I deny entirely that it is a Party question.

It is a question for the whole nation—(Hear, hear)—one in which we are all interested, consumers and producers alike. We cannot have the great agricultural interest of this country in distress without its being felt by every man, woman, and child in the kingdom, more or less (cheers). Such an interest which produces, as we are told, £250,000,000 sterling a year of products is the most important single interest in the Kingdom. Its condition therefore is of the deepest interest to us all. Well, then, so much for the Editor of this distinguished newspaper (laughter). But there was a gentleman who wrote a letter in the paper which was sent to me—I think I see him in the room—(laughter)—and he uses words like these: He said in one part of his letter that the propositions of these gentlemen—not the propositions on the paper, but what they really would have if they only said what they meant—would "subvert our existing institutions and reduce England to the position of a mere Continental State." [Mr. Jos. Beaumont: "Hear, hear"]. Upon my word it reminds me of what happened the other day at a meeting I attended. I made a speech on the ownership of the land, and pointed out what I thought great defects in it, and how it might be made more satisfactory, and one man went out and said to a relative of mine, "Dear me, I am sorry, but your brother must be a Communist" (laughter). I should have expected that the gentleman who wrote this letter would have had more intelligence than to suppose that any of us were so stupid as to wish to subvert the institutions of the country and to reduce England to I don't know what (cheers). But he forgets there are some Continental States whose condition is not so very bad, and just at the present time I wish we had a little more of the prosperity which they have (Hear, hear). Don't let us throw stones at Continental States, but look at home and see if we cannot mend matters (Hear, hear). I shall have a word to say to that gentleman further on, but I give him this hint in passing (laughter). I thought as I came down in the train this morning that it would be impossible to come to Colchester or anywhere else under more depressing circumstances than at present (Hear, hear). I dare say that all of you, or a good many of you, can look back further than I can; but I don't recollect anything like it—I think it is worse than 1845 and 1860 (Hear, hear). Well, you have got this most disastrous season—for I think you cannot describe it in any other language—and you have got very low prices too—rather higher than they were a short time back, but still they are comparatively very low prices. And why is it? Because on the other side of the world you have that vast manufactory of food which seems as though it would surpass all the anticipations of all the most visionary men that ever lived in its power of production. When I read about America I feel filled with astonishment and ask myself what does it mean, and what is it going to end in? These are questions we must face and consider; but I tell you one other thing that I think is pressing very much on the agricultural interest at this moment—I cannot help believing that there is along with these circumstances another of quite as great importance, namely, that a very large number of the farmers of this country are, either through their own misfortune or from the circumstances of the owners under whom they hold farming land in which there is not nearly enough capital applied to do the cultivation thoroughly (cheers). I think you will all agree with that. It is not the farmer's fault that he has not so much money as his neighbour, it is his misfortune; but you may depend upon it that the bad seasons will find him out and the low prices will find him out, and he can't stand so much as the man who has more (Hear, hear), and we cannot deny that there are large areas of this country where the capital of the farmer is deficient, and very large areas where the capital of the owner is practical *null*. Under these circumstances the question is, What can be done? And that is what we met together in April to consider, when we were all hoping that times would mend, when we hoped we were in for better seasons, for even then the distress was great; but what must it be now after the most disastrous harvest we have ever known in our time (cheers)? What is said is this—If farmers can do all they require to do in improving the laws without an Alliance, without organisation, by just simply each talking to his Member, and so on, why be it so. But if organisation and association does good, why should not farmers meet together and consider these questions (cheers)? Why should they be called false and dangerous and

deceptive because they chose to associate to consider what they believe to be their grievances? (cheers). And you may depend upon it, that the history of this country shows one thing very clearly, that although good laws don't always do the good they might do, bad laws do very much more mischief than you suppose, and bad laws die very hard—they want a good deal of hammering at before they are got rid of (cheers). I am old enough to have seen it over and over again. Now let us see for a moment what it is that makes us so dangerous. What does the association propose that the farmers should ask from the Legislature? What are the points on which you think as farmers that the law is against you, or the customs of the county are against you, and wheredoyou think there ought to be an improvement? I will just go over them, that you may see how moderate and not dangerous we are (laughter and "Hear, hear.") The first is about securing the better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament (Hear, hear). What is the good of talking about that? It is a question of voting. If you want better representatives you have nothing to do but to vote; if you don't like the men you have got, get somebody else (cheers). Oh, they say, you are going into party. No, I am not. You can find plenty of Conservative tenant farmers if you like them better than Liberals, who will represent your interests in this matter—the Legislature gives you power and you must use it as you like (Hear, hear). But now on No. 2 we come to a very different part of speech: "To stimulate the improved cultivation of the land, especially by obtaining security for the capital of tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings." Well, now, really there is not much occasion to labour that point, because you know very well that four years ago Parliament passed an Act recognising the point to which we refer, saying the tenant had a right to have some compensation for his unexhausted improvements, and that the landlord had no right to accept the benefit of the tenant's money and labour, and take it to himself and snap his fingers at the tenant and say—"You may go away where you like, I don't care about you" (cheers). The Legislature has admitted the principle in the Agricultural Holdings Act, but then it put a clause in at the end which said anybody might contract out of it (cheers). That Act of Parliament is worth very little (Hear, hear). There are some Acts that are not worth the paper they are written on. I don't know whether that Act is worth so much as that. There are a few people who have remained within the Act, and therefore I suppose we may conclude that it is worth the paper it is written on. I know very well there are and always will be difficulties about these points, but I must say it always has seemed to me a most extraordinary thing that there should be any doubt as to the justice of these claims of the farmers (Hear, hear). But if there could be any doubt, I think the case mentioned in the papers the other day would bring out the fact more strongly than anything I could say. I have no doubt you saw it—it is called the Foxton case. That man's family had been on the farm for 300 years; the landlord got into difficulties, and the farm was sold; it was notorious that this man had been a most skillful farmer, that he had put a very large amount of money and labour into the land, and yet immediately after the sale he had to leave the land and no compensation made to him for what he had done (cries of "Shame.") These are the words in which it is stated in the *Spectator* of the 20th September: "In fact the skill and enterprise, not to mention the capital which Foxton put into his land enabled its owner to sell it for £7,000 more than he would have got for it had Mr. Foxton given it up in the same condition as he found it in; and what reward has Mr. Foxton received for his labour? Instant notice to quit when his landlord, who had fallen into difficulties, had sold the place. Nor is this an exceptional case. The chairman of the dinner party that met in honour of Mr. Foxton said he, too, had at the end of a thirty-three years' tenancy been treated in the same way. He, however, did not feel the blow so keenly, because, unlike Mr. Foxton, he had another house to go to and his family had no ancestral connection with the holding." Well, now, such cases as this show how very strong is the claim that the farmers have in this matter. But there is no occasion to argue that because Parliament has recognised it, only Parliament has not had the courage of its own opinions and has stuck in a clause at the end which neutralises all it has done before (Hear, hear). But if you wanted a proof of the

moderation and fairness of this claim, we have only to look at whose names there are at the back of the original Bill, and we find James Howard and Clare Sewell Read, gentlemen sitting on opposite sides of the House and neither of them a revolutionist or a firebrand (laughter and cheers). They claim this as justice, and no doubt they were right. How can you expect a man to put capital freely with all his heart into the soil, if he is not secure after having done it supposing he is turned out earlier than he expected! (Hear, hear). I met the other day a landlord—a small one it is true—and he said "I don't like all this fuss you are making, I read a speech of yours the other day and I thought you spoke a lot of nonsense (laughter); my tenants are satisfied, my tenants are tenants from year to year and we make no conditions at all except that they vote right" (laughter and cheers). That man's tenants were better off than some people's, because some people's tenants have a good many conditions besides voting right (laughter). But I say the time has come and events have developed themselves which show that the farmers of England must have done with that system of voting as they are told, and they must be an independent race of men having their own minds and opinions, and acting upon them without fear of any man in the world (cheers). I think we have had too much of that sort of patronising one class by another (Hear, hear). There is no occasion for it. Farmers don't want the advice of Lord Burghley or any one else (Hear, hear). I believe the farmers of England know how to manage their affairs as well as he. I am quite sure if they have not more brains than he appears to have it is a bad job for them (laughter and cheers). Now I shall not argue this point; I see you are perfectly satisfied about it. The only point is, they say you have no business to associate yourselves to discuss this matter, that you should leave it in better hands. It has been left in those better hands a great many years and nothing has been done, and if you don't do it for yourselves there never will be anything done (cheers). If people don't take their own affairs into their own hands with a will nobody else will do it for them. The third object of the programme is "to encourage greater freedom in the cultivation of the soil and the disposal of its produce" Lord Derby says there is no occasion for legislation, but that it is a question of contract (Hear, hear), and I suppose he is right. Things have come round so now that farmers can dictate sometimes to the landlord, and not the landlord to the farmer and can say, "If you won't give me a reasonable covenant I won't stop here" (laughter). And I think I would say so. No doubt it is hard to leave a place where you have lived and your forefathers before you. There has been many a grievous case like that, a man looks with fond affection upon the place and he cannot bear the idea of going away and of not being able to worship in the church in which he and his forefathers before him have worshipped. It is a cruel business, but it must be done rather than you should be treated unjustly by any man (cheers). I say I don't think this is a point where the Legislature can help you materially—it is one in which you must help yourselves, and the time is coming when you can (Hear, hear). Now I come to a very delicate point indeed—"To obtain the abolition of class privileges involved in the laws of distress and hypothec." Now this is very clear indeed, I don't know anything clearer. You have a number of people creditors of a farmer. Well, one says "I am going to take everything, and all the other creditors may go where they like." That does not seem very just or reasonable. I don't know for the life of me, and I have never heard any one explain why it is so. Why should the landlord have the privilege for rent over the other creditors of the farmer? I see Mr. Walter made a long speech about it the other day—(hear, hear)—and I understand he did not argue the point, but he said if the landlord is not allowed to take care of himself in that way he will have to take care of himself in another way. (Hear, hear.) Well, I think that is the common sense of the thing. Let him take care of himself by getting hold of the right sort of tenant. (Hear, hear.) I remember talking to a large landlord about six years ago; I said, "Don't you let your land sometimes to a man who has not enough capital, because he offers you a bigger rent, thinking in your own mind 'I shall be sure of my rent?'" Well, he didn't seem as if he could get out of that—"It might occur, but (he said) you would not like that small men should not be able to get a farm?" I said, "I don't know; I think it is a bad thing for a man to get a farm which is too big for his capital, and that he should pay so

much, because the landlord thinks he can come down on him and get his rent." (Hear, hear.) What is the result? That there has been, in many cases, a most unnatural competition for farms, the man with sufficient capital has lost the holding because the man with less capital has come in and got it through the agency of the Law of Distress, and so, no doubt, there are many places where rents have been most unnaturally raised. It is the most certain consequence there can be of it. I ask you whether it ought to continue any longer. ("No, no!") If the landlord could show to me anything in reason to distinguish him from the creditors, or any good it did to the land, or to the farmer, or to anybody else, I would listen to him with pleasure; but I have never seen a single argument about it that proved anything of the kind. (Hear, hear.) It appears to me, as the common sense of the thing, that what the landlord has to do is to do what every man of business does—try and find out a good man before he trusts him. (Hear, hear.) I have been engaged in business many years on a large scale, and what do I do when I want to know whether a man is good, as we say in the City—I go and inquire about him, find out whether his commercial reputation and character are right, and when I am satisfied I trust him freely; and so I would with the farmer. (Cheers.) I understand some gentlemen said, "If we can't have the Law of Distress we must have a year's rent in advance." I wish you may get it. (Laughter.) I really have not much to say on this question, because I cannot find out the arguments on the other side. I want Mr. Beaumont or somebody else to come forward and explain them. (Laughter.) I have not forgotten him. (Renewed laughter.) Now I come to another point of very great interest to some, but not of so much interest to others—"To promote the reform of the Game Laws" (cheers.) That is a thing that many farmers feel very much, though they don't like to say much about it. I don't see why you should not meet together and consider what should be done (Hear, hear.) You would not want to drive all the pheasants and partridges out of the country, you would not wish to refuse to have a good head of game on your land that was not mischievous, but you do object to being devoured by hares and rabbits (cheers.) It is the dreadful ground game that does the mischief, it is the ground game that spoils the farm and do so much injury, and diminishes the production so much.

Mr. E. SMITH: The game-keepers as well.

Mr. FOWLER: You cannot very well shoot the gamekeepers or trap them—(laughter)—but you could get rid of the hares and rabbits, if you had leave, and I believe a good many of you very soon would. (Hear, hear.) But there is no difficulty in this question of the game laws except this, nobody suggests, and I have heard no such preposterous thing as abolishing protection of game—

The CHAIRMAN: I do.

Mr. FOWLER: The Chairman says he would have no game on the place.

The CHAIRMAN: I would have no Game Laws.

Mr. HOWARD: No more would I.

Mr. FOWLER: Mr. Howard says he would have no Game Laws. I do not know I would go so far as that. I am a very moderate man (cheers). At any rate these laws as they exist now are productive of enormous mischief (Hear, hear.) They not only injure the farmer, but they very often have a very corrupting influence on the neighbourhood, therefore I entirely agree with those who consider that the whole question wants most carefully looking into (applause). Now there is another point about legal presumptions which is rather technical, and which I believe only applies in one point to England. The legal presumptions referred to are chiefly in regard to Scotland, therefore I will not dwell upon them today, except on one question which some people have a very strong opinion about, namely, that it ought not to be assumed that if a man goes into a farm without a lease he is only tenant for one year (Hear, hear). The presumption of law is that if you go into a farm without an agreement you are tenant from year to year, and may be turned out at six months' notice unless you are under the Agricultural Holdings Act, which gives you twelve months. Many people think it is preposterous that any man enters upon a farm with the idea of only being there for one year, and that the legal presumption ought to be altered, so that he should be in for a whole course of tillage. Now, that is a point about which you farmers can

form your own judgment far better than those who are not farmers at all. I think it is a point which requires your careful consideration, and you can meet together to discuss it without being considered either "dangerous" or "deceptive" (laughter and cheers). Now another point is "to secure ratepayers their legitimate share in county government" (Hear, hear). Well, I am one of "the great unpaid" (laughter), so I must take care what I say, or else they will be hauling me over the coals at Quarter Sessions I suppose (more laughter). I must say I have the greatest possible respect for my fellow magistrates, and I am sure they work hard for the county. Essex magistrates are a very good lot so far as I know them (and I speak about myself of course among the number) (laughter), but I must say that it is really preposterous that the ratepayers should not have more influence than they have (cheers). There seems an enormous difficulty about getting a bill on the subject. We have had two Bills, and Mr. Clare Swell Read's is of the last one that the sooner it was dead the better (laughter). I only hope the Government will show a little more ability, and that something will be suggested which will really give the ratepayers a reasonable power over local government. As it is now they pay the money, and somebody else spends it (hear, hear). I think that is a most unreasonable system, and I believe you will all agree with me about that (cheers). There is another thing in the Alliance programme which is of great interest to you I know—"to obtain a fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant" (applause). Now I must say I think that is a most reasonable proposal. Suppose a man is in possession of a farm under a 21 years' lease, and there is an Act of Parliament passed which imposes new rates (Hear, hear). Why should the tenant have all the burden during the whole of the rest of the lease (cheers)? I do not know why (Hear, hear). Lord Derby, I observe, when speaking some months ago said, "it is no question your bothering about local taxation; it is a landlord's question; it all comes out of the landlord after all" (laughter). Does it? (Cries of "certainly not" and cheers). You can answer that better than I can, I do not believe it does altogether (laughter and Hear, hear). I know, although I am not a farmer except as occupying a residence, if any new rate is imposed I cannot take it off my rent (Hear, hear). I have to pay all rates excepting the income tax, and the landlord gets the rent without any deductions because I hold under a lease. It is the same with you all I expect, with very few exceptions (Hear, hear). You have to pay new rates, and you do not go to your landlords every time a new rate is imposed and try to make a new bargain (Hear, hear). Practically, a yearly tenant does not like to go and bother his landlord about anything of this kind, and the consequence is the greater part of the burdens fall on the tenant (Hear, hear). I say this is another question, which, although it cannot be discussed in a meeting like this in all its details, is a fair subject for discussion. You should consider how these burdens ought to be divided, for they are often divided now most unfairly. Although it may be quite true that in the end the additional rates are taken from the value of the land, and reduce the rent, yet the existing race of tenants has much to pay which they did not expect to pay (Hear, hear, and applause). That is what it all comes to, and I do not think any man in the room can doubt this statement of fact. Why should not we meet together, then, and discuss the question (cheers). For the life of me I cannot see (Hear, hear). These are the proposals for consideration which have been suggested by the Alliance, and I want to know who has anything to say against them (cheers). They seem to me to be perfectly reasonable (Hear, hear). What is done is this: People say, "Oh, that is not what they really mean, they want something more." That is not quite a fair way of arguing. Pray discuss what we do propose, and not discuss what we do not propose, and I think that is a very rational statement of the case (loud cheers). There are other remedies that are proposed, about which I want to say one word if you will allow me. One of these is Protection to British agriculture. Now, I for one, have no objection to saying in any room whatever that I do not believe in it (cheers). It will not come, and it cannot come, therefore there is no use discussing it—(Hear, hear)—and I do not believe in the long run it would be for the good of this nation that it should come (cheers). I think this meeting takes very much the same view (Hear, hear). There may be some people who do not

see entirely that way, yet I believe, judging from what I saw at the Central Chamber of Agriculture in the middle of the year, that the great mass of English farmers neither expect it nor wish it (loud cheers). But then they say, "Oh, we are going to have a Royal Commission" (loud laughter). That is a fine remedy for all the ills of agriculture (laughter). There will be a most tremendous Blue-book. I do not know how big it will not be. I should say there will be half-a-dozen, perhaps a dozen of them. And who will ever read them? (Hear, hear, and laughter). I dare say I shall—I am rather fond of Blue-books—(laughter)—but I do not believe many of you would like to be bound to read them. You would rather read a good novel by Anthony Trollope when tired, I know (laughter). But what the Commission will do will be, they will tell us a great many things we know already, and a few things, perhaps, that we do not know (laughter, and hear, hear). Mr. Pili and Mr. Read have gone to America, and no doubt they will astonish us with what they saw there (loud laughter). They will bring back a long story and make our faces longer than ever perhaps. But what they say will not alter the law of England, and will not be a remedy for the ills of English farmers in any way or shape (Hear, hear). But I will tell you what I think we do want, and what is at the root of all I have been saying, and that is real freedom—freedom for the tenant, and freedom for the owner. (Loud cheers.) Now, I maintain that the owners of land in this country are a very hardly-used race. I know at this moment many of them are suffering to an extent of which you have no conception (Hear, hear). Men with very large incomes nominally have not a farthing to bless themselves with. How can they do justice to their tenants? How can they do justice to their position? How can they drain their land, improve their buildings, and how can they relieve the tenant in the rent? (Hear, hear.) There are large estates where the family charges and mortgages swallow up all the rent, and many others where the little margin that remained is gone because the tenant cannot pay his full rent. (Hear, hear.) Many a "rich" man in this country is very poor at this day, and I think the owners of this country are very much to be sympathised with. (Applause.) What has been done? They have been blanket-ed and protected, and kept up by, as I think, a miserable and unnatural system of law, instead of being free to sell their acres as they will. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Now, I am going to break a lance with Mr. Beaumont. (Laughter.) What I say is, the farmers cannot be expected to succeed if they are hindered by the law from doing their part—and we have been arguing that there are laws that hinder them—and I say further, that the farmers cannot be expected to succeed if the owners are impoverished and embarrassed. (Hear, hear, and applause.) You ought not to put the burdens of the landlord's duty on the tenant, but the landlord's duty ought to be done by the landlord. (Hear, hear.) Then the tenant's capital is free to do what he likes with. The tenant's capital is not free if the land is not well drained, if the farm buildings are bad, and the cottages are miserable. (Hear, hear.) Now, they say, "Oh, dear! what a noise you make; but the fact is everything you want is done—if a man gets embarrassed he can go to the Court of Chancery and sell the land." What a pretty remedy that is—to go to the Court of Chancery and sell the land! That is what Mr. Beaumont said the other day. (Laughter.) I took the pains, after I saw Mr. Beaumont's letter, to go to the Act of Parliament to see what it meant. (Hear, hear.) I thought he was a little bit too rapid in his statement (hear, hear, and laughter), and the fact is you cannot sell without the consent of the tenant entail in remainder if he is of full age, and when the Court has sold you must lay out the money on other land, so that the amount of the land made free is not increased one scrap by the operation. That is the most fantastical remedy for a great evil ever suggested, in my opinion. (Hear, hear.) What I have argued, and this is what is called revolutionary, is, that we ought, in this country, to have only fee simple owners. You know them about here. Are those fee simple owners revolutionary people, or do they, or do they not, do better justice to their land than those who only hold for life? I know a good many who hold for life who cannot do anything for the land. On the other hand I know a good many fee simple owners who have turned a wilderness into a garden.

Applause). That is what you call revolutionary. (Laughter.) What I say is this, as long as you give men the power to say their sons shall have for life, and their grandsons, and the unborn sons of the grandsons, remainder in tail after that, their estates, the land of England will be held tied up for life, owing to the pride which makes many men endeavour to lock up their money in land to keep their families going, as they say. (Hear, hear). A man on his deathbed makes a will which eunbarrasses the land for fifty years perhaps after he is in his grave. (Hear, hear.) I ask you whether that is a reasonable system. (Cries of "No, no.") I cannot go into it at any great length now, because I have already spoken too long. What I say is that a tenant for life is a man who is not a real owner at all. He is only nominal owner. (Hear, hear). He cannot borrow money except at very high interest, by insuring his life as well as paying interest, or by going to the Commissioners and having an inspector come down to see all that he does, and paying to the lender on an average £7 4s. per cent., so as to pay off principal and interest. Is that a man you call an owner? I think an owner is a man who borrows money where he likes at low interest, and does not have any inspector down to see what he is doing, but does what he pleases. (Hear, hear). But have you as tenant farmers considered what it means? Supposing a man to be tenant for life, he has borrowed at that interest and he tries to get that interest out of you. What does it come to? That when that money is paid off you have paid principal and interest off in your rent. (Hear, hear). That is what is done in a good many cases. A man is so anxious for improvements that he pays the whole of the principal and interest for improvements rather than not have them done, and the result is that man pays the whole of the principal and interest for improvements which go to the family inheritance of his landlord. (Hear, hear, and cheers). It would not be so if a man were a fee-simple owner. He would borrow at a low rate of interest and charge you moderate interest for the improvements; but as long as you have this system of tenants for life you cannot have the owner doing his duty freely and without embarrassment. (Hear, hear). I say what we want is a natural system, by which any man who wants to sell his land can sell it, and another man who has more money than he, can buy it, and so the land is held by real and capable owners. Now the only way I know of doing this, is by what seems at first sight an extreme measure, but what I say will do no harm to anybody, and that is this—that for the future we shall in this country get rid of this system of settlement of land. Let us have owners in fee simple, and let them get rid of it if they cannot do justice to it. If you did this I believe it would be a marvellous improvement to the country (Cheers). You would have capital flow into the land freely (Hear, hear). You all know perhaps of a case where one of these old estates has got sold to a rich man, and what a change has come over the whole neighbourhood. (Hear, hear). If you have got a man who has only a life interest you cannot expect him to do justice to the land. If he is very poor of course he cannot. But suppose he has got money and has a large family, is not he bound to save money for the younger children instead of putting it into the land when all the land goes to his eldest son? (Hear, hear). Of course he is, and he robs the land of what it ought to have in order to save money for his younger children (Cheers). That is a thing that is going on constantly. I know if I had £20,000 a year in land, and I was a man well off, I should hesitate exceedingly before I made very large improvements on the estate, because I should not like to add much to the inheritance of my eldest son, who had far more than the rest of the family. There are many other arguments I could use of this kind if I had time; but this is not one of the Alliance points at all (Hear, hear). I merely alluded to it to show my opinions, I am not ashamed of them; I do not believe they are radical, revolutionary, or anything of the kind (Hear, hear, and loud cheers). All I want is that there should be natural tenure, and that land should be bought and sold freely (Hear, hear). I do not ask for large estates, small estates, or any particular kind of estates. There are always forces of dispersion going on, and always forces of accumulation. Let them act freely (Hear, hear). As it is now we know the land is not free, and the man who said the other day that land was as free to be sold as any other article, said what everybody

knows is not a fact (applause). Is it not notorious that there are vast areas in this country which cannot be sold, and which have no chance of being sold for generations? (Hear, hear). I think one of the reasons why land got so preposterously high was that so much was kept out of the market (Hear, hear, and applause). I do not know why more should not come into the market, and more freedom exist (cheers). We all want to be free, then capital would flow into the soil—the tenant's capital would be used in a more free and complete manner, and the owner would be able to do justice to the soil (Hear, hear). I have been anxious to show you why I think the propositions made by the Alliance are extremely moderate, and I have been anxious to show you there are other things also that require your grave consideration as tenant farmers. I am quite sure you cannot be independent of the condition of the owners of your land, and if you are under a good owner you are far better off than you are under an impoverished one (cheers). Therefore the condition of the owner must be a thing you will have to consider (Hear, hear). Whether the Alliance takes it up, or whether Parliament takes it up I do not care, but someone will have to consider the condition of the owner as well as the occupier if we are to have a better state of things in England (loud cheers). What you want is more capital on the land, and you never can have that until you get the land perfectly free.

A VOICE: And a little more sun (laughter).

Mr. FOWLER: I quite agree with you, and if I knew any way by Act of Parliament of securing more sun I would go in for it (renewed laughter). What we have to consider is what we can do by Act of Parliament, not what we cannot do, and if you can show that any of these things I have mentioned cannot be done by Act of Parliament, and are beyond the power of Parliament I have done. But I believe Parliament can in these ways do a great deal for you, and will enable you to do justice to yourselves, and will enable you to fight, not with tied hands as now too often you have to do, but with both hands free (hear, hear). I believe Parliament can give you that freedom and as long as I live I shall ask for that freedom, and I ask you to assist me in doing that which I believe is one of the greatest boons that can be conferred on our country (loud and long-continued cheering).

Mr. JAMES HOWARD, Chairman of the Alliance, who met with an enthusiastic reception, said there was no occasion to dwell at length upon the programme of the Alliance, for he had listened, as he had no doubt the great majority of those he saw before him had listened, with the utmost pleasure to the very able and very instructive speech of Mr. Fowler. (Cheers.) Such a speech, expressed in such lucid, such forcible, and such temperate language, could not fail to set men thinking, and the outcome of such a speech could not be anything but good (Hear, hear). In coming down that morning a copy of a local paper, the *Essex Standard*—(derivative laughter)—was put into his hands. The Editor of that paper expressed surprise that after the Alliance had held a meeting so short a time ago they should be found coming into the county of Essex again. For the information of the Editor of the *Standard*—(laughter)—and for the information of this meeting, he would remark that the Committee of the Alliance determined some time ago that the very first meeting held after harvest should be at Colchester (Hear, hear). And for this reason—in consequence of the persistent efforts which had been put forth by public writers and by public men to misrepresent—(hear, hear, and loud cheers)—the object of the Farmers' Alliance. It was far easier for a public writer or a public speaker to attribute unworthy motives to his opponents, and to misrepresent their views, than to grapple with their arguments, or to refute their conclusions (Hear, hear). They might be mistaken in the means they employed, but he would say, most unhesitatingly, that their sole desire was the advancement of British agriculture (cheers). Their motive was the benefit of the tenant farmer, and through him of all the other classes connected with agriculture—the landowner and the labourer (cheer). If the tenant farmers of England were placed in their proper position, great national prosperity would be the result, and the whole community would thereby be benefited (Hear, hear). The founders of the Alliance had been charged over and over again with attempting a Party political move, and he gave that statement, as he had done before, the most unqualified contradiction (cheers). He happened to know something

more about the formation of the Alliance than those gentlemen who wrote for the information of the public upon a question which they knew very little about (Laughter and hear, hear). He had for years held the opinion that the tenant farmer element in the Chambers of Agriculture, and more especially in the Central Chamber, had been overweighed by the landlord and land agent interest (Hear, hear). He had been for many years a member of the Farmers' Club, and not the most inactive member, as many he saw before him were well aware (Hear, hear). It so happened that at two of the discussions this year very important subjects bearing upon the interests of agriculture came before the Club in the form of resolutions, and the Chairman decided that the rules of the Club would not admit of those propositions being put. He (Mr. Howard) used his best endeavours as a member of the Committee, and was stoutly supported by Mr. Mechi, to get the rules rescinded so as to put the Club in a position to discuss at will any measures of importance to the agricultural interests. He, however, failed to carry all that he desired, and when the subject of forming the Alliance was mooted he at once joined, because he believed that the farmers of England required an arena in which their views of public questions could be discussed and settled. If editors of Tory papers and if Tory public men refused to join the Alliance, he could not compel them, but he took it that they would find in the long run that it would be so much the worse for themselves (laughter and cheers). It was not pleasing for a public speaker to have to refer to himself, but he saw many before him who knew full well how large a stake he had, both directly and indirectly, in the welfare of agriculture (Hear, hear). Seeing that his whole interests were bound up in the success of agriculture—and many of those who were present knew that those interests were not very small—he would put it to them, Was it likely that he would advocate a policy which would be detrimental to the interests in which he had so large a stake? (cheers). Public writers, who would scare their readers by the use of such strong adjectives as those which he read that morning, must have formed a very low estimate of the intelligence of their readers (Hear, hear, and laughter). To suppose that men would be deterred from the consideration of great public questions by calling them mischievous, and dangerous, and revolutionary appeared to him to be more than childish (Hear, hear, and applause). The first object of the Farmers' Alliance and its chief object was to secure to tenant farmers a better representation in Parliament (Hear, hear). The *Essex Standard*—(derivative laughter)—gravely informed its readers that the principal object of the Alliance was the "revolution of the landlords" (laughter). "Revolution" was a very strong and a very ugly word, and a word which should be used with the utmost degree of caution, because it might be made to include a great deal more than its natural significance, and a great deal more than the writer had in view. It might even be made to include the programme of Mr. Parnell in Ireland (laughter). The Committee of the Alliance were not revolutionists. They advocated well-considered and wise measures—or at any rate measures which they conceived to be wise. As far as he knew them the Committee were law-abiding and men of order—(cheers)—who would denounce in as strong terms as the greatest upholder of the existing Irish system—even in as strong terms as the Editor of the *Essex Standard* himself—(laughter)—the proceedings of Mr. Parnell in Ireland, which they held to be not only injudicious, but wholly dangerous to the best interests of the country (cheers). Rent, the chief item in the Irish programme, had never for one moment entered into the programme of the Alliance (cheers). As practical men they believed that the question of rent must be left to the action of the natural law of supply and demand—(hear, hear)—a law which sometimes acted slowly, though it always acted surely. It might have acted too slowly for the interest of all parties during the past three or four years; but they felt they had nothing to do with that, the question being one which might safely be left to the operation of that law. Like Mr. Fowler, he felt great sympathy for many impoverished landowners in this country, who had been overtaken by a calamity for which they were in no wise responsible. As Mr. Fowler had pointed out, they were simply the victims of a vicious system (Hear, hear). One more word upon this "revolutionary" question. If the objects of the Alliance were revolutionary, surely its first and main object

would not be to send into Parliament a number of tenant farmers—(hear, hear)—for of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects none had been so distinguished for loyalty and love of order as the tenant farmer class (cheers). They were not likely to join in any revolutionary movement, and he was surprised that a man occupying so important and so influential a position as the Editor of the *Essex Standard*—"On;" a voice: "Not very;" and laughter—should make such wild statements (cheers). He was glad to see that person present, and he was quite sure the Chairman would afford him an opportunity—and he was certain the audience would be delighted to hear him—of coming on to the platform—(roars of laughter)—and justifying the language he had applied to the Alliance (laughter and cheers). To come, however, to a more practical part of the subject, it would be in the remembrance of every man in the room that some years ago the tenant farmers of Norfolk determined to send to Parliament a man of their own class (Hear, hear). He would ask—Had not Mr. Clare Sewell Read's career proved how useful and how important an intelligent farmer could be in the great Councils of the Nation? (Hear, hear). Was not the example of Norfolk in sending such a man to Parliament worthy of the example of other counties? (cheer-). He happened to have had the pleasure of Mr. Read's friendship for many years before he ever dreamed of being a Member of Parliament, and he knew it was often a source of regret to him after he got into the House of Commons that he had not there more men of his own class to back up his views. He was persuaded that useful as Mr. Read had been he would have been far more useful, and a far stronger and far better Member, if he had had a score of his own class to back him up (Hear, hear). There was no necessity for him to allude to private conversations with that gentleman, for speaking to his constituents at Harlestone in 1865, Mr. Read pressed upon them the necessity of electing more Members of the tenant farmer class, or men who sympathised with their views. Only three months ago, in writing to the Secretary of the Farmer's Alliance, Mr. Read stated that if the outcome of the Alliance should be the sending of a score of tenant farmers to Parliament he should greatly rejoice (cheers). He mentioned that to show that Mr. Read, who was a staunch Conservative, was not opposed to the main and principle object of the Alliance (Hear, hear). The projectors of the Alliance maintained that the great and important body of tenant farmers, numbering in England and Scotland some 600,000, and employing a capital of £300,000,000 had a right to a greater share in the government of this country than they yet possessed (Hear, hear). When they look at their numbers, their wealth, and their intelligence, it was a most surprising circumstance that so few efforts had been made by them to return Members of their own class (Hear, hear). As he remarked at Chelmsford, tenant farmers were the only class not directly represented in the great Council of the Nation. There were 157 Members sitting for English counties, and out of that very large number there was only one *bona fide* tenant farmer (Hear, hear). Every other great industry was represented, and very ably represented, in Parliament. There were cotton-spinners, iron-masters, coal owners, bankers, and brewers—(laughter; and a Voice: "And lawyers")—and there were also a few captains and colonels (A Voice: "Too many"). He agreed (laughter). That changes were meditated in the land laws was obvious, for to say nothing of the utterances of Lord Hartington, there was the great fact of the Royal Commission. He believed that those changes would be better effected, and the work more practically done, if some score or more intelligent farmers were sent into the House of Commons (cheers). The strength of the House of Commons had been said to depend upon the variety and the diversity of interests it represented, and he was of those who believed the House would be materially strengthened by the addition he proposed (applause). If a score of farmers took the places of a similar number of military men and the younger members of the squirearchy and the aristocracy he did not think any great harm would happen to the British Constitution (cheers and laughter). Referring to another item in the programme of the Alliance—the stimulation of improved cultivation of the land—he said if this was revolutionary, the Duke of Richmond and the Prime Minister were the arch-conspirators, for they brought in the Agricultural Holdings Act with that avowed object (laughter and Hear, hear). Some of them remembered the glowing language of the Duke of Richmond in introducing that Bill, and the

"golden words," as they were called, of the Prime Minister on the same occasion. He would only say with regard to the question of compensation for unexhausted improvements, that the Alliance, and he believed the farmers of England, required a real measure, and not a sham one (cheers). The Prime Minister rebuked those Ministers who described the Agricultural Holdings Act as a sham measure, calling them shallow men (laughter). Some three years after that Act was passed Mr. Read spoke at the great meeting at Kiburn, and unequivocally condemned it. The landowners of England were only just beginning to find out the value of the great tenant farmer class (Hear, hear). He (Mr. Howard) had travelled a great deal abroad, and he had been in countries where there was no class of tenant farmers, and where the owners were obliged to cultivate their own estates for want of that class, and he knew the difficulties and the dangers and the loss which they were subjected to in consequence (Hear, hear). It had been his pleasure, as the chairman well knew, for a very great many years past to urge upon the country the importance of the tenant farmer class (cheers). He believed they possessed in England a superior class both in numbers, wealth, and intelligence to any other country in the world (Hear). He would not dwell long upon the other objects of the Alliance, but he would just point out the absurdity of placing restrictions on men of capital and intelligence, and prescribing how they should manage their farms, what crops should succeed each other, what crops they might sell, and what crops they might not sell (Hear, hear). That was a system which could not and must not last (cheers). It was a matter which could not be legislated upon, but it was a question which the Farmers' Alliance intended to agitate till all such restrictions were swept away (applause). He would make just one remark upon the Law of Distress. There had been so much discussion upon that subject in Essex that any lengthened remarks were unnecessary. It was to the credit of the Scotch Farmers that they were the first to detect the evil influences at work in the law of what was called in Scotland Hypothec—that was a very similar law to our Law of Distress. The Scotch farmers were shrewd enough to see that it increased competition for farms, and that therefore it raised rents. He read with very great pleasure the other day the speech of the Conservative Member for Woodstock. He (the Member) was the son of a Tory Duke—a Duke belonging to the present Government—her Majesty's representative in Ireland. These were his remarks upon the Law of Distress: "But to pass from that subject. What obstacles were there which prevented the farmer from obtaining capital for the purpose of cultivating land on a remunerative system? He saw one great evil, and that was the Law of Distress. They could not expect the capitalist in these bad times to advance money to the farmer for the most legitimate and promising objects, at any rate at moderate interest, on the security of his stock or his plant, when he knew that, through some unforeseen circumstances, or some temporary embarrassment, or circumstances over which the farmer might be able to exercise no control, he happened to be behind in his obligations to his landlord, that security would be at once taken possession of by his landlord. He had no hesitation in saying that the Law of Distress was a remnant of feudalism, and its days were numbered. The Government had consented to the principle of its abolition in Scotland, and what was sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander: what was good for the Scotch farmers was, he imagined, equally good for English farmers." Those were the sentiments of a Conservative M.P., and a man of great influence, therefore he did not think, in including this subject in their programme, they were advocating anything very revolutionary (Hear, hear, and applause). He would just read one more extract from the speech of Lord Randolph Churchill's because it was an answer to a good deal that had been said about the mischievous and revolutionary tendency of their proceedings. "At any rate," he said, "as long as he represented an agricultural constituency, or whenever he might be wanting to represent one, he should advise the farmers to support—he should himself support—that party and those men, whoever they might be, who were prepared with a definite policy, and with distinct and definite remedies, which should solve the difficulties of the agriculturist, and repair the disasters sustained by them in late years. They must not be alarmed or deterred from any reasonable changes, or necessary changes, by any balderdash about democracy on the one hand or despotism on the other,

no matter how great might be the man who uttered it. They were told on high authority that there was a party in this country whose avowed object was to set the landlord and the tenant in array against each other. He did not believe that was the case. He did not believe any party would embark on such a wild goose chase. But this he did believe—that, were there such a party, were they ever so powerful in intellectual ability, in numerical strength, or in pecuniary resources, their efforts would fail and they would be brought to nought” (hear). He asked them to ponder over these words, because they went to the very root of the whole question. The object of the Farmers' Alliance was to form an Association so strong that, no matter what Government might be in power, they would be compelled to listen to the requirements of the farming interests (cheers). The tenant farmers had only to act upon the advice of Lord Randolph Churchill, and determine not to vote for any man who would not support the programme which they might agree upon—the programme of the Farmers' Alliance, for instance—and they would speedily obtain from any Government, no matter what colour that Government might be, any changes to which they were legitimately entitled (loud cheers).

Mr. JOHN MOSS, in the course of a forcible speech, urged the claims of the Alliance upon farmers, and announced his intention of becoming a member. He was content to have it called a political movement, because they had combined to ask the Legislature for that which they believed to be just and right, and, in so doing, they were asking for political justice. He moved:—

“That this meeting approves of the formation of the Farmers' Alliance, and considers that the Association deserves the support of tenant farmers and others who are in favour of removing all impediments to the success of agriculture” (cheers).

Mr. ALFRED GRAY, of Halsted, seconded the motion, making some apposite remarks in doing so.

Mr. JOSEPH BEAUMONT, of Coggeshall, said he did not intend to occupy their time by entering into any defence of the Editor of the *Essex Standard* for the somewhat extensive use of adjectives which appeared to have given offence. (Laughter; and a Voice: “He is here himself”). No doubt that gentleman would at the proper time, and from his own platform, reply to what had been said against him. They were told on very good authority that the events of human life generally went in dualities, and it was not a week ago since the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* came into collision with the Editor of *Truth*; and if the effect of this meeting should be to bring the Editor of the *Mark Lane Express* into collision with the Editor of the *Essex Standard*, he could only tell them he should be quite willing to act the part of Montagu Williams, and advise one or the other to fight a duel and afterwards tell him he had better not (laughter). But he thought matters had been introduced there to-day which were somewhat extraneous (“No, no”). They had met to consider whether it was advisable in the present day, and having regard to the existing state of things, to establish a Farmers' Alliance in this Kingdom (Mr. R. Orpen: “Why not, Sir”). He was old enough to remember three distinct events answering to the description of that which was on to-day. Thirty years ago, at a time when there was great agitation in the country, Fergus O'Connor started a Land Scheme—(cries of “Oh, oh;” hisses, and interruption).

Mr. HOWARD: I rise to order. I am sure the meeting will be very happy to hear Mr. Beaumont if he will confine himself to the matter before the meeting, but to liken men like Mr. Fowler and myself and others with Fergus O'Connor, I think is most monstrous (loud cheers). It can have nothing whatever to do with the objects of this meeting (Hear, hear). I protest against it (applause).

Mr. BEAUMONT: There is a little thing called the gag, and if the Chairman likes to avail himself of it I must cease my remarks.

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Beaumont to confine himself as far as possible to the point, and said he thought the comparison he had drawn was going a little too far. At the same time he did not wish to prevent any man giving his private opinion, provided he did not trench upon matters outside the question before the meeting.

Mr. BEAUMONT said he was about to say that whenever there was any great or trying event they invariably found that

the mind of man would lead a class to become agitators, and to start forth propositions which at more sensible times reasonable men would not promulgate or support. He was about when interrupted to refer to the history of various land schemes which had from time to time been set on foot in this country. (A Voice: “This is not a land scheme”). He denied that he intended to compare any of the gentlemen connected with the Alliance with the traitor O'Connor. All he was going to do was to say that men were deluded then, and to draw the conclusion that they were thoroughly deluded now (“No, no;” a Voice. “It is you who would delude us;” and laughter).

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter of private opinion (Hear, hear, and applause).

Mr. BEAUMONT said he would drop allusion to history, and, if they would allow him, would deal with events which had occurred in this country since the month of April last, when a number of gentlemen met in a room at the office of the *Mark Lane Express* to form the Farmers' Alliance; and he would briefly refer to the meeting held at Chelmsford some two months ago. He took a part in the proceedings there, and he did so because upon the programme he saw certain propositions which he felt thoroughly convinced as a practical man of business would confer a benefit on agriculturists (Hear, hear). But since that time the world had been enlightened. The Secretary had published an extended programme in the *Nineteenth Century*, and the *Spalding* had dealt with the Farmers' Alliance; and to-day they had a very distinguished politician in the person of Mr. Fowler, who had told them again what the extended programme of the Alliance was.

Mr. FOWLER: No, I did not pledge the Alliance to my views.

Mr. BEAUMONT: I do not hesitate to tell you this—that if Mr. Fowler's ideas are grafted on to the programme of the Farmers' Alliance it becomes an Institution which I believe the Essex tenant farmers will repudiate *in toto* (“No, no,” and a Voice: “Show us why they should;” hisses and interruption). Take the propositions of the Farmers' Alliance as explained at Chelmsford, divest it of the Brummagem political fringe which they are now hanging around it, and what does the Farmers' Alliance come to? (Great hissing and interruption, in the course of which Mr. Beaumont took up a glass of water and said, “I will drink to the health of those geese who are hissing, and wish them well”). There is not a single proposal in the Alliance programme as published that the Institutions of the present day as recognised by our Agricultural Societies are not capable of carrying out. Every word we have heard from the lips of Mr. Fowler and from my friend Mr. Howard has been enunciated over and over again in the halls of the Agricultural chambers (A Voice: “And with what effect?” Yes, with what effect? I will tell you. It so happens, as most of you know, I am a lawyer—(laughter, and a Voice: “Else you would not be so barefaced”)—and you also know that since the meeting at Chelmsford a most trying Michaelmas has passed over us (A Voice, “You do not get so much per cent. now;” laughter). What has been the effect of the movement that has been made on the landlords of this county? I have no hesitation in saying—and I give it you from the experience of my own office—that tenant-farmers have been masters of the situation, and have been able to dictate to landlords, who have gladly listened (“No, no,” and interruptions).

Mr. MASS asked that the meeting would patiently listen to the observations of Mr. Beaumont.

Mr. BEAUMONT: You may be able to controvert arguments, but you cannot deny the facts I am going to narrate.

Mr. EDWARD SMITH: You have not used any arguments yet (Hear, hear, and laughter).

Mr. BEAUMONT said he had not yet; he had not come to them. The tenant farmers had had “the straight tip” from Lord Derby. They had submitted their grievances to the landlords of this country, who had most readily listened to them, and had given them almost every concession that had been asked (Cries of “oh, oh,” and “Nonsense”). In the immediate neighbourhood of Colchester rents had been reduced to the extent of 30 to 40 per cent (cries of “Name;” and a Voice: “That is what they have been put up the last ten years”). He went on to cite two cases which had come under his own observation, both on the estate of Mr. Osgood Hanbury, at Coggeshall. One of the tenants on the estate gave notice to leave last Michaelmas, but Mr. Hanbury did

not wish to lose him, and instructed him (Mr. Beaumont) to prepare a fresh lease upon whatever terms the tenant might desire. In another case, a tenant who had taken a lease for 14 years, four years ago said he would give £500 to be released. He (Mr. Beaumont) told the landlord that, but he said he did not want to take the £500, and told him to prepare a surrender of the lease, and give another upon the tenant's own terms for the remaining 10 years.

Mr. HOWARD again called Mr. Beaumont to order. The question of rent had nothing to do with the meeting, as it formed no part of the programme of the Alliance.

Mr. BEAUMONT then proceeded to speak of the laws of primogeniture and entail, and said that the proposals made would subvert the Institutions of the country. This was a signal for another outburst of confusion. During the uproar,

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH said Mr. Beaumont's intentions were evidently to upset the meeting.

Mr. CATCHPOOL said he was told before he came into the room that Mr. Beaumont was going to upset them (confusion).

Mr. BEAUMONT: My object is to upset the Farmers' Alliance (renewed confusion).

Mr. W. BROWN: If that is his object, he ought not to be heard any longer (hear, hear).

Mr. BEAUMONT then moved as an amendment, "That having regard to the associations connected with the Farmers' Alliance, it is undesirable that the county of Essex should recognise it."

Mr. FOWLER said he wished it to be distinctly understood that what he had said as to the laws of primogeniture and entail was not included in the programme of the Alliance.

Mr. E. Smith was proceeding to reply to Mr. Beaumont, when the CHAIRMAN said the amendment had not been seconded.

Mr. SMITH thereupon seconded the amendment to put himself in order, and then answered the remarks of Mr. Beaumont, and in the course of his remarks said that if in any instance rent had been reduced to the extent of 30 to 40 per cent, it was because the rent had been unduly forced up.

On the amendment being put only two held up their hands in support, and the original proposition was then put and carried with only one dissentient.

A vote of thanks was also passed to the Chairman, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. Howard.

### LIVE STOCK AND OTHER NOTES.

The long incubatory stage of pleuro-pneumonia is made the subject of an instructive article in the *National Live Stock Journal* (Chicago), for October, and the instances cited therein are used to show the necessity for uniform regulations as to the quarantine of European cattle. To show the indecisive and imperfect action taken hitherto by the United States Government, we quote the following passages from the article referred to: "If quarantine at home is allowed to an importer in the same county with the port, the same may be as justly claimed by him of Ohio, Illinois, or Kansas; and the principle once established, every barrier would be speedily destroyed, and the supposed quarantine would be but a farce and a delusion. Our experience has already taught us that no deviation from quarantine at the port can be safely admitted, no matter how plausible the reasons for this may appear. The quarantine should be imperative on all States alike. In this respect the Treasury Order of July 19th, 1879, is grievously at fault. To the quarantine of ninety days, imposed on all cattle from Europe, there is the exception 'where State or municipal laws provide for the quarantine of such cattle; and in such cases collectors will permit the proper officials to quarantine them in such manner as the State or municipal authorities require.' Under this exception, the aldermen of Boston, Brooklyn, or Baltimore might pass an ordinance admitting European cattle on a six hours' quarantine, and thus establish and perpetuate the disease in their respective cities. To protect the nation, this law must be national,

and subject to no exception. If section 2,493 of the Revised Statutes does not empower the Treasury to make it so, Congress should enact a law which shall be binding upon all alike, and which shall prevent any State or municipality from making itself a centre and channel of pestilence. The embargo on English cattle imported through Canada should be extended, so as to embrace cattle from the continent of Europe and Canadian cattle that have come in contact with such English or European cattle, or the premises where they have been. There is no reason for the present quarantine of ninety days on English cattle imported through Canada, that is not equally forcible for a similar detention of European continental cattle, so that that may be passed without further comment. But if it is important to subject newly-arrived English cattle to a detention of three months, it is equally important to subject Canadian cattle that have come in contact with these to a similar quarantine. Here again the law must be made uniform and imperative for all the States. If New York and the New England States were to impose a quarantine of ninety days on European cattle imported through Canada, and Canadian cattle that have been in contact with such during the first three months after arrival, and if Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois declined to do so, the danger would be greatly increased, for the cattle crossing at Detroit, Port Huron, or Chicago would be so much nearer the western plains, where the disease once introduced would be perpetual and desolating. If, therefore, Canada cannot be persuaded to extend her present comparatively useless eight days' quarantine to ninety days, and if the Treasury has no power to interfere further than in the case of infected European cattle, Congress should interpose with an act which shall either expose all cattle from Canada to a quarantine of three months, or, which is less desirable, subject all European cattle imported through Canada, and all Canadian cattle that have come in contact with them or the premises where they have been, within three months after their landing, to a similar quarantine. England is a striking example of how useless it is to attempt to get rid of the lung plague while cattle are admitted from an infected country. Let us learn by our neighbour's disaster, and avoid the reef on which she has stranded." This is sound reasoning, and in the light of such arguments our American cousins will no longer ignore the necessity for waterside slaughter on our part. The precautions they are now seeing the necessity for taking are in reference to imported breeding stock, but our precautions are against thousands of animals imported for food purposes, and the least our authorities can do in the interest of our own country is to slaughter *all* such animals at the ports of debarkation, without exception. That it is utterly useless to attempt to get rid of pleuro-pneumonia so long as cattle are admitted from a country where that disease exists, is the very point for which we have all along been contending. England can never be free from contagious diseases of animals until foreign live stock is prohibited altogether.

The state of the New York cattle market is thus given by the *American Agriculturist* (New York), Oct. 1:—"The export trade in cattle and meat is now so much of a settled business that it goes on without calling for notice; yet it is worthy of note that one week the past month, the shipments reached over 2,000 head of live cattle, 3,140 quarters of beef, 1,619 live sheep, and 607 carcasses of mutton. These enormous shipments are not without an effect on the home market. The market has been dull, and after considerable fluctuation, finally settled down at a reduction of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. per lb., with a tendency still downwards. The dressed meat market has given way, and live stock felt the effect seriously. At the close of our report,

the sales failed to clear the yards, and a depressed feeling was general among sellers. Closing prices were 10½ to 10¾ cents. for extra 57lb. cattle." That is to say, 5½d. to 5¾d. per lb. of the dressed carcase of animals which would average 57lb. of dressed meat to 100lb. of live weight. Fifty seven per cent. is about the average estimate of dressed carcase for United States export cattle which will average 1,400lb. live weight.

A Renter's telegram from Washington, dated Oct. 18, states that the official returns published on that date, show the value of cattle exported from the United States to Great Britain during the fiscal year 1878 was £501,842 5s. 10d., as against £1,378 357 1s. 8d. in 1879. The fiscal year ends June 30. The telegram states that "the improvements made in the transportation and care of the cattle will largely increase the exportation." And no doubt this will be so, but the impetus which has been given to stock breeding in the States by the export trade, and the rapid improvement which is going on among the rank and file of the American cattle will be likely to have far more influence on future exports.

A Summary Statement of the Exports and Imports of the United States for the seven months ending July 31, 1879, and for the corresponding period of 1878, has been published by Mr. J. Nimmo, junr., of the Treasury Department of the United States Bureau of Statistics. From it we learn that the numbers of living animals exported to all countries from the United States during the period named were as follows:—

	1879.	1878.
Hogs.....	48,377	26,415
Horned Cattle.....	85,163	64,422
Horses.....	2,356	3,574
Mules.....	2,404	1,948
Sheep.....	133,614	91,796
Totals.....	724,577	462,140

These figures show unmistakably the enormous increase which is so rapidly going on in the exportation of animals for food purposes from the United States, and the greater part of this export trade is to the United Kingdom. It is quite impossible to form any idea of what its dimensions may ultimately be, but that it will rule prices here there seems to be no reasonable doubt.

Cattle have been received lately at Kansas City from Los Animas, California. This is interesting, not only as showing the extent of the Western cattle trade, but also that they must still be driven farther East to find a market.

From articles and correspondence in the Canadian press it appears very evident that very little attention has hitherto been paid to the quality of the stock bred in the Dominion. Mr. Frankland's letter, published last week, showed this plainly enough, and he has addressed a second communication to the *Canada Globe*, dated Oct. 8, in which he remarks:—"Yesterday I required 30 head to fill up a shipment that is leaving Quebec on Saturday on the steamship Brooklyn. I went up to the Toronto Western Cattle Market at 6 a.m. Some nine car-loads came from the western part of Ontario, and to get the 30 cattle I wanted I was obliged to buy three car-loads, 57 head, to select only 30. Why not then have all the proper grade, and get the benefit of the high prices? The 27 left of course will have to be sold at 3 and 4 cents per lb., while the others were worth 8 cents. If the great agricultural interests of this country can be moved in the right direction, and our industrious farmers only scout the idea of protection, which is all humbug, depend upon it we shall be able to take our cattle and sheep to any markets without fear of comparison or criticism." No doubt a great deal more can be done by Canada in the way of exporting cattle grown on her own soil than she

has yet done, but it will take time. But there is this to be considered, which is admitted by the *Globe*, and by Mr. Frankland, namely, that Canada cannot compete with the Western States of America in cattle raising, because the climate necessitates the housing of cattle in winter. Wherever the land is good and yet worth next to nothing in money value, and the climate such as will enable cattle to be depastured all the year round, that is the place to grow beef profitably. From carefully watching the trade at this end, and the Canadian press on the other side, we came to the conclusion some time ago that the cattle which we receive from Canadian distilleries are United States bullocks, and butchers here are wide enough awake to the difference in value between a United States bullock fattened on grass and maize and one fed in Canada on distillery "swill." The bulk of the remaining exports from Canada are simply United States bullocks sent via Canadian ports by Canadian dealers; and now that the embargo placed on the United States cattle by the Dominion Government has stopped the supply to the Canadian distilleries and stopped the commercial enterprise of the Canadian dealers and exporters we find that Canada—after all the tall talk and big figures which have emanated from her press—has only what the *Globe* calls "pony" cattle to send. In other words, Canadian bred stock are not fit for export. We may point out, too, that whereas Mr. Frankland's picked export cattle were only worth 8 cents (4d.) per lb. of the dressed carcase, in New York at the same time—as will be seen in another paragraph—export cattle were worth 5½d. to 5¾d. per lb. of their dressed carcase, both being waterside quotations. It is of no use for Canadian papers and Canadian shippers to represent the export trade as being "over for the year" or "over for the season;" it is over, practically, until the British Privy Council removes our embargo on United States stock. That is the plain English of the matter. Or, it is possible, and very probable, that the embargo will remain a sufficiently long time to enable Canada to start afresh with good cattle of her own breeding. We do not for one moment suppose that good cattle cannot be bred in Canada; all we can say is that they are not there now, according to trade reports, and that—to use an Americanism—the sawdust is completely knocked out of the Canadian export cattle trade here. Directly Canada was obliged to lay an embargo on United States cattle, to protect her own export trade, that trade collapsed. The situation was patent enough. And we expressed the opinion—see Leader March 17, 1879—that if the Marquis of Lorn, who then talked of being soon able to remove the embargo, waited until the United States could show a clean bill of health, Canadian cattle exporters would "find their occupation gone," and if he did not wait until the United States could show a clean bill of health Canada would be scheduled. The Dominion Government has, waited, and now evidently intends to wait, until we have removed our embargo on United States cattle—and Canadian exporters of cattle have found their occupation gone.

Now that Texas is attracting a little attention as a desirable place for British emigrants, the following account of the manner in which the "ranches" are stocked, and the management of the cattle, taken from the *Chicago Tribune*, may interest and amuse our readers:—"When the ranch is selected, a strong pen, or 'corral,' costing from 50 to 100 dols. (£10 8s. 4d. to £20 16s. 8d.); a house built of logs, at a cost of from 15 to 50 dollars (£3 2s. 6d. to £10 8s. 4d.); or a tent worth from 10 to 20 dollars (£2 10s. 8d. to £4 3s. 4d.); an outfit of cooking utensils, worth 7 dollars (£1 9s. 2d.); pallets or buffalo-ropes and blanket, worth from 5 to 15 dollars (£1 0s. 10d. to £3 2s. 6d.); and two or three Texas

ponies, averaging 25 dollars each (£5 4s. 2d.), to each man, complete the permanent investment. This will answer for a ranch numbering 1,000 head of stock, and two men—all that are required to attend the cattle. In stocking a ranch, it is usual to purchase as near as possible equal numbers of yearlings, two-year-olds, and cows with calves—the exception being, that the sharp, shrewd dealer will invest in the kind that he conceives to be the most profitable at the time, and that which will be the most likely to yield the quickest return. Where the owner of a ranch places his stock in charge of another person, called a herdsman, the fourth of the increase, or every fourth calf, becomes the property of the herdsman for his compensation in caring for, watching over, and attending the cattle. This small division of the profits is the entire expense of the owner. The herdsman pays all other expenditures, including salt, branding, herding, gathering, and help. The helps, or 'cow-boys' as they are more familiarly termed, receive from 15 to 25 dollars (£3 2s. 6d. to £5 4s. 2d.) per month, and board, according to their dexterity and ability in handling cattle. There is no class of people in the world who take more pride in their calling than these same cow-boys. To ride a broncho and run cattle is their height of enjoyment. Most of them were born and bred in a bovine atmosphere; and anything outside of a beef-camp to them is nothing. From the cow-boy's stand-point they have but one superior; this supreme being is a cow-man, or the owner of a bunch of cattle. To attain this exalted position is their one aim of life. Next to being deemed first-class in their calling is to pass as 'a bad crowd'—to have the reputation of fearing nothing, nothing that navigates on two legs. Beeves, and even cows, act upon some known principle and are governed by some law of nature; so an experienced cow-boy can to some extent anticipate their movements, and stir himself, or rather his horse, accordingly. But as to calves one might with just the same confidence predict the point at which a flea on the spring will alight, as the direction a calf will take when on the run. I have over and over again seen them leave their mother's side and take across the plain, without the slightest provocation. Then, of course, it is necessary to bring them back; and it is really amusing when this task falls to the lot of a 'long-horn.' Of course the rounding-in of a full-grown animal is a labour of love with a cow-boy, but the bringing back of an errant calf is anything else. Away goes the calf, with the cow-boy at its heels. Of course the little creature is soon overtaken, and, after a countless number of turns and dodges, is headed in the right direction. Now the cow-boy will teach Mr. Calf not to try this again; so he runs it for dear life in the direction of the herd. Here they come at full speed, till the refractory animal is within ten feet of its mother, when it is almost certain to double, and ere 'longhorn' can check the speed of his horse, the calf is at least 200 yards on the back track. Now, it hurts the accomplished cow-boy's pride to hear the balance of the outfit laughing at his defeat; so he uncoils his lasso from the horn of his saddle, and starts off again at full speed, determined to rope the calf and bring it in *volens volens*.

We learn from the pages of a contemporary that the French Minister of Agriculture has obtained from the Chambers a special credit of 30,000 francs, for the purpose of procuring fresh stock for the national *vaeherie* at Corbon. M. de Sainte Marie, honorary Director of Agriculture, has now received a commission to proceed to England to purchase there, with the grant, some pure-bred Shorthorn bulls. It will be remembered that to M. de Sainte-Marie was entrusted the first purchase of Shorthorn stock from England for the Pin *vaeherie*, the introduction of which has done much to improve the French breeds.

"Colour in Shorthorns" is made the subject of an excellent letter to the October number of the *National Live Stock Journal* (Chicago), signed "G. F. M.," presumably by Professor Morrow, and the very practical suggestions made therein cannot fail to be of interest to our readers. We therefore give it in full as follows:—"I have considered the prevalence of the fashion in favour of the solid red colour in Shorthorns in this country as a matter of comparative indifference—a thing to be regretted, perhaps, but of no great consequence. Since I have seen the Shorthorns of Great Britain, I must conclude that this fashion or 'mania' has really been decidedly injurious. I do not know why it is so—do not see why the colour of the hair should affect other qualities; but it certainly is true that, in a majority of cases, under my observation, the red Shorthorns not only have a shorter, harsher, often thinner coat of hair, but that they are not such good handlers as the roans, for instance. I had found this true in quite a number of cases in America; but have been much more impressed with the fact recently. The great mass of British Shorthorns are roans, these often quite light roans; next to the roans, I believe the whites would come; then red and white, with the reds last. I have taken the trouble to notice the catalogues of the Kilburn and the Perth shows, and find that, of 76 bulls entered at Kilburn, 49 were roans, 14 white, 10 red and white, and 3 red; of 90 cows and heifers, 66 were roan, 11 red and white, 8 white, and 5 red. For the Perth Show 47 bulls were entered, of which 31 were roan, 9 white, 3 red and white, and 3 red; of 43 females, 29 were roan, 6 red and white, 6 red, and 4 white. Thus of a total of 256 Shorthorns, thought fit for entry at the two leading fairs of the kingdom, 175 were roans, and 20 were reds. Some of the reds were, perhaps, as good as those of any other colour; but the same must be said of the whites—a colour peculiarly objectionable in the United States. I do not remember to have seen a solid red bull in use in any of the herds I visited. At Wetherby, Col. Guter is using a roan Duke bull—a younger Duke is nearly all red. Lord Fitzhardinge has one roan and one red and white. At the famous Warlabay Booth herd a roan bull is in use; and a pure white bull was shown me. In each herd I found a considerable number of white cows and heifers, and frequently they were among the very best. Now, where red was so obviously not the natural prevailing colour of a breed, the effort to make it so to the extent that we now find it to be among many United States herds, could only have been successful by making colour one of the most important, if not decidedly the most important, point in selecting breeding animals. Inevitably other and more important qualities must have been, to some extent, sacrificed in many cases. Adding any unimportant characteristic to the number which must be bred for in any breed is a misfortune. No one will claim that red Shorthorns are better than those of other colours; hence, at the very best that can be said for the fashion, it has added an unnecessary point to those for which breeders must work. It is not easy to change such a fashion as this. A leading American breeder once publicly stated that he had sold red bulls at three times the price at which he would have sold other and equally good bulls, but of unfashionable colour. Breeders can hardly be asked to sacrifice profit; yet, if leading breeders would show and use bulls of other colours—as indeed some deserve credit for doing—I believe the general public could soon be educated so as to regard other and more substantial merits as worth more attention than the colour of the hair."

The tribe of pure-bred Shorthorns known as the Renick Red Roses is thus spoken of by a contemporary: "There is a tribe of cattle rapidly multiplied from one cow, and now so quickly increasing in number, that, as a

'fancy' tribe, it has over-met the demand, and is already in the hands of men who are not 'fanciers,' but practical breeders who can afford to pay a fairly high price for a really good animal. This power of increase is what all good tribes of Shorthorns really should have. If they do not multiply themselves out of fashion, they should be rejected for their inferior fecundity. Who would give a fancy price for wheat which could only produce something like grain for grain, however high the quality of the grain? There is one point, however, that must always have due prominence. If it be true, as we assume it to be, that the highest qualities of the Shorthorn are concentrated, so to speak, by in-and-in breeding, and that in-and-in breeding is opposed to liberal fecundity, must we not be prepared to sacrifice something of generative power for the sake of enhanced excellence? It may be so, but only to a limited extent. We must not suffer the reproductive powers to be impaired beyond recall. A family in-bred for the purpose of concentration may show declining fertility. This should serve as a warning. It is Nature's cry of 'Hold, enough!' Disregarded, Nature will have her revenge, if not, as is probable, in extinction or personal degeneracy of the family, at least by imposing upon that family the inheritance of diminished fecundity, a characteristic transmissible, as readily as superior personal merit, to indirect descendants. Thus the failing, having its origin in one family, may spread to other families far and wide." With the tenour of the extract given above we entirely agree, and should be glad to see all the really good tribes of pure-bred Shorthorns multiply themselves out of fashion, and fall into the hands of practical breeders who can afford to pay a fairly high price for a really good animal.

The following averages have been made at recent sales of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle. Mr. A. J. Campbell's herd at Ballynahoun, County Cork, by Mr. John Thornton on October 7: 23 cows and heifers, £24 5s. 3d.; 9 bulls, £16 9s. 8d.; and 4 bulls from Mr. Downing's herd at Ashfield, £46 14s. 6d. Mr. R. Wilstead's seventeenth annual draft sale at Ballawater, Cork, by Mr. John Thornton, on October 8: 40 bulls, £30 16s.; and 6 heifers, £28 18s. Messrs. Dudding's herd at Pantone, by Mr. John Thornton, on October 15: 35 animals, male and female, all ages, £23 1s. 4d. Mr. J. M. Frudd's herd, at Bloxholm Moor, with and without pedigree, by Mr. John Thornton, on October 16: 47 animals, male and female, all ages, £21 9s. 2d. It is stated that "the difference in value between the pedigree animals and the 'Lincolnshire red' cattle, without or with only partial recorded descent, was not sufficiently great to make a separate average necessary." Mr. Allen's herd, and Mr. Lyon's herd, at Knightley Hall, by Messrs. Lythall and Mansell, on October 16: Mr. Allen's herd, £51 1s. 7d., Mr. Lyon's herd, £31 15s. 9d.

Mr. S. P. Foster, Killhow, Carlisle, has lost his Shorthorn cow Grand Duchess of Oxford 18th, from an affection of the heart. Lord Bective bought her as a yearling at Inolker for 1,000 guineas, and Mr. Foster gave 2,000 guineas for her two years ago. She has left two bulls at Killhow.

The influence of a good bull on a herd of common cows was exemplified at the late Iowa State Show, in which a "grade" Shorthorn steer had placed on him the following placard:—"I am Dan Webster! My mother is a scrub, my father is a thoroughbred. I weigh 1,200 lb., and am a yearling. I was brought up on skim-milk. I am worth 4 cents per pound. I am here to show what any farmer can raise by giving his cows good, well-bred companions. For these go to master."

The extent to which diseased pigs are to be found in the Chicago markets may be gathered from the following extract from the *Chicago Tribune* of September 28:—"There was another condemnation of diseased meat at the Stock-Yards yesterday. Forty-six hogs were condemned, all of which were believed to have the cholera. Besides their diseased condition they were emaciated, and entirely unfit for the market. A leg, ear, and the lining of the fat of one of the animals were brought to the Health Department during the day, and were found congested, and Dr. De Wolf was satisfied that cholera had induced it. It appears that the Stock Yards are infested by what are known as 'scalpers,' and they buy up diseased hogs because they can buy them cheap, and take them to slaughter-houses and have them dressed for the market. It is believed that a very small proportion of the diseased animals are detected, however, consequently it is impossible to estimate the proportion of diseased pork being sold every day. The Health officers are doing all they can, but the only consolation pork-eaters have under the circumstances is that the condemnations now are not near as great as they were a year ago. The evil can only be remedied by the condemnation of the unscrupulous 'scalpers,' and the sooner the work is commenced the better. In the meantime it will be the part of wisdom on the part of meat consumers to discard pork from their tables." Some consolation to British consumers of American "hog products" may be derived from the statement that their diseased animals are lean and emaciated, for in that case the flesh will not be likely to come to our markets. Nevertheless, there is still the statement that many of these diseased animals—presumably such as are not lean and emaciated—escape detection, and we shall doubtless have their flesh in our markets. This is not by any means a comforting thought, for American bacon is constantly sold to the British public as home-cured. We must confess, however, that we have at the present time a large and increasing amount of disease amongst our own swine; but there is less danger of it escaping detection here than there.

The bulletin No. 3 of the American Berkshire Association urges on American farmers the desirability of converting their maize into bacon before exporting it, on the ground that it would be a saving of freightage, and otherwise profitable. This reminds us of the saying attributed to a Scotch farmer, that he sent his oats to market in a "nowt's skin;" and no doubt the principle is a sound one on either side of the Atlantic. There is a large crop of maize this year in the United States, and we may reasonably expect increased "hog products" from the West.

The importation of Canadian horses to the United States has increased from 214 in 1876 to 6,632 in 1879.

M. de Molon has addressed to the French Academy of Sciences a communication respecting manures in which he says:—"Manures are only profitable on condition of their being dissolved in the soil, this process being effected by atmospheric agencies, and more especially by carbonic acid, which in the case of phosphates plays the part fulfilled by the acids employed in the manufacture of superphosphates. If then we can submit phosphate of lime to action, similar to that which it undergoes in the soil, but more active, it would be in a condition most favourable for assimilation by plants; mixed with farmyard manure previous to fermentation it meets this requirement, but the manure thus derived would not bear the cost of transport to any great distance. Marine plants, however, such as the sea-weed found on the coasts of Normandy, Brittany, Spain, Italy, and England, mixed with pulverised phosphate of lime, and allowed to ferment, will produce carbonic acid in sufficient quantities. The mix-

ture should be formed by successive layers in a shed or trench, the proportions varying according to the value of the phosphate employed and the amount of moisture contained in the sea-weed. Fermentation should be permitted to continue from six weeks to two months, according to the temperature of the season. If, after this lapse of time, the decomposition of the organic matter is not completed, the compost should be mingled afresh, whereby is produced a renewed fermentation, which causes the complete disappearance of the sea-weed. This manure contains, besides phosphate of lime, nitrogen, mineral salts, potash, soda, and magnesia."

M. Tirard in the course of his speech at the inauguration of the new canal in the department of the Drôme, toward the construction of which the French Government voted £116,000, made the following remarks:—"The consumption of animal food has increased in such proportions that it is indispensable, in response to its requirements that waste lands should be put under cultivation. Last year's imports amounted to 240 million head of cattle, of which 67 million came from Italy, and 56 million from Algeria, so that in spite of what is frequently asserted America does not figure very largely. These numbers show the insufficiency of the national production, since prices in place of diminishing are constantly on the increase. Frightened by this importation some well-meaning men would impose heavy dues on the entry of cattle with a view to encouraging cattle-rearing at home. But it would not be profitable to the country at large thus to make scarce a product of the first necessity. When home production increases, imports will diminish. Merchandise persistently seeks those markets where it is sure of being advantageously placed; and if required will not be checked by customs dues. Only the consumer must pay more, and therefore buys less. It is much preferable, then, to augment the means of production. Let the lands be irrigated and covered with herds, and the prosperity of the South will soon be secured."

A very bad report of the vintage comes from the district of Orleans, where, it is said that hardly one-tenth of an ordinary yield will be secured this year; and the prospect is being still further reduced by frosts. The quality will not even be middling.

The following description of the agricultural appearance of Southern Germany is taken from a letter by Mr. J. W. Gregory, LL.D., president of the Illinois University, to the *National Live Stock Journal* (Chicago):—"At half-past seven o'clock this morning (August 13), our train left Munich, and swept out into the great plain in the midst of which this beautiful city stands. The wheat harvest was all finished some days before, and the reapers were busy in the fields of oats, which for many miles seemed to occupy most of the ground. Not a fence was in sight to occupy a single foot of soil; and the unfenced breadths would have given the impression of magnificent farms, had not the innumerable small fields, distinguishable by the different crops and colors, and by the corner stones, told us that we were in the region of small farming. Throughout Southern Germany the land is so minutely parcelled out that the farms are often scarcely larger than our gardens; and in the summer-time the country looks like an immense piece of patchwork. Small farms, of course, allow no use of our larger agricultural machinery, and this morning no sight or sound of the reaping machine greeted eye or ear. In the oat fields only the scythe, the cradle, and the sickle were seen. The frequent groups of labourers were composed of old or middle-aged men, women, and sometimes children; the young men of the country being gathered by thousands in the great casernes of the cities, dressed in their smart

uniforms, and using their strength only in the daily drill. . . . . What a terrible tax do these rulers of Europe inflict upon the social and industrial progress of their several countries by compelling the entire body of their young men to spend from two to six years in the army and its camps. The same time, and half the money, spent in their education in high schools, and in the training of a sufficient number of officers, would give them at need a more efficient military force, and would leave the social and industrial relations of the people undisturbed. . . . After crossing the Danube, we were soon after making our way up the long slopes of the Saxon mountain region. The small farms continued, showing everywhere the same high, garden-like cultivation, and the same wealth of products. The higher level and higher latitude brought us back the wheat harvesting, and showed the oats in a green state. Potato fields also became more abundant. . . . Most of the draught animals observed were oxen or cows. The ox is often used single, and, in one case to-day, I saw a woman ploughing with a single cow harnessed to the plough. Throughout Italy and Southern Germany oxen are not yoked as with us, but draw by means of a bar or a broad strap across the forehead, fastened to the horns. The horses seem to be kept chiefly for the roads, and for use in the cities, though one may occasionally see horses with wagons in the fields drawing in the grain—possibly hired from the neighbouring city for this special purpose." The journey was from Munich to Dresden, and the whole letter is full of interesting remarks from a highly educated and careful observer.

The Michigan Agricultural Society held their tenth annual exhibition during the week beginning September 15, at Detroit, on the western banks of Lake Erie—50 years ago a village with less than 2,000 inhabitants, now a thriving city of 125,000. The *Times* correspondent in reporting the show, observes:—"The live stock, although this year perhaps unwisely restricted to exhibitors living within the State, comprises 500 entries of horses, as many of cattle, 700 sheep, 200 pigs, and a good many pens of poultry—Cochins and Bramahs appearing most numerous but none shown either here or in market in the plump, good condition which characterizes superior English poultry. Horses are classified under nine divisions, as thoroughbreds, horses of all work, roadsters, gentlemen's driving horses, to road wagon, draught horses, carriage and buggy horses, breeder's premiums for roadster and thoroughbred stallions, breeder's premiums for mares and geldings, and sweepstakes for stallions, with six of his own get which brought forward half a dozen competitors. These classes are subdivided as to age and sex; £600 is offered in premiums. Several indifferent heavy draught animals are shown—a description of horses which in America stands in great need of being improved in style and shape, and which may probably be much amended by crossing with such useful, active Percherons, as the five year old shown by Mr. Hiram Walker, of Detroit, winner of 27 first prizes and a Paris gold medal, and just arrived in this country along with two gray and a black mare of the same breed. At present, in Detroit and other towns, the railway, coalmasters, and manufacturers usually employ horses of the stamp seen in London omnibuses, and demur to the economy of the slower, heavier-limbed sorts. Thoroughbred and roadster stallions were more numerous, and fully as good a muster as at an English county show.

In Michigan, as well as in the neighbouring State of Ohio, there are a considerable number of Shorthorn herds. Mr. Curtis, of Hillsdale county, and Messrs. Avory and Murphy, of port Huron, two of the oldest and most successful breeders, are not this year represented, but will doubtless again compete when the lists are open to all comers. Mr. Brooks, of Brighton, Livingston county,

has descendants of some of the Shorthorns which his father, upwards of 30 years ago, selected from Mr. Tanqueray's. For himself and the State society 25 animals were selected in England, and several, unfortunately, died on the passage; some of the remainder were unfortunate. To make some restitution Mr. Tanqueray subsequently sent Mr. Brooks a young bull and two Gwynne heifers. Good bulls, bred in Kentucky, usually by the late Judge Renick and Mr. Alexander, have kept up the successes of this early good beginning. Ten exhibitors of pedigree Shorthorns have each half a score entries, and some smaller herds contribute lesser numbers. There were 17 competitors for the prizes for the three-year-old bull. For the family group of a bull, cow, and three of her progeny, there were 11 competitors. The first premium and the third were awarded to Messrs. George and T. Phelps, Webster, Washtenaw county, who make also a sweep of many of the class prizes, and stand in for the first place with their four-year-old bull, Duke of Hillsdale, by Duke of Wicken, bred by Lord Penrhyn, at Wicken Park, Bucks, England. The second prize bull, Mazurka Duke II., has more size and grandeur than his successful competitor, and is after Mr. Alexander's 23rd Duke of Airdrie, a Bates tribe, much esteemed both in England and America. Such facts testify to the determination and zeal of American agriculturists to improve their cattle and emulate British stock-owners in producing profitable, early-matured animals. Without exception, the breeders of these pedigree Shorthorns are well satisfied with the business they are doing. There is a good and growing demand alike for young bulls and for heifers; fancy prices are not often got, but yearling bulls are readily sold at £25 to £40, and the pick bring more. These sires are distributed far and wide; some are carried hundreds of miles west; mated with the cattle of the district, they produce the so-called grades which, at the Michigan and other shows, and in the stock-yards, constitute an increasing proportion of really good cattle, and which in a moderately good herd, after two or three dips of the improved sort, are scarcely distinguishable from it. So great is the demand for good red or roan young bulls for the Western States that many graded animals with only two or three crosses are saved. One informant tells me that he could sell car-loads if he had them; that since he used good Shorthorn sires he has never had any trouble to dispose of his stock. He never takes them to market; the dealers hunt him up. He makes quite the top figure; has cash down and no credit; and is clearing out both bullocks and heifers fat at about two-and-a-half years old, the bullocks averaging 1,300lb. on the hoof, and worth 3 cents to 4 cents per pound. The best of these cattle will dress 56lb. to 58lb. to the 100lb. live weight.

Besides Shorthorns and Shorthorn grades, the Detroit meeting presents good specimens of Herefords, Holsteiners, and Channel Islanders. The pure Herefords, although not making much pretension to milk, are useful, thriving beasts, chiefly descended from English-bred animals, or those brought from breeders of repute in New York State, or from Mr. F. W. Stone Guelph, Ontario, long favourably known as an importer and breeder both of Shorthorns and Herefords. The Holstein and Channel Island stocks, although very well adapted for dairy purposes, do not grow big enough or lay on beef quickly and kindly, nor do they appear to mix satisfactorily with the indigenous sorts.

Sheep at the Michigan show, as elsewhere in the States, are not so good as the cattle. The housing of the flock throughout the severe winter in Canada and various of the northern States interferes with their well-doing. Nowhere in America is mutton in so much demand as beef; in most markets it is 2d. per pound lower. Sheep

hitherto have been cultivated almost exclusively for their wool. Merinos are greatly in excess of all other breeds. In Ohio, Michigan, and other States English sheep are, however, being tried, and at Detroit there are some good pens of Cotswolds, Leicesters, and Oxford Downs. As at home, the first crosses, produced by mating these improved sorts either with the indigenous breeds or with merinos, are particularly good; but it is difficult satisfactorily to proceed further.

Our Canadian Correspondent writes under date Oct. 10:—I understand that the secretary of the St. George's Society here has just made a representation to the Marquis of Lorne re the discreditable emigration work going on, which is filling the colony with distressed Englishmen, and is scandalous. Before I touch further on this matter I will speak of the delegate farmers now in Canada. They are completely under the charge and tutelage of the officials and interests, as may be seen by the following from the *Globe*:—

"J. R. Adamson has just returned from a three days' trip through the County of Kent with the delegates from the English tenant farmers—D. McCraney, M. P.P., to whose care they had been 'consigned' by the Ontario Government, having invited Mr. Adamson to assist him. The delegates expressed themselves as highly delighted with the country, and with their reception by the people. They are to-day the guests of the Hon. George Brown at Bow Park, after which they intend visiting the counties of Oxford, Waterloo, Perth, Huron, and Bruce."

The delegates may, or may not, be highly delighted, but certainly I've never known more glorious fall weather, and what with everything provided, every want anticipated, crack hotels, official and M.P. pilotage, plenty of good cheer, and runs through the best counties, the pilgrims ought to be having a good time. It is matter for speculation whether anybody has told them aught is usually *en permanence* in the County of Kent, and other districts of the Western Ontario peninsula. But if they did not hear of that drawback they will feel it ere long, if they settle there. The prevalence of ague debarred me from settling there, years ago. Carefully, however, as the delegates have been dry-nursed, you will see, from two leading articles I enclose, things seem to be a little awry. The deputies do not find land so "cheap" as they had supposed. This was my own experience when I came out. A correspondent of your journal, "A. E. W." some time ago told you it was also his. That this should so often happen implies something amiss in the representations by which people are drawn hither. The *Mail*, having commented on the fact that young or middle-aged "gentlemen-farmers" from England do more or less rapidly go to the dogs as cultivators and individuals in Canada, endeavours to show that this indisputable fact need not deter the "real British farmer" from paying 80 dol. an acre, for "improved" properties, near railways and markets, and having good fences, outbuildings and other conveniences, because such ready-made establishments are not to be had for asking; and it tries to inflame the minds of the delegates by adding that if British farmers shell out largely for the real agricultural thing, they may possibly attain to a leading part in country affairs, and even become who-knows?—Members of the Provincial Legislature! The organ forgets to explain why if the farms now to be had are such desirable plums the present cultivators do not retain them in their own hands, seeing that the labour of more than half a life must have been expended on them. But some reflections on that point should, one assumes, impress themselves on the minds of the visitors, if they are of the right stamp. Supervision, etc., and escape all drudgery, is building on the quicksand

If this is the sort of doctrine the delegates are receiving from their cute mentors I am sincerely sorry for them. A word as to "part payments." Speculators here prefer to sell to English greenhorns for part cash. "Price 8,000 dols., only 2,500 dols. down, the rest in yearly instalments secured on mortgage," suits them very well. They can mentally calculate the time about which the "improved property" of the aspiring Britisher, who has undertaken to teach Canada how to farm "scientifically," will be under foreclosure. Here is a sweet paragraph from a letter in the *Montreal Gazette*, Sept 1, by Mr. White, M.P.:—"The magnificent lands held by the half-breeds in Manitoba will not be long in their possession. They will not sell, they are anxious to retain, but they are quite willing to mortgage at heavy interest. 'Of course,' said one of the money-lenders to me, with a knowing wink, 'the lands will soon be mine, it is the same as if they sold.'" Just so.

And now I will refer to the scandals in full blast in connection with labourers' and mechanics' emigration. Much do I regret that Mr. J. G. Holyoake, who has just passed through Canada *en route* for Chicago, had not time to stop, as the working-men desired, for they would soon have put him in possession of the facts. Indeed, I think some of the Ottawa working-men had opportunities to talk with him, for when Mr. Holyoake saw Sir John Macdonald, he insisted on more practical information than the officials supply. He wanted to learn the particular districts in which particular labour is needed, also the character and nationality of the labour emigrants would have to compete with, the state of the labour market, and the rate of the wages, with, above all, their purchasing value. Mr. Holyoake claims that the most convincing argument to the prospective emigrant is to show him that he can purchase more of the necessaries of life in Canada for 5 dols. than in England with its equivalent, a sovereign. Mr. Holyoake in these things hits the nail right on the head. Of course Sir John said he'd take every point "into consideration." But there is not the ghost of a chance of any result. It's one thing to say there is room for "any amount" of labour, quite another to specify where and at what business it is required. Emigration professionals love generalities and hate details, and if they did not they would find it a hard matter to show wherein 5 dols. in Canada would avail more than £1 in England. The expenses of living in the two countries are about equal. Some few things are cheaper here; rent, fuel, clothes, and nearly all small articles are higher. But opportunities of work are less in Canada, owing to the long and severe winter. If delegates would come in the winter instead of in the fall, they would find 50 per cent. of the working-men without employment. Moreover the working-man in Canada has nothing like the trade organization or political power he has in England. He is in a condition of complete vassalage, having more servile toil, less rational enjoyment, fewer privileges, and less influence than his *confreere* in Britain. The last steamer or two have brought out some 600 emigrants from Britain, just at the eve of our protracted and severe winter. What will become of them I cannot conjecture. It is monstrous that the Dominion Government should persist in keeping agents at work on your side, and in giving assisted passages. Read the following from the *St. Catherine's* (Ontario) *Journal*:—

On Thursday evening two men arrived here by the Great Western Railway, entirely destitute. They were provided with lodgings, and next morning with breakfast. They said that they were engine-drivers by trade, and had been assisted out to this country by the Government. Being consigned to Donaldson, in Toronto, he shipped them to St. Catharines, and, on arrival here, with-out a penny in their pockets, asked Mayor Carlisle for a pass to Buffalo. Here was a case in

which emigrants were brought out all the way from England at Government expense simply to swell the population of the United States—for that's what it amounted to in the end. Mayor Carlisle positively refused to give them a pass, and, if they went to the States, most likely they had to take "Shanks's mare" for it.

Matters must be getting very bad when such paragraphs appear in even Government organs, and when a St. George's official sends a protest to the Marquis of Lorne. The "Donaldson" referral to is the Ontario agent at Toronto. They keep the poor emigrant dupes in the sheds a few hours, and then pack them off right and left—anywhere, careless what becomes of them. Then they put a paragraph in the papers to the effect that "all the emigrants who arrived by the last steamer were provided for a few hours after their arrival," or else they phrase it—"were dispatched to various parts of the Province." The *Toronto Globe* remarks:—"Apparently for the purpose of benefitting the steamship owners assistance is being given, not only to agricultural emigrants, of whom we were likely to get all we wanted, but also 'to other persons intending to follow the occupation of farming.' These are the very terms of the advertisement issued in England. The door could hardly be opened wider, and, if the *Journal* thinks its warnings are likely to be attended to until Sir Hugh Allan is reconped for his Pacific Scandal expenditure, it will find itself a very disappointed organ."

I look on these proceedings as positively criminal. But it is no good asking the English press to expose the true state of affairs. They think more of their shipping advertisements than of their countrymen, and will not offend the agents. The Mayor of Ottawa, the legislative capital, has this year given 1,500 passes to poor people! The Hon. A. Mackenzie, M.P., speaking at Woodstock this week, referred to the fact that in the Maritime Provinces every vessel bound for American ports is carrying away our people—unable to make a living in their own country. The *Globe* of yesterday says 145 people, with seven car-loads of freight, left Ottawa and Brockville on Wednesday for Dacotah, U. S., while never before in the history of St. John and Halifax were people leaving in such numbers for American territory. In fact Dacotah is likely soon to be the most Canadian State of the Union. This is a fine illustration of Lord Beaconsfield's recent statements, of which, by the way, we have just got the full text. The *Montreal Herald* pronounces the speech "a little more awfully funny than the telegraphic summary." The statement that labourers in Canada get from 12s. to 16s. a day is amazing, as is the intimation that every "honest" applicant receives 160 acres of land in the N. West, and you can buy another 160 at 1 dol. an acre. He only gets 80 free, and can only buy 80 more at 2 dols. 50 cts. an acre in belts B & C, 2 dols. in belt D, and 1 dol. in belt E, the latter 60 to 110 miles from railways. In belt A there is no free land. It is all sold at 6 dols. an acre. As regards "honesty" and "character," the Government would sell to Asmodeus himself. In fact, to draw settlers out to make traffic for the railway so rashly undertaken, an Act has been passed, called "The Runaway Debtors Encouragement Act," exempting from seizure the property of people who can manage to get there. The *New York World* suggests that our Canadian Mephistophiles humbugged Earl Beaconsfield into "making himself ridiculous in the eyes of the people of two continents" because that statesman refused him a loan or guarantee. The Customs House returns show 350 families left Manitoba last year for Minnesota.

Terrible prairie fires have just caused very great and wide-spread destruction in Manitoba. This is a heavy calamity incidental to the treeless and brush and herbage-covered plains of the wilderness there.



249. The Stand Stud Company's (of Whitfield) "STAR OF THE EAST,"

Chestnut, 7 years old, bred by Mr. Cook, Thicketdale, Yorkshire; s. "Charley Merrylegs" d.g. "North Star."

Took 1st Prize.



## AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA.

Mr. F. Berwick writes from Carmel Valley, California in the *Times* :—

It is a fact that your correspondents who are contributing to the solution of the agricultural problem through the *Times* appear to regard as an axiom that agriculture in America is a lucrative business.

Having resided in California as a practical farmer for four years, I have had some insight into the business, and I can confidently assure English agriculturists that, at present prices of produce, farming is entirely unremunerative.

Rents are proportionately as high as in England. On the great plains one-third of the crop, sacked and delivered at warehouse, is an ordinary rental. Taxes are higher than in England. One and a half per cent. on capital, in any and every shape, is the yearly levy, in addition to enormously heavy direct taxes and road and poll taxes. Watches, guns, hens, sewing machines, pianos, and pigs all find their allotted place on the assessor's blanks.

Labourers still obtain excessively high wages—20 dols. to 25 dols. per month and board. This may appear as though California were still the working man's paradise. The fact is, like other high-priced commodities, as little labour as possible is employed, and the high wage for one month in six months to the State an abundance of "tramps" the greater of the year.

Then, if you in England suffer from floods, we are more grievously plagued by drought. Scarcely one season in four do we get sufficient rainfall to insure a general crop. On the great plain of the San Joaquin (one of our most extensive agricultural regions) there were large tracts where not 4 in. of rain fell the entire season. But  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. fell in this favoured spot of what is called the fog belt. Even when rain is abundant, as in 1878, there is danger of an almost entire failure of the wheat crop from rust, which in that year ate up a crop of unbounded promise.

To meet these contingencies and calls on the purse some few articles of produce now sell as follows, per cental from the hands: Barley, 45c. (including sack, which costs the farmer from 9c. to 12c.); beans, 70c.; butter, 16 dols.; hogs, 100c.; foot, 2 dols. 25c.; beef, "dressed"  $\frac{1}{4}$  dols.; wheat, 1.40c.

The majority of farmers in the southern portion of this State are virtually insolvent, and are "carried" from year to year by the storekeeper, who sends his agent to the harvest and stencils the sacks of grain with his brand as they come from the thrasher.

English farmers, hoping to escape from the ills they know emigrating, will find themselves environed here by others who dream not of.

## ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE.

The usual quarterly meeting of the General Purposes Committee was held in the Board Room of the College on Tuesday, October 14th.

On the motion of Sir James Tyler, seconded by Mr. Harpury, Paul Hunter was unanimously elected chairman of the Committee for the next year, and a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the late chairman, Mr. G. D. Whatman, for his highly efficient manner in which he had filled the position upwards of four years. The accountant read the quarterly statement of receipts and expenditure, after which the names of 7 new subscribers were submitted to the meeting and were elected. The Principal's quarterly report was read, in which it appeared that 30 freshmen had entered on their studies at the beginning of the present term, that the "Cheap Practice," instituted last spring, had been continued during the vacation with satisfactory results; also that during the past three months 197 horses, 12 dogs, and four lambs had been admitted into the Infirmary for treatment. It was further reported that several visits of inspection had been undertaken on behalf of the Royal Agricultural Society, in consequence of the existence of disease among cattle. Mr. E. L. Shave was, subject to the approval of the Governors of the College, appointed to the post of Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. E. L. Shave. It was ordered that a glass roof be erected over that portion of the College premises where the "Cheap Practice" is conducted, for the purpose of affording the necessary shelter.

A CIRCULAR SAW GUARD.—Circular saws are the cause of more accidents than thrashing machines, and while an Act of Parliament orders that guards shall be used with thrashing machines, nothing, until recently, has been done to render the use of circular saws free from danger. We are glad therefore, to see the announcement of an invention by Mr. J. B. Lakeman, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories. The guard is manufactured and sold by Messrs. Richard Garrett and Sons, of Leiston Works, Suffolk. As we have not yet had an opportunity of seeing this useful invention, we quote from our contemporary *Iron* a description of its claims to safety for those who work with it. "From a lengthened experience of the many severe and fatal accidents arising from circular saws, Mr. Lakeman frequently suggested a fence, but was too often told that his ideas were Utopian. But upon representing the case to Messrs. Richard Garrett and Sons, of the Leiston Works, Suffolk, they generously set to work to perfect Mr. Lakeman's ideas, and have thus produced an effectual guard against accidents from circular saws. If we look to the numerous saw mills in the east of London, we find saws at work from the largest to the smallest size; benches are fixed in confined spaces; operatives employed at full speed all day long. We know that untrained labour is often exposed to risks from unfenced machinery, and in no case is the risk greater than from these saws. A few of the causes of accidents may be cited. The flying of timber from under the saw (fatal results are known to have arisen from this); the recoiling of timber, whereby workers are struck in the bowels (fatal accidents have been caused hereby); a knot or extraneous substance hidden in the wood has flown out and cut sawyers' heads open; falling across blade of saw; slipping in sawdust, and in recovering one's balance the worker finds himself maimed as to his arm or hand; and, lastly, we have only to visit these places where many workers will testify to the dangers of their occupations, as evidenced by the loss of fingers, hands or arms. We have already observed that the guard is not patented, the invention being placed freely open to the world by Mr. Lakeman. The makers, Messrs Richard Garrett and Sons, say they are believers in free trade, and can supply the guards at such prices, to users of circular saws only, as would exclude their being made by others. The merits of the guard are as follows:—(a) No one can fall on the saw; (b) The sawdust is prevented from flying into the sawyer's face and eyes, a frequent source of danger; (c) The sawyer cannot reach with his hand over the blade of the saw (arms have been cut off by the catching of smock, or shirt, sleeves in the teeth of saws); (d) The wood is prevented from 'jumping' and striking the sawyer; (e) The end of the plates of the guard being extended beyond the radius of the saw, and horizontal to the bench, men cannot easily place their hands close to teeth of saw. Messrs. Garrett have written to Mr. Lakeman as follows:—'We certainly live in no fear of losing our sawyers now, since they plainly tell us they will never use an unprotected saw again; this is confirmatory and encouraging. It will doubtless prove highly gratifying to Mr. Lakeman—and, in fact, to all others who are solicitous for the welfare of the operatives whose lives are in their own hands—to find that his endeavours to meet a real necessity prove successful. The invention is ingenious, and the spirit in which it is placed before the public most praiseworthy.'

WEST SUFFOLK FARMERS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this association was held on October 22nd, at the Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmund's, the President (B. B. Hunter Rodwell, Esq., Q.C., M.P.) in the chair. The Consultation Committee, in their report, expressed their satisfaction in stating that during the past year there had been no necessity for action on the part of the association, and their hope that this state of things might continue. Mr. Henry Stanley having resigned the office of vice-chairman, on account of the pressure of his business engagements, Mr. W. Mansfield was appointed to that post, and a cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Stanley for his past services, which were especially valuable at the time the association was called into existence. The annual meeting of the East Anglian Farmers' Central Board of Consultation was held on the same day at Bury St. Edmund's, Mr. Hunter Rowell in the chair; the business was purely formal.

## POTATO CULTIVATION.

By SHIRLEY HIBBERD.

Potato cultivation has obtained considerable attention of late, and I note that many persons who write on the subject, miss the mark of thorough usefulness, owing to their limited experience. With your permission, I will endeavour to sum up in the fewest possible words, the conclusions arrived at after a practice of nearly thirty years in the cultivation of this useful root.

I will premise by saying that I have grown some hundreds of varieties on good and bad soils, and by methods so dissimilar as to constitute extreme tests of the merits of sorts as well as the relations of conditions to results.

The potato requires for its perfect development a dry, fertile, and mellow soil, free from large stones, and fully exposed to the light and the sun during all the daylight hours. The beautiful samples that are seen in winning collections at exhibitions are the produce, generally speaking, of soils that are of a clean pulverulent texture, and which, while they afford abundant nutriment to the plant, permit the tubers to expand equally in all directions, so that they attain their full size and natural shape quickly and without encountering obstructions that would mar their beauty. In a lumpy or strong soil the tubers are necessarily misshapen through the impediments to uniform expansion. In a pasty loam or stiff clay the resistance to expansion is equalized, and the uniform compression co-operating with excess of moisture in such soils produces tubers that have the consistence of putty, and to the educated palate are simply uneatable. Hence the self-same sort, however good initially, may be handsome and eatable when grown on a light, friable, warm, dry soil, but when taken from a stiff clay or badly worked loam, will be more or less deformed, and such as to be unfit for any respectable table so far as regards high quality.

The potato, though peculiar and capricious in constitution, is nevertheless a very accommodating plant. Hence it may be grown with some degree of success, depending of course on the nature of the season, on any kind of soil that will produce a mere blade of grass. I have many times lifted crops of fifteen to twenty tons per acre from low-lying undrained clay land, where in such seasons as 1860 or 1879, the sets would rot in the soil without starting, or at the very best would produce a crop that would not pay for lifting. I have seen excellent crops of smallish potatoes grown on dry mining "tips" in South Wales where the rubbish appeared too poor to produce the meanest weed. I have in this disastrous season, during the months of July and August, eaten the most delicious Ash-leaf Kidney potatoes grown in districts of Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Cumberland, where the rainfall averages from 60 to 100 inches, but where there is no lodgment of water in the soil, and no extremes of heat and cold occur to affect the health of this succulent and sensitive plant. Perfect drainage seems to be the very first requisite to success. From the moment the plant becomes waterlogged, it has received its death blow; but

given sufficient depth of soil, and full exposure to the daylight with free escape of every drop of moisture the plant does not require, and a fair crop commensurate with the conditions may be looked for in a season fairly favourable to vegetation. There is probably no plant in cultivation that can equal the potato in scraping money out of sheer sand, or shale, or starving chalk and limestone. It is hardier than is commonly supposed, as witness the esteem in which it is held in many high latitudes where cereals never or but rarely ripen. When all the circumstances favour the plant, it yields a greater gross weight of wholesome food than any other known plant of temperate regions.

In the selection of sorts the points of utmost importance are to secure relative immunity from disease and good table quality. Mere dead weight of crop is of far less consequence than comparative certainty and indisputable goodness. It must be confessed that many people prefer bad potatoes—that is to say, close textured waxy, watery things that have an earthy taste—and we must keep the bad sorts in cultivation to suit them. My own idea of a good sort includes in addition to healthiness and productiveness beauty of form and white flesh, of a dry meal texture and delicate nutty flavour. With the exception that the flesh is yellowish, the old Ash-leaf Kidney is in every respect the best potato known, but it is not sufficient because it cannot be kept so long as old potatoes are required, and it is not sufficiently productive. When well grown there is no sort that can surpass in quality Hooper's Covent Garden Perfection (alias King of the Kidnies). This should be planted in the best potato land in rows not less than three feet apart, and winter greens may be run in between to economise the inter-spaces. For general usefulness, as adapted to resist disease there is nothing to equal Sutton's *Magnus Bonum*, which should be planted in rows not less than four feet apart, and will pay better on strong land at five feet than at any less distance. These two sorts were first proved on my trial ground and Mr. Martin Sutton saw me lift stools of five to seven pounds in the first year of growing; and in the second year I had stools of nine pound after the chits were sorted out. I mention these weights to show that there is nothing lost by allowing ample space to sorts that are worth it. We may say, indeed, in such a case, that "distance lends enchantment to the view," for there is some enchantment in seeing handsome potatoes tumble out of the soil by tons instead of by ounces. In this disastrous season *Magnus Bonum* has justified its name in all parts of the country.

The following sorts are worthy of attention as in a considerable degree, disease-proof, and of excellent table quality:—Early Ashleaf, Early Vermont, Snowflake, Union, Pioneer, Schoolmaster, Forty-fold, Peerless, Devonshire Kidney, Birmingham Prizetaker, Porter's Excelsior, Red-skin Flourball, Climax, Late Rose. I could name about fifty more; but a few of the most trustworthy are, in this connection, of greater importance than a list of such as a potato fancier

would require. The merits of the Early Ashleaf are well-known, and where only one sort is grown for household use it should have the preference, because of its high quality and the small amount of space required for growing it.

A writer of high repute has said that seed selected from diseased stocks produce, clean crops in good seasons. It is perfectly true. I have grown many clean crops from foul seed, but I am bound to say that it is bad practice. The fact is, when the summer is thoroughly favourable to the plant, the fungus that often decimates it has no chance. The conditions that favour the higher kinds of vegetation are deadly to the fungi and other plant parasites. On the other hand, the conditions that favour lower organisms debilitate the plants they feed on and increase their unfitnes to battle with their enemies. Our business as cultivators is, not to invent risks and speculate on escaping them, but to adopt all possible precautions against failure. Like begets like; therefore sound seed of the best quality should be carefully saved, however great may be the temptation to trust to sets that are evidently tainted. Ripe whole tubers of middling size, say from four to six ounces, are to be preferred; these should be fully exposed to the light to render them green and hard and promote their keeping. When planting time is near the seed should be spread out in full daylight and be slightly sprinkled with water to promote sprouting, and when the sprouts are half an-inch long, and stout and firm, the planting should be proceeded with. Sets that have made long white sprouts in the dark are not to be desired; but they may be used if care is taken not to damage the white threads. Purchased seed that has been prepared for the market by rubbing off the sprouts will not give so good a crop as seed that sprouted but once and has not to make a second effort.

The potato fancier prepares his sets by cutting out all the eyes save one or two, and the results justify the trouble. But in farm culture this cannot be done, and it is not needful when sound smallish "ware" can be obtained for planting. The labourer often plants "chats," and large diseased tubers, and in this way he often ensures for himself poor results and helps to spread the disease through the land.

The best time for planting has been much debated. It would be a great gain if we could plant in autumn with advantage, because of the excessive pressure of work in the spring. But it is the exception rather than the rule for autumn-planted potatoes to turn out well. With a mild winter, a dry spring, and a complete escape from injury by late spring frosts, autumn-planted crops may prove satisfactory every way. But the best time to plant is from February to May, and, generally speaking, the very best time is the first half of March. The late sorts should be planted first, because they will not be in haste to push through into the keen east wind. Indeed the order of planting should be graduated inversely, beginning with the latest and ending with the earliest. In special cases, as a matter of course, the earliest must be planted earliest; but then

special means must be taken to protect them. We have a good lesson in respect of the necessity for sheltering early crops in the system followed in the sea coast lands of Lancashire, where Ashleaf Kidnies are superbly grown, and ridges of rushes and reeds are employed to break the force of the wind and screen off the frosts that are to be looked for up to the end of May. In one of my gardens, exposed to the full blast of the east wind across the valley of the Lea, I have warded off spring frosts by growing peas in lines alternately with about half-a-dozen rows of early potatoes. The peas are sown early, and staked as soon as they push through, and while they are themselves growing into money, they form a most effectual screen against those morning frosts of brief duration that so frequently destroy the hopes of the season at the very outset.

As to the manner of planting, it must be determined by the nature of the soil. On light dry land, the sets may be put into trenches six inches deep, but on heavy land they should not be put into trenches at all. They should be grown *above the level*, not below it. The land being well prepared the sets should be laid on the level and be covered with soil from between the rows. In due time the ridge thus formed should be added to by the process of moulding up until in the end the plant will stand high and dry to catch the sunshine, and the channels between the ridges will carry away surplus moisture. On this point, I wish to make an observation of very great importance. It is the custom everywhere—a most injurious custom—to mould up too much and too suddenly. I have found it possible, in an unfavourable season, to obliterate a crop by moulding up too soon and too high, and yet when the work was done it looked well to see the green shaws riding on the tops of high ridges. On the same land, the same season, I have had good crops that were not moulded at all, and that in many instances grew out of the ground and became green, so that a large proportion was fit for sale only. This proves the need of care as regards the moulding. But I approve of moulding, because the tubers are formed above the level of the original planting.

The time to harvest potatoes is as soon as ever there is a sufficient crop in the ground to pay fairly well for lifting. The risks are so many and so great that we must be excused if we appear to be always in a hurry in potato growing. Tubers fully grown, though as yet their skins may be tender and their tops green, may be lifted and stored with perfect safety. They will ripen perfectly in the store or clamp, and keep as long as those that remain in the ground until the shaws die down.

The question will arise, what should be done in respect of a crop in which the disease has suddenly made its appearance? The proposer's current under this head are beyond counting. To pull up and destroy the shaws is simply a waste of labour, because the process brings to a dead stop the growth of the tubers. I shall propose a simple course of procedure, the result of many experiments and observations. In the first place, ascertain, by lifting a few stools, the general

condition of the crop. If it is not seriously affected, and the weather is not particularly bad, leave it alone until the growth is completed, and then make the best of things by lifting and sorting, and get rid of all the diseased tubers as quickly as possible. They can be utilised for pig food, or for the manufacture of starch. But when the trial stools lifted are found to be seriously diseased, there are two courses open. If the diseased roots can be instantly disposed of, it will be well to lift and sort at once. If the diseased tubers cannot be instantly disposed of, it will be well to leave the crop untouched, so that the simple and rapid process of decay may result in separating the sheep from the goats. At the end of the story there will probably be a servicable bulk of ripe roots "as clean as a whistle." This truth must be borne in mind—that tubers slightly tainted quickly become black and worthless if exposed to the atmosphere. Hence the necessity for a hasty disposal of diseased potatoes; moreover while fresh they are a capital food for pigs.

As regards manure for potato land, it should be remembered that the plant is characterised in respect of its chemical constitution, by its large proportions of potash, sulphur, salt, and phosphorus. It follows that alkaline and phosphatic manures are particularly adapted to produce profitable results. On any and every kind of light soil that is well drained, farm-yard manure is invaluable. The Yorkshire plan of laying a coat of long dung in the trenches and putting the sets thereon, answers admirably, as may be seen by the Ashleaf potatoes that are sent from the West Riding to the London and other markets. On "muck" should never be employed, except for first early crops that are under special culture. In the field it is like poison, because it holds moisture, and gorges the plant with more nutriment than it can appropriate, except in a very dry season. It is better on strong land to plant potatoes without manure, in fields that were liberally manured for a corn or a fodder crop, to which the "noble tuber" forms a suitable rotation. On poor sandy soil, kainit and superphosphate of lime are the cheapest and most effective fertilizers. On clay land, a dressing of lime may often prove advantageous, and magnesian lime, which is generally objectionable, will answer the purpose, for the potatoes will soon take the magnesia out of it. In fact, so useful to the potato are alkaline salts, that many of the mineral waters that run to waste would be of incalculable service in dry hot seasons if they could be cheaply employed to irrigate potatoes.

I have said nothing about change of soil and change of seed, because there is no crop grown but is advantaged by occasional changes of soil and seed. It is the first condition of success in first-class rose-growing to be enabled to appropriate to the purpose from time to time plots of land on which roses were never grown before. I could cite many instances of potatoes yielding good crops on the same plots of land for twenty years in succession. But the world is not

governed by exceptions, and in potato growing, as in other matters, rules represent experience; and it is a safe and good rule to shift potatoes about instead of keeping them for any number of years on the same plots of land.

## REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE,

From *The Mark Lane Express* for the week ending

October 27.

Dull days attended by a moderate rainfall have marked the course of the past week, and considering that the year is now well advanced the temperature has been rather mild. Satisfactory progress has been made with field work, and, except in the latest districts, the remains of the long-outstanding crops have been for the most part carted in. As the land has never been herd this autumn, there has been no difficulty in ploughing up clover leys, and during the periods of dry weather some little progress has been made with sowing winter wheat and vetches. Owing to the persistent continuance of heavy rain until a comparatively recent period, the condition in which the later cereals have been gathered in has been deplorable, and the loss in consequence most disheartening to agriculturists. Very little of the wheat which has been stacked is yet fit to thrash, so that good seed corn continues scarce and dear. A fortnight's dry sunny weather just now would be a great boon, as the land is still very damp, and winter sowing promises to be a protracted affair. Roots have increased but little either in bulk or quality, and where mangel has been lifted the yield has resulted in disappointment, while swedes and turnips fall far short of average crops. The supplies of English wheat at the country markets have been on a slightly larger scale, and in some instances the samples have been in rather better condition, but as a rule the quality of the offerings indicates a natural desire on the part of the farmers to market inferior produce, which is cleared more easily and profitably during exciting times, such as the trade has recently chanced upon; whereas the finer qualities, where they exist, can be safely counted upon to realise the full market value whenever growers see fit to part with them. After a season of bitter disappointment with regard to yield, it must be some consolation to wheat growers to find the average price 10s. per qr. higher than it was last year. Foreign wheat continues to reach our shores in considerable quantities, Friday's list of imports showing an arrival of nearly 70,000 qrs., and with more disposition on the part of the holders to realise the rapid upward movement in prices appears to have been arrested. The turning point was reached at the close of last Monday's market, when the tendency was decidedly in favour of a reaction, and in some instances a slight reduction was necessary in order to effect sales. Now that the excitement has to a great extent abated, the position can be reviewed more calmly, and allowance made for the perturbation which has affected the minds of buyers. It must be remembered that at the close of the Turco-Russian war, political apprehension, which

had driven values up to an exorbitant point, was eliminated from those causes that affect the trade, and a long period of depression followed, during which prices slowly but steadily declined until the level of values became altogether abnormal both for wheat and maize. In such an unusual state of the market it needed but a slight stimulus to develop an unwonted activity in the opposite direction, and this was found in the large deficiency in the English crop. Once started, the advance from an abnormally low range of prices was necessarily a very rapid one, and the opportunity was too great for speculators to miss. The question, however, now arises as to what proportion of the 15s. per qr. rise which has taken place can be maintained when the speculative movement has ceased, and the more legitimate influences of supply and demand are once more paramount in the trade. Taking into consideration the enormous resources of America, and the fact that the present price of wheat in London is sufficient to attract, and has attracted, supplies from all the wheat exporting countries in the world, it appears most probable that a safe basis for future operations will be reached when values have receded 5s. to 6s. per qr. from the recent highest point. It would be too much to assert that prices must necessarily give way to this extent, as the trade closes in a very sensitive condition, and much will depend upon the action of America, but the opinion is nevertheless offered, albeit with diffidence, that a reduction such as we have indicated would bring values to a safer position. The sales of English wheat noted last week were 35,617 qrs., at 49s. 10d., against 50,434 qrs., at 39s. in the previous year. The London average for the week ending October 24th was 51s. 3d. on 606 qrs. The imports into the United Kingdom for the week ending October 18th were 1,384,766 cwt. of wheat, and 238,950 cwt. of flour. Last Monday's market was well attended by millers and country dealers, who, however, showed some hesitation in following the advance in prices, so that the excitement which culminated on the previous Friday was succeeded by a quieter tone. Opinion wavered a good deal as to the future course of the trade, the rapidity of the recent advance in values having given rise to some distrust, but, although speculators held aloof, wheat was in fair demand for consumption, the country millers operating with comparative freedom. English wheat was again in short supply the week's arrivals being only 1,728 qrs., but many of the samples were in better condition, and although buyers did not display much eagerness sales were effected without difficulty at an improvement of 2s. per qr. on the week. Of foreign the arrivals were liberal, in all 71,476 qrs., of which quantity 32,496 qrs. were from American Atlantic ports, and 17,497 qrs. from Russia. Germany furnished 9,635 qrs. and South Australia 5,716, the remainder of the supply consisting of Indian and Egyptian produce. A steady consumptive demand was experienced, chiefly for Russian and American sorts, at the currencies of the previous Friday, which indicated an improvement of 3s. per qr. on the week, but at the close of the market prices were occasionally slightly easier. The exports were 1,211 qrs., against 1,566 qrs. in the

preceding week. There were 1,707 qrs. of home-grown barley and 17,921 qrs. of foreign. Malting descriptions were firmly held, the best lots bringing 54s. to 56s. per qr., while grinding sorts met a steady demand, and sellers were enabled to establish an advance of 1s. to 1s. 6d. per qr. Maize, with imports of 19,227 qrs. and exports of 2,184 qrs. found buyers at 3s. per qr. more money than was obtainable on the previous Monday, owing to continued scarcity. The arrivals of oats exceeded 71,000 qrs., but a fair amount of activity prevailed in the trade at an all-round advance of 1s. 6d. per qr. on the week. On Wednesday there was a further arrival of 40 qrs. of English wheat and 63,890 qrs. of foreign. A decided pause occurred in the trade, but holders declined to lower their pretensions, and as there were very few buyers at market little business was done, prices of all articles remaining nominally unaltered. On Friday the supply had increased to 340 qrs. of English and 69,910 qrs. of foreign wheat. The attendance was scanty, and there were no buyers of wheat except at a decline of 2s. per qr. on Monday's prices, which holders were not disposed to submit to; consequently very little business was done. Maize was also slow, at 29s. per 480lb. for mixed American. The imports of flour into the United Kingdom for the week ending October 18th were 238,950 cwt., against 198,872 cwt. in the previous week. The receipts into London were 17,133 sacks of English, and 9,246 sacks and 1,794 barrels of foreign. Both sacks and barrels were 1s. to 2s. dearer at the beginning of the week, but with diminished activity in the wheat trade the advance has been maintained with difficulty. The week's arrivals of beans were 83,563 cwt. and of peas 41,291 cwt., showing an increase of 50,783 cwt. on the former, and 26,527 cwt. on the latter. Both articles have met a fair inquiry, and last Monday's advance of 1s. to 2s. per qr. has not checked buyers. The week's deliveries of malt were 14,865 qrs. and the exports 688 qrs. Prices remain unchanged, and no alteration has taken place in this branch of the trade. A few new samples have appeared, but the quantity has hitherto been insufficient to fix quotations. Increased animation has prevailed in the seed trade, and in consequence of more speculative demand, together with some Continental inquiry, a rise of 5s. to 6s. per cwt. has taken place in the value of American red cloverseed. The limited stocks remaining in this country have been withdrawn from sale for the present. For winter tares the tendency has been against sellers, and the same may be said of alsike and trefoil. There were about 3,000 qrs. of new English white mustardseed at market on Monday, and some of the best lots were sold to the mustard makers at 13s. per bushel. The country markets are now beginning to be more liberally supplied with English wheat, and recent reports speak more favourably of the condition of the offerings. Following the excitement of the previous week, a quieter feeling has characterised provincial trade, with, if anything, an easier tendency in prices. At Liverpool, on Tuesday, the trade was in a very sensitive state owing to the daily fluctuations in America, and only a limited

inquiry was met for wheat at a decline of 1d. per cental on the currencies of the previous Friday. Flour and feeding stuffs were quiet, but fully as dear, and maize ruled dull at 1d. to 2d. per cental decline, notwithstanding the advice of smaller shipments from America. The week's imports included 59,000 qrs. of wheat and 18,000 qrs. of maize. At Newcastle the market has also been quieter for wheat, the abstention of buyers having somewhat weakened prices. Maize, however, has steadily supported late rates, with a good demand. At Leeds and Sheffield a slow trade has been experienced for both English and foreign wheat at barely previous quotations, and the inquiry has been quite of a retail nature. At Edinburgh, on Wednesday there was a good supply of grain from the farmers, and wheat sold readily at an advance of 2s. per qr., but there was no alteration in barley. Millers raised the price of flour 6d. per sack, and oats and beans were 6d. to 1s. per qr. dearer. At Leith the weather has been favourable for agricultural operations, and good progress has been made with harvesting in the higher districts. The arrivals have been moderate of all articles except flour, of which the supply has been liberal, and the trade has ruled firm for native and foreign wheat at an advance of 2s. per qr. Flour has also risen 1s. per sack, while barley, beans, and maize have found buyers at 1s. per qr. more money.

The following are the reports from Mark Lane during the past three weeks:—

Monday, October 13.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat, 1,683 qrs.; Foreign, 75,388 qrs.; Exports, 1,506 qrs.

The supply of English Wheat fresh up to market this morning was again very small, but the condition of the samples showed a slight improvement. Dry lots found buyers at an advance of 1s. per qr.; but inferior parcels were neglected. Of foreign the arrivals were large, and with a fair attendance of millers a steady consumptive demand was experienced at last Monday's prices for all except the choicest white descriptions which realised 1s. per qr. more money.

Country Flour, 13,247 sacks; foreign, 6,639 sacks and 760 barrels. Sacks were in moderate request at last week's full prices, and barrels found buyers at an advance of 6d. on the week.

English Barley, 1,129 qrs.; Scotch, 327 qrs.; foreign, 18,496 qrs. Malting descriptions were fully as dear, but grinding sorts ruled slow at about late rates.

English Oats, 1,027 qrs. Foreign, 99,505 qrs. Exports, 13 qrs. Although not notably cheaper, the tendency of prices was in buyers' favour, as the continued excessive arrivals from abroad have somewhat weakened sellers' view.

English Beans, 1,123 qrs. Foreign, 275 qrs. There was not much business done, but values underwent no depreciation.

Linseed, 7,095 qrs. Exports, 983 qrs. Scarce, and the turn in sellers' favour.

Malt: English, 14,497 qrs.; Scotch, 1,050 qrs.; Exports, 1,678 qrs. A quiet but steady business was done at unaltered currencies.

Maize, 8 qrs.; Exports, 184 qrs. Sound corn on spot being still very scarce, holders were enabled to establish an advance of 6d. per qr., with a good inquiry.

Monday, October 20.

The arrivals during the past week have been:—English Wheat 1,728 qrs., foreign 71,476 qrs., exports 1,211 qrs. There was again a small supply of English Wheat at market this morning, and fine lots sold slowly at an advance of 2s. per qr., but it was difficult to obtain bids for inferior parcels. Of foreign the arrivals were large and a quieter tone prevailed after the excitement of last week. A moderate retail demand was experienced, principally for American varieties, at 3s. per qr. over last Monday's currencies.

Country Flour, 17,133 sacks; foreign, 9,246 sacks and 1,794 barrels. Both sacks and barrels were in moderate request at an advance of 2s. on the week. The top price of town made, was raised 3s. per sack at the close of last Monday's market, the present quotation being 50s.

English Barley, 687 qrs.; Scotch, 1,020 qrs.; foreign, 17,921 qrs. The trade was not very animated, but sellers succeeded in establishing an advance of 1s. to 1s. 6d. per qr. on both malting and grinding descriptions.

Malt, English, 13,594 qrs.; Scotch, 971 qrs.; Irish, 300 qrs. Exports, 688 qrs. A quiet but steady demand at last week's prices. There were a few samples of new shown this morning.

Maize, 19,227 qrs. Exports, 2,184 qrs. There has been considerable excitement in this article during the past week, and with continued scarcity of good corn on spot, prices have advanced 3s. per qr. since last Monday.

English Oats, 149 qrs.; Irish, 66 qrs.; foreign 71,707 qrs. Exports, 763 qrs. A fair amount of animal tion has prevailed in the trade, and a general improvement of 1s. 6d. per qr. has taken place.

English Beans, 610 qrs.; foreign, 10,008 qrs. Firm, and 1s. to 2s. per qr. dearer.

Linseed 2,238 qrs. Exports, 699 qrs. Still scarce and the turn against buyers.

Monday, October 27.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat 8,725 qrs.; foreign 79,126 qrs.; Exports 1,458 qrs. There was again a small supply of English Wheat at market this morning, and most of the samples were in very bad condition. In the few sales made, prices favoured buyers to the extent of 1s. to 2s. per qr. Of foreign the arrivals were large and the trade ruled dull at a decline of 2s. per qr. on the week.

Country Flour, 16,777 sacks; foreign, 14,189 sacks, and 3,880 brls. A weaker feeling prevailed, and with a lessened demand, prices gave way 6d. per barrel, and 1s. per sack.

English Barley, 2,183 qrs.; Scotch, 688 qrs.; foreign, 13,218 qrs. Fine malting sorts were in request, and fully 1s. per qr. dearer, but there was no change in the value of grinding qualities.

Malt: English, 8,277 qrs.; Scotch, 340 qrs.; Irish, 50 qrs.; Exports, 219 qrs. In moderate request at unaltered currencies. There was a slight increase in the number of samples of new on offer.

Maize, 3,045 qrs.; Exports, 2,025 qrs. There was a fair inquiry at a decline of 6d. per qr. on the week. Mixed American finding buyers at 28s. 6d. per 480 lbs. ex ship.

English Oats, 1,251 qrs.; Scotch, 100 qrs.; foreign, 61,733 qrs. Exports, 38 qrs. With liberal supplies, buyers showed little disposition to purchase, and holders had to submit to a slight reduction in order to effect sales.

English Beans, 739 qrs.; foreign, 2,978 qrs. In fair demand and fully as dear.

Linseed, 9,664 qrs. Exports, 1,142 qrs. Steady, at an advance of 2s. to 3s. per qr.

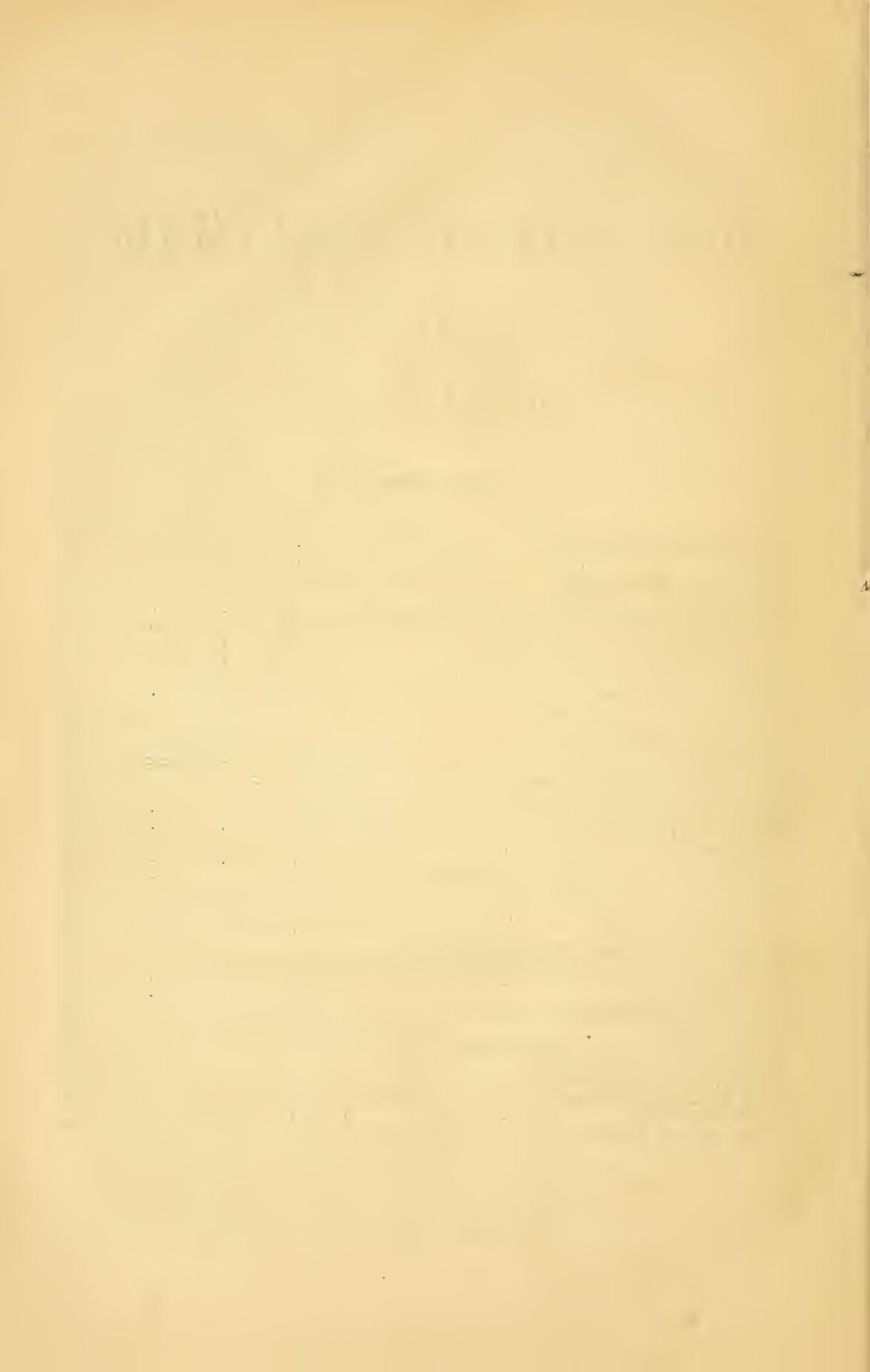
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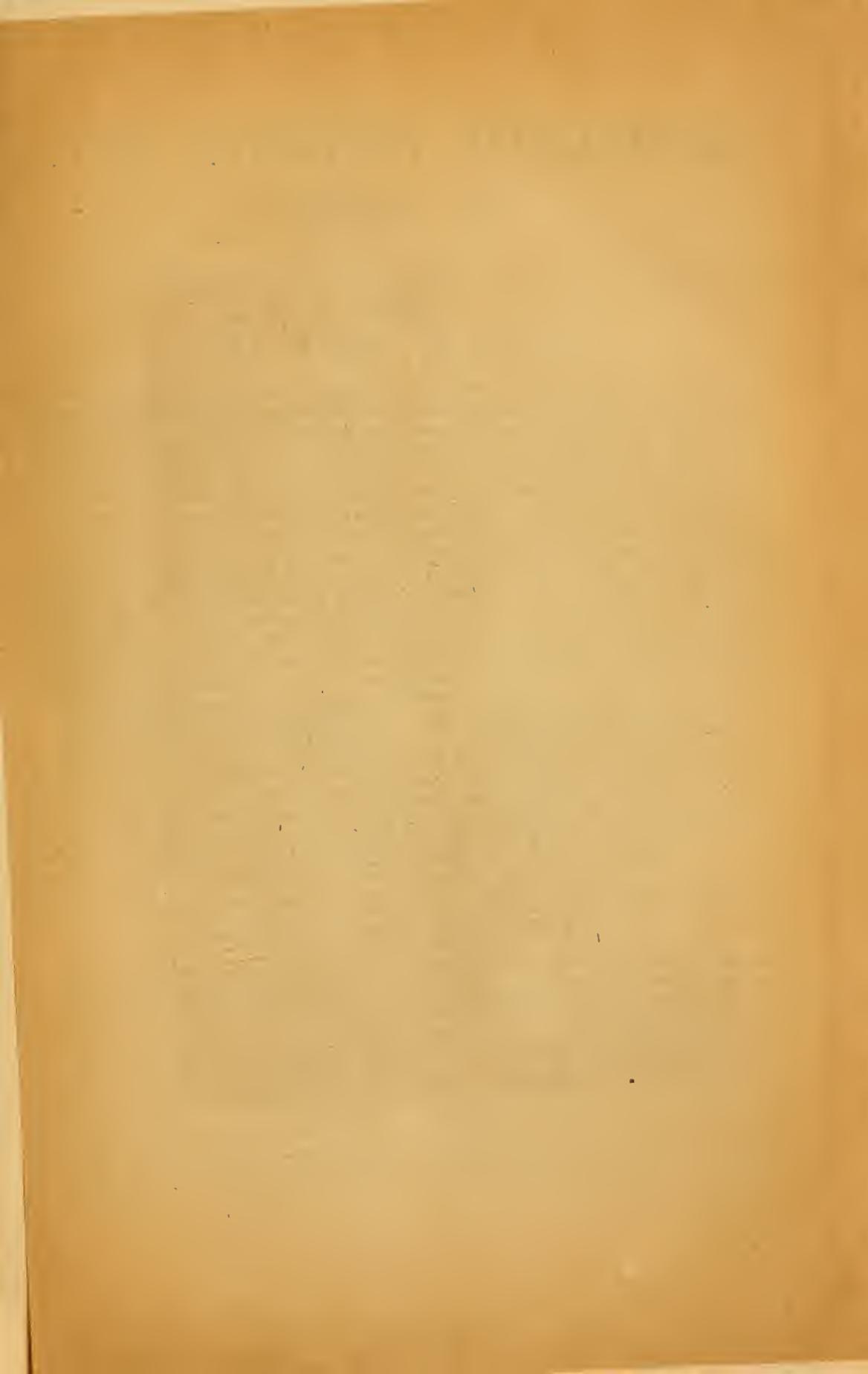






*The Deers Lemans.*

*Lanica Phoenicia by Rogersson & Turbott 17th Street, 1849*





# THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

DECEMBER, 1879.

## PLATE.

### THE DEER'S DOMAINS.

The Antlered Monarch looks on a domain the palace cannot boast of, where he and his subjects, like some Indians of old, lead a life so void of care and are so loving also, that they make use of all things they enjoy in common, and are therein so compassionate, that rather than one should starve through want they would starve all.

The principal forests of the Red Deer are Derrie Chutt and Derrie Moss, the former extending over a country fifty miles in length and thirty miles in breadth, and the latter thirty miles by twenty miles. Then Athol forest contains 51,708 acres, and Corribah 35,000 acres, &c.

But King Hart's tenure of his domain is as uncertain as all worldly things:—

“In stormy winds lowest trees are most sure,  
And houses safest which are not builded hye;  
Whereas, high buildings may no tempests endure  
Without the be founded sure and steadfastlie.”

The two dogs and the rifle belong to our old friend Jamie, whom the cap fits, a slytod, who can hunt wi' the hound and wi' the deer, and be Whig or Tory, saunt or dinner, as the wind stands. He is a despiser of breeches, and consequently in no fear of the gude wife usurping

his authority, but he is man for a' that, who would take the conceit out of many professed pedestrians over his native heathered hills and glens. He is as sure-footed as a mountain goat, in nerve as cool as a cucumber, with an eye of a hawk, and a hand as steady at that of William Tell's in his best day. See how he bounds along like a colt, then creeping on all fours as stealthily as a cat, and now full length, flat on the ground, progressing like a reptile—he brings the rifle to his shoulder—there is a flash—and before its sharp twang jars on the ear a bullet is billeted, and the King of the Forest, with convulsive spring and head thrown back, “falls, like pedants' periods, to the ground, very inammate, and ver round.”

“Better is povertie, though it be hard to bear,  
Than is a hye degree in jeopardie and feare.”

There he is civilised with a body guard lying in state, the ptarmigan an emblem, not of his having shown the white feather, but purity of life, for his subjects all agree that he was a monarch of the free, as temperate as could be, and killed by a fellow he did not see.

### THE CONDITION OF SCOTTISH TENANTS.

The letter addressed to the Secretary of the Farmers' Alliance, which we publish herewith, advocates what may fairly be termed a policy of pusillanimity on the part of tenant-farmers; while, at the same time, it is a very serious indictment of the landlords of Scotland. We cannot determine whether its statements are exaggerated or not; but we had hoped that such tyrannical persecution for opinion's sake, as is alleged by the writer to be still rife in Scotland, was rapidly becoming a thing of the past. We have recently been informed, indeed, that the tenants of a noble Duke in Scotland are expected by the sub-agent to remain un-bonneted while

speaking to him, even in the open air, and that some of them have been seen on their knees before this functionary; but we regarded this as an exceptional case. The writer of the letter we are commenting on, however, declares that Scotch tenants who take part in an agitation for the reform of unjust laws affecting agriculture are marked men, and are liable to be turned out of their farms at the expiration of their leases, after which they find it difficult to obtain other farms on reasonable terms. Some instances are given in the letter to show how tenants who have made themselves obnoxious by their political independence have been got rid of, and how, by political

subserviency, others have had things made pleasant for them. If these statements are not exaggerated, and if they are examples of common practices, as the writer intimates that they are, such a state of things is a disgrace to the landlords of Scotland. It is not easy to reconcile such allegations with the facts that every Scotch county member has been obliged to pledge himself to vote for the repeal of Hypothec, and nearly every one for the reform of the Game Laws. If Scottish farmers have so much power over their representatives—if they are so independent that no candidate has a chance of being elected if he does not bend to their strongest wishes—it is clear that any attempts that may be made to keep them in a state of political subserviency are not successful. Are we to assume that Scotch landlords first “stoop to conquer,” and then take their revenge in the manner described in the letter? Or is the riddle solved by supposing that only a few of the tenants of Scotland, men of independent means, make themselves prominent in asserting the demands of their class, while the rest quietly use the power of the suffrage? Under the ballot system this is quite possible; but Scottish farmers showed their political independence before the ballot was in use at Parliamentary elections. While, then, we do not for a moment doubt that the instances cited in the letter actually occurred, we cannot believe that political martyrdom is at all common in Scotland. Unfortunately, when cases do occur they become widely known, and scare many timid sou's. The danger of asserting a manly independence is immensely over-rated by tenants. As a rule, a man who shows that he will be a man in all senses of the word secures the respect of landlords as well as of other people. There will be sycophants as long as the world lasts, and they will get their reward. Men who prefer favours to justice go the best way to work when they truckle to the prejudices of those who have power to help them. But the man who relies on his own industry and ability for his livelihood, and who wants no charity, but only a fair field for the exercise of his energies, need fear no landlord in Scotland or elsewhere. We are only too painfully aware of the fact that thousands of tenants in England have never dared to call their political souls their own—if they ever had any. They have voted with their landlords as if their votes were a portion of the rents due for the use of the land they cultivated, and many instances are on record in which, when their landlord has “turned his coat,” their political garments have been also inside out immediately. But we had hoped that such a state of degradation was not at all generally to be attributed to Scotch tenants, and our opinion on that point is not shaken by the letter before us. In England, too, there are now signs to show that the farmers are more generally than heretofore asserting their right to political manhood, and we believe that at the coming election they will make their great political power felt as it has never been felt before. Surely there never was a more inappropriate time for urging a policy of pusillanimity.

In the letter we are referring to, the Farmers' Alliance is urged to take up the work of promoting the emigration of farmers. We hope it will do nothing of the kind. It is the business of the Alliance, not to tell farmers how they can run away to the best advantage, but to help them to secure a fair chance in this country. That there are better opportunities for becoming wealthy by farming in some of our Colonies or the United States than there are here we do not doubt, and a farmers' emigration society, if managed by disinterested men, would be very useful at a time of depression like the present. But the Farmers' Alliance has quite enough work on hand in attempting to obtain the reform of bad laws affecting agriculture, without meddling with a business so entirely different as that of looking after the interests of farmers who wish to emigrate. If we believed that such cases of persecution for opinion's sake as are detailed in the letter of the Haddingtonshire farmer were common, we should say that there is all the more reason for farmers to join the Alliance. If they are oppressed for political independence now, it is quite certain that by joining the Alliance in sufficient numbers they would crush all attempts at such oppression for the future. There can only be “marked men” when the champions of independence and reform are few and isolated. When a class determines to have its wrongs righted, and combines for that purpose, the marking process is no longer possible.

There is something so utterly ignominious in advising British farmers to run away rather than stand up like Britons for justice, that we are surprised to find any writer not ashamed to offer such advice. To recommend a man to emigrate because farming pays better elsewhere than here is one thing, and to advise him to emigrate because he cannot assert his political manhood in this country is quite another. The boasted liberty of Britons was not obtained by men who ran away rather than run a little risk in standing up for the rights of themselves and their fellow-countrymen. As we have already observed, too, timid councils were never so inopportune as now, when farms are going begging for tenants, and when the question of agricultural reform has become the leading question in home politics. It is not the time to give up a contest when victory is fairly in view.

The following letter has been received by the Secretary of the Farmers' Alliance from a well-known Haddingtonshire farmer:

Dear Sir,—It appears to me that it is desirable that the Alliance should add to its programme the subject of emigration to the United States of America. I observe that deputations have already been sent from different districts of England and Scotland to examine and report on New Zealand and Canada, and I think that an influential body like the Alliance could enter into correspondence with the Government of the United States and obtain from it much reliable information concerning their territories, and also send deputations to visit various parts of the Union. Of course a large sum of money would be required to do this, but I am inclined to think that would be got when the advantages of the scheme were once seen. I will feel obliged by your letting me know

if a motion to add emigration to the programme could be made at the Edinburgh meeting, or at the December meeting in London. I am perhaps a little out of order in alluding to the matter in a letter to you, but after 25 years' experience of practical farming in Lothian I have come to see that it is doubtful if it is either the duty or interest of a farmer wholly depending on agriculture and wishing to continue in the business to take any part in agitating for alteration in the existing land laws. I have always voted for the Liberal candidates, and indeed taken an active part in canvassing for them in opposition to the wishes of the owners of the land I farmed, and would have no hesitation in doing so again, if I conscientiously believed it to be my duty, but I am by no means sure that duty requires me to take any part in agitating for alterations in existing land laws. The fact is, that in a county like this (Haddington), the landowners almost to a man have a terrible hatred of tenants who agitate, whom they call Radicals, and hate also such institutions as Chambers of Agriculture and Alliances, and if a farmer joins such bodies, he is a marked man, and his career as an agriculturist is closed as soon as they can close it by all combining not to let land to him. Mr. Hope, of Fentonhous, was a well-known instance of this. Had he not been wealthy, and able to purchase land, he would have had great difficulty in getting land to farm. A friend of mine in Mid-Lothian has to leave his farm at Martintus, and I believe very much, if not entirely, because he voted against the owner of his farm who is rabidly opposed to change in the land laws. My friend had succeeded his father in the farm, and it had been held by him and his father for 38 years. He offered, even in these bad times, to give the old rent for another 10 years' lease. The rent had been screwed up to the utmost farthing he would pay nineteen years ago, and had been regularly paid, and my friend thought he was bold in such times to offer the old rent when many in Lothian are leaving their farms, and paying their creditors a composition. The proprietor's agents asked 4s. per acre advance. The farm had been kept up in condition to the end, and as the old tenant refused to give any advance, it was let to a man who votes with the proprietor, and who has taken two nephews as joint tenants, thus giving the proprietor, a keen politician, three votes on his side, and getting the old tenant, a Liberal, out of the county, and it may be, out of the country! The new tenant has got the farm on more favourable terms than those on which it was offered to the old tenant, from being a supporter of the landowner in his rabid opposition to change in the land laws. Some people say it never was intended to give the old tenant a new lease, but he was treated with only so far as to find out his valuation of the farm, and so let it to the new tenants at a full rent. This is all the advantage my friend has got for being a member of a Chamber of Agriculture and taking part in agitations for altering existing land laws. I have myself left two farms much in the same way, both of which were let to men who vote against change. There are many such cases in Lothian. Nor is this the only disadvantage. When a farm has been taken for 10 years at an extreme rent, the tenant who votes with his landlord will get a reduction of rent, while the tenant who has voted on the other side will be made to pay. I know many cases where tenants have got their rents reduced in this way, so that they are now paying 30s. to 40s. per acre less than they would have had to pay if they had voted in opposition to the wishes of the owners of their farms. Few people would believe how most landowners hate and persecute tenants who are "Radicals," as they call them. Now, suppose we tenants agitate and succeed in obtaining better terms for the hirers of land, the landowners will let it, not to us who have

done the work, but to our neighbours who have opposed us, but retained the good-will of the landowners. In these circumstances it seems folly to agitate for better terms to tenants or the sons of tenants who are opposed to us, but will get a great preference when we offer for the same farms.

No landowners can object to tenants trying to get land in another country, and it seems to me nothing would bring British statesmen to their senses so quickly as the fact that a body like the Alliance had actually opened correspondence with the United States Government, and that a large sum had been subscribed to promote emigration to the States. The Americans have corn, beef mutton, pork, &c., in large quantities to sell—but no article in such quantity as land—and of all qualities and climates. Why should we be fighting about terms for improving the exhausted lands of Britain, with the fresh and almost inexhaustible prairies of America open to us, and every day more accessible? Would Mr. Parnell not do better to try and take the Irish farmers to farms of their own, got on very favourable terms from the American Government, than to shed blood for the sake of poor land in a wretched place like Ireland? I am convinced the more this matter is considered, the more feasible will it appear. British Governments, Liberal and Conservative alike, have for years treated the cultivators of the soil, the real agriculturists, as a class, with great injustice. Their well-grounded complaints have not even been listened to. So much has this been the case that an Edinburgh paper reporting the annual Hypothec debate in the House of Commons said: "The Hypothec farce was again enacted last night." Governments surely have thought the Scotch farmers downright fools if they imagined we did not see that even those who voted for the abolition of the law which is at the root of all the mischief did so in most cases without any real concern that it should be abolished, and were only humbugging us.

When a servant has been long cruelly treated by a master, and his complaints are not listened to, he is surely wiser to seek another place than remain and be always complaining. So with the tenant farmer and the British Government. Let them go to America.

I hope you will excuse the length of this letter, but I feel perfectly indignant at the way in which the honest and industrious farmer has been treated. We are expected to compete with all the world, without a shade of protection; but, on the other hand, when a landowner evicts a tenant, and confiscates (to use Lord Derby's word) his improvements, British law protects him, and when an unprincipled landowner, as in a case I know, tries to ruin a tenant who has spent 15 years of his youth and all his capital on his land, by letting out a swarm of game, as it never had been on the estate before, British law again protects the spoliation of the tenant. When, as I have also known, the proprietor has increased the game during a lease to such an extent that even Lord Elibon said the tenant was certain to obtain redress by going to law, the spoiler was protected in this way, that the tenant found he was better to submit, because the landowner would take him to the House of Lords and ruin him with expenses even if he ultimately gained his case, the laws of Britain to which he must apply for redress having been well described by John Bright and Oliver Cromwell as "a tortuous and ungodly jumble," and most unworthy of a Christian country. How ridiculous in the eyes of any sensible man who knows the one-sided free trade under which British agriculture is carried on does it appear to appoint a Royal Commission and send men to the ends of the earth to see what is wrong. As sensible to feed a horse on grass and then set about inquiring why he lost the race when competing with a horse fed on the best oats and hay.

I would not have ventured to write such a long letter to you had I not read at least one article of yours in the *Fortnightly Review*, which showed me you took an interest in such matters, and made me think you would not object to know something of the state of matters in this district. I will only add that from what I hear there are very many in Scotland who must go somewhere else soon. It is said that in a great many cases the tenants must leave their holdings before taking another crop. It would surely be a great boon to them if they could know to what part of the world they could go where they would meet with at least fair play for their honest industry.

I am, Sir, &c., \* \* \*

THE SCOTCH HARVEST OF 1879.

Though the fine weather, which has prevailed since September, has done much to lessen the loss which stared the farmers in the face before that time, there is reason to fear that the harvest in Scotland this year will be greatly below an average. There are counties where this is not true, and in other parts of the country potatoes have turned out well, so that great deduction must be made from what may be called the general tone of complaint. Still, after making allowance for all this, the fact remains as we have stated it—the harvest has been anything but what could be desired.

In the principal grain-growing counties of the south, which may be taken as represented by the Lothians and Fife, the returns will be on by no means a uniform scale. In the Lothians, for example, the potato crop will be bad, Regents, which are the variety in favour in these districts, having failed on many farms to produce more than two seeds, and all the early sorts being so nearly a failure everywhere except on the dry, deep soils round Edinburgh and in the neighbourhood of Dunbar, that two tons will represent the average growth. In Fife, on the other hand, farmers, unlike their neighbours south of the Forth, who, after giving the variety anything but a testing trial last year, discarded it almost entirely, have within the last two years gone in more and more for the growth of Champions, remembering that the yield of this potato in 1877 was the only crop that was not wholly disappointing. This year, then, Fifeshire agriculturists are fortunate in having about one-half of their potato grounds covered with Champions; and as high prices are being obtained for the London markets, many farmers will, notwithstanding the comparatively small yield, realise a fair amount of profit; so that the money deficiency on the entire crop cannot be estimated at more than 20 per cent. The following calculations are given as being the best that can be obtained, but they are simply speculative, and inclined, we think, to err rather in overstating the loss than in the opposite direction. They can only be based upon information given by farmers themselves, and it is not intended as an accusation to say that they are likely to take the worst view of their own case:—

MID-LOTHIAN.

	Average per Acre.	Probable Deficiency in Value from 1878.	Total Acreage.	Total Deficiency.
Wheat.....	3 quarters	£2 10s.	5,000	£12,500
Barley.....	3 quarters	£3 10s.	12,000	£42,000
Potatos (mostly Regents) ...	{ Not half } { an aver. }	£10 0s.	7,300	£73,000
Turnips (taken as valued on the ground..)	Half a crop	£4 0s.	11,700	£46,800
Total probable deficiency .....				£174,300

	Probable Increase in Value.	Acres.	Total Increase.
Oats .....	6 quarters	£2 0s. 20,700	£41,400

Leaves deficiency of (on acreage under rotation of 134,219) ..... £132,900

FIFESHIRE.

	Average per Acre	Probable Deficiency from 1878.	Total Acreage.	Total Deficiency.
Wheat.....	3 quarters	£3 10s.	13,100	£45,850
Barley.....	3½ quarters	£3 0s.	31,900	£95,700
Potatos (large proportion in quantity but sound.)	{ Small crop } { in quantity } { but sound. }	£4 0s.	18,200	£72,800
Turnips .....	Half a crop	£4 0s.	28,100	£112,400

	Probable Increase in Value.	Total Increase.
Oats .....	6½ quarters	£326,750
	£1 10s. 38,100	£37,150

Leaves deficiency of (on acreage under cultivation of 245,696) ..... £269,600

The figures given for Mid-Lothian are for the most part applicable to East and West Lothian, though by one authority the returns in the former county have been estimated as being equal to a rent and a fifth, as compared with a loss of two thirds of the rental in 1872 and 1877—a result which is arrived at by placing wheat £4 10s., barley £4, oats £1 10s., beans £5 10s., and potatoes £12 below last year's value per acre, and by reckoning turriops at a third of a crop. Adhering, however, to the original estimate, the results obtained in these two counties are:—

EAST-LOTHIAN.

	Total Acreage.	Total Deficiency from 1878.
Wheat.....	7,900	£19,750
Barley.....	19,500	68,250
Potatoes.....	9,800	98,000
Turnips.....	14,800	59,200

Total deficiency ..... £235,200

	Acreage.	Total Increase.
Oats.....	15,700	£31,400

Leaves deficiency (on acreage under cultivation of 115,364) ..... £213,800

WEST-LOTHIAN.

	Acreage.	Total Deficiency.
Wheat.....	1,600	£4,000
Barley.....	5,300	18,550
Potatoes.....	2,500	25,000
Turnips.....	4,000	16,000

Deficiency ..... £63,550

	Acreage.	Increase.
Oats .....	10,000	£20,000

Leaves deficiency (on acreage under cultivation of 59,278) ..... £13,550

Turnips, though everywhere a very small crop, may pay proportionately better than they did last season, cattle having been bought in about £3 a-head cheaper than in the autumn markets of 1878. In Fife, cereals are, with the exception of oats, worse than in 1877; but the financial position of farmers, except where the early sorts of potatoes have been grown, may, owing to the prices realised for Champions, on which no artificial manure accounts have been incurred, be expected to be more satisfactory than in the former year. In connection with several localities in the districts in question, and notably with the east of Fife, it is a significant fact that some of the worst crops have been taken from the highest rented land.

Throughout the south-eastern counties, which are pretty accurately represented by Roxburghshire and Berwickshire, wheat and potatoes are not grown to any great extent, and there is most cause for disappointment in regard to barley and turnips. In Roxburghshire, for example, where there are 16,700 acres under the crop, barley cannot be estimated at more than three quarters per acre, in place of the average of four and a half quarters that should be obtained in a good year; while the second quality of grain, instead of being comparatively trifling in quantity, comprises about one-third of the yield. Last year, too, this cereal did not pay well, as it did not thrash out much more than three quarters. Oats, which occupy 33,200 acres, are on land in fair order, and in early districts a full average; but, on the other hand, on outlying farms, a large proportion were cut green, and where this was done both quantity and quality will of course be deficient. Then, again, turnips, to which 33,200 acres are given, will not yield more than from a third to half a crop. In Berwickshire, the same experiences are reported by farmers in the higher districts, and with this aggravation, that there, as in some other similar localities, it was so difficult to overtake the spring and early summer work, that a considerable proportion of the land intended for turnips was never "made," it being common enough to find about 20 acres lying fallow on a 500-acre farm from this cause. To the land in these counties, on which potatoes and wheat are grown, a similar estimate to that given with reference to the Lothians may be applied.

From the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcubright, and Wigton, the reports point to a decided improvement on 1877, though on the whole the proceeds realised will be short of what could have been wished. In these counties oats were bulkier in straw than usual, and are yielding, as a rule, a full average of grain both in number of bushels and weight. The produce of this cereal is, indeed, likely to be so satisfactory, that the increase in value as compared with the returns in 1877 will probably be £2 per acre. Of barley a fair average crop was also reaped, but in nearly every case the quantity of small corn that is being found is bringing the yield of dressed grain below an average; while in Wigtonshire the results are even more disappointing, as the number of bushels obtained is generally below an average, and the weight 3lb. deficient. Over the greater part of this country, however, the value of barley may be estimated at 25s. an acre higher than in 1877. On potatoes and turnips—wheat being of so little importance that it need not be taken account of, except in Wigtonshire, where it is not yet fit to be tested, but it is thought to be very deficient—there is, however, no improvement on 1877. Of turnips there is, as was also the case in 1877, little more than half a crop; and though prices of stock are lower than they were two years ago, the present value of this acreage cannot be said to be higher, while it is at least £2 10s. below an average season. In the Rhins district of Wigtonshire, the farmers who grow barley for the early markets realised well; but in the same locality the autumn lifting is producing barely half a crop; and throughout the three counties the produce will not be larger than in 1877, except where a few Champions have been grown, while prices are lower than they then were. As compared with an average year, the deficiency is equal to about £4 per acre. The general results of the season in these districts may therefore be stated thus, the calculations being taken with the same reservation as in the case of the Lothians:—

DUMFRIESHIRE.				
	Yield per Acre.	Increase in value from 1877.	Acres.	Total Increase from 1877
Oats.....	Full Average	£2 0s.	48,200	£96,400
Barley.....	Small Average	£1 5s.	1,317	1,483
Total Increase from 1877 .....				£97,883
Deficiency from average year				
Turnips.....	Half a crop	£2 10s.	20,200	£50,500
Potatoes .....	Half to two-thirds of crop	£4	4,900	19,600
Total deficiency as compared with average year on 229,263 acres under cultivation.....				£70,100
KIRKCUDBRIGHT.				
	Yield per Acre.	Increase from 1877.	Acres.	Total Increase.
Oats .....	Full Average	£2 0s.	31,000	£62,000
Barley .....	Fair Average	£1 5s.	709	961
Total Increase from 1877 .....				£62,961
Deficiency from average year.				
Turnips.....	Half a crop	£2 10s.	11,400	£36,000
Potatoes .....	Half to two-thirds of crop	£4	2,300	9,200
Total deficiency on 174,713 acres under cultivation .....				£45,200
WIGTONSHIRE.				
	Yield per Acre.	Increase from 1877.	Acres.	Total Increase.
Oats .....	Full Average	£2 0s.	31,500	£63,000
Barley .....	Small Average	£1 5s.	3,700	4,625
Total increase from 1877 .....				£67,625
Deficiency from average year.				
Turnips.....	Half a crop	£2 10s.	15,600	£39,000
Potatoes .....	Half to two-thirds of crop	£4	2,250	9,000
Total deficiency (exclusive of 2,740 acres of wheat) on 145,620 acres under cultivation .....				£48,000

Turning to Ayrshire, quite a different state of matters is found. On farms where much dependence is placed on wheat and barley, the financial returns will be far short of those realised from the fine crops of last year. Taken as a whole, indeed, the wheat crop over the county is the smallest that has been known since 1816. On a comparatively small extent of early sown land the produce is fair, and may run in some instances from 30 to 3½ bushels per acre, but, on the other hand, most of the spring sowings have given a miserable return, the yield of early sown fields being on some farms near Ayr four times greater than the late, while the grain in the latter case is only one-sixth of the value of the other. Notwithstanding that wheat is now nearly all grown on good land, barley having within the last twenty-five years taken the place of the spring sowings to a large extent, the aggregate yield this year will probably not exceed 20 bushels per acre, one-fourth of which may be reckoned as fit only for cattle feeding. The average of barley, again, cannot be estimated at more than 28 bushels of inferior quality; but, on the other hand, the value of the oat crop, which occupies 48,749 acres, as against 4,100 held by barley and 3,717 by wheat, taking straw and grain together, is nearly an average, being in the upland districts especially very much superior to the crop of 1877. Turnips, of which there are 8,168 acres, are as poor as they are elsewhere.

To estimate the general character of the harvest in the northern counties is perhaps even more difficult than in the south, as the conditions of situation and climate under which land is farmed within a county such as Perthshire

are exceptionally various. In the Carse of Gowrie for example, farmers depend greatly on their wheat crop; on the black land on the Braes of the Carse, potatoes are the crop expected to pay; and in the Highland glens it is, of course, principally oats that are grown. In the Carse, wheat will run between 2 and 4 quarters, with a money fall from last year of £2 per acre; barley from 3 to 5 quarters, with a money fall of £2 10s.; and oats will yield from 5 to 8 quarters, and realise returns very similar to those of last year. Throughout the whole county, as well as in Forfarshire, farmers are, in company with Fifeshire men, being greatly benefited by their sales of Champion potatoes, the profits on which will do much to counterbalance the shortcoming of the other crops, fields of this variety (growing alongside Regents which are bringing from £8 to £12) having in many cases been disposed of at from £25 to £35 per acre. Over the great part of the grain growing part of Perth, however, the season has been an extremely disappointing one in regard to the other produce of the farm, and the losses, which but for the potato crop, would have much exceeded those of 1872 and 1877, will, though not so great as in these seasons, be considerable, as is shown by the following estimate:—

		PERTHSHIRE.			
		Yield per Acre.	Deficiency in Money value from last year.	Acres.	Total Deficiency.
Wheat .....	2 quarters	£5		8,700	43,500
Barley .....	3 quarters	£4		24,900	99,600
Oats .....	5 quarters	£1 10s.		67,350	101,025
Turnips .....	} little more than } } half a crop }	£4		31,000	124,000

Total deficiency (excluding 19,294 acres of potatoes, which have left considerable surplus) on 343,369 acres under cultivation.....£368,125  
For the Brechin and Montrose districts of Forfarshire, and the Marykirk and Fettercairn districts of Kincardineshire, the estimate is that the yield of wheat will be 3 quarters, and from £1 5s. to £1 15s. per acre lower in value than last year; of barley, 3½ quarters, and £3 5s. lower in value; oats, 5½ quarters, and from 15s. to 20s. lower in value; and turnips, £3 10s. lower in value. In Forfarshire, generally, the returns may be better than in Perthshire; but in Kincardineshire, this is so far from being the case, that at present the probable loss is expected to be one-third greater than in 1872 or 1877, the deficiency on barley as well as on oats, where taken after turnips, being between £3 and £4 per acre, and on turnips £5, while potatoes have only given an average return in money. The other northern counties differ a good deal from one another, as is indicated by the following returns, which are, of course, as speculative as the rest:—

ABERDEENSHIRE.

		Yield per Acre	Deficiency from 1878.	Acres.	Tl. Deficiency from 1878.
Wheat.....	15 bushels deficient	£4 10s.	100		£450
Barley.....	not half a crop	£5	18,900		95,500
Oats.....	barely an average	£1	190,500		190,500
Turnips ...	third of a crop	£5	93,500		467,500

Total deficiency (potatoes being of average value) on 601,964 acres under cultivation .....£753,900

MORAYSHIRE.

		Yield per acre.	Deficiency in value from 1878.	Acres.	Tl. Deficiency from 1878.
Wheat .....	{ slightly under } { average. }	none—equal	2,300		—
Barley.....	3½ quarters	£3	13,450		£40,350
Oats.....	full average	none—equal	22,600		—
Turnips ...	half a crop	£5	16,350		81,750
Potatoes ...	3 to 4 tons	nearly equal	3,800		—

Total deficiency on 104,619 acres under cultivation £122,100

IVERNESS-SHIRE.

		Yield per Acre	Deficiency from 1878.	Acres.	Tl. Deficiency from 1878.
Barley.....	3½ quarters	£2 15s.	7,650		£21,537
Oats .....	nearly an average	10s.	30,400		15,200
Turnips ...	two-thirds of a crop	£3 10s.	11,000		38,500
Potatoes...	nearly an average	none	8,000		—

Total deficiency on 125,152 acres under cultivation £75,237

Of the results of the season in Banffshire, a very accurate indication is said to be given by the figures for Aberdeenshire. Nairn, on the other hand, is in a position similar to that of Morayshire; while in Ross and Cromarty the shortcoming may be estimated on the same scale as in Ivernessshire. The turnip crop in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire is perhaps a greater failure than in any other part of the country, though a number of farmers round Aberdeen are realising handsome prices for fields which they are at liberty to sell; and oats are also very disappointing. In the late districts of Aberdeenshire, indeed, the yield of oats will not greatly exceed one seeding to the land; and in Banffshire, where the barley crop is a little better, the high lying farms are producing even more meagrely than in the sister county, the oat crop on a farm on the property of Lord Fife, in Gleunnes, having been valued over to an incoming tenant as being worth in straw 20s. per acre, but of no value at all in respect of grain, and this holding being no worse harvested than many of those adjoining.

Arable farmers in Sutherland and Caithness will have at the close of the year much more satisfactory accounts than either their pastoral neighbours or the agriculturists of other counties. In both these districts, barley and oats, though 2lb. or 3lb. deficient in weight, will realise almost, if not quite, as well as in ordinary seasons, and had turnips been a little better, there would have been nothing to complain of. As it is, the latter crop is, notwithstanding the great progress it has made within the last seven or eight weeks, still a third less than an average.—*Scotsman.*

THE TENANT-FARMERS' CANDIDATE FOR EAST ESSEX.

In the course of an able and witty speech delivered at Colchester on October 15, Mr. CHARLES PAGE WOOD said:—It is time now for me to suggest to you some of the remedies which I think might be applied to the tenant farmers as a class, and which might possibly ameliorate their condition, and the remedies I am about to propose are such as I would support if I had an opportunity of doing so (Hear, hear). First of all, I think there should be an investigation into the operation of the laws affecting land tenure with a view to reform them; I think this is an important point (Hear, hear). I am decidedly in favour of an investigation into, and a re-adjustment of, local burdens (applause). I am of opinion that the Agricultural Holdings Act, which is good so far as it goes, should be made compulsory (Hear, hear). Giving that difficult question the Game Laws the fullest attention, I can only come to the conclusion—not altogether from my own experience, but from the sad and painful experience of others—that every form of protection of ground game should be abolished (Hear, hear). I am not prepared to go any further. I do not wish to trench in the smallest degree upon the right of the landlords to enjoy their own property (A voice: "How about netting?") Will you allow me to finish, and I shall be very glad to answer any questions? I think that the protection that has hitherto been thrown over ground game should be altogether abolished. Now, the repeal of the Malt Tax. I am a little bit inclined

to doubt whether the time will ever come when I can grow more than seven quarters per acre of barley, and get fifty shillings a quarter for it, and if I can see my way—and I hope I shall—to get a great deal more, I shall be very pleased to do it, and if the abolition of the malt tax is likely to do that, I am strongly for its abolition (laughter and applause). No one can doubt that its abolition is right in theory, and if it be repealed I hope we shall find it right in practice. Another point that I have to give in my adhesion to is that the ratepayers should have a voice in the administration of the county rates (Hear, hear). I don't think that this item is likely to meet with opposition. I must, so far as my limited experience goes, pay my tribute of approbation to the way in which the funds are now administered. I never heard any imputation upon the magistrates, but I am quite satisfied it would be more satisfactory to those who have to pay the money if they had some voice in the disposal of it (applause). I admit I have entered upon the contest with something like a feeling of reluctance, but I hope that I shall be able to carry it to a successful issue. I fear that I may make some enemies—(cries of "No, no")—which I shall very deeply grieve for, and it is almost impossible that I should not make mistakes, but I do not intend to follow the line which my more experienced friend Colonel Brise has sketched out. I do not intend to allow any personal question to come between me and the object I have in view (applause). I have only one more point to refer to, and that is the money question. It is no secret, I believe, that a great number of earnest men, anxious to see a tenant farmer in the House of Commons, intend to promote that as far as they can by a pecuniary grant in aid of my election. I am not in the least degree ashamed of this; I am very proud of it (applause). I think the gallant Colonel himself might be very proud if such a motion were set on foot in his favour (laughter). Although I am not a rich man, as far as money goes—and we know the times are had—I believe, in one respect, I may be said to be wealthy indeed. I believe that I am rich in what the Queen herself could not confer, and no House of Commons grant. I believe that I am rich in the good will and good opinion—and I think I may go farther and say that I think I am rich in the friendship of a number of warm hearts with whom I have spent all the years of my very happy life (enthusiastic applause).

Mr. J. S. GARDINER, having been invited by the Chairman to speak, said he intended, as a matter of course, to ask a few questions of their worthy candidate, and he should put the questions to that candidate in a direct way, and he had no doubt he would have received a direct answer, but to a certain extent Mr. Wood had taken the edge off these questions—(Hear, hear, and applause)—although he could not say that he was altogether satisfied with some of his reasoning. He would much rather take a direct answer from Mr. Wood on some of the questions he intended to put (Hear, hear). The question he wished to put, and to which he hoped Mr. Charles Page Wood would give him a straightforward answer, was a question he had put to the Conservative candidate, and it was whether Mr. Wood would vote in favour of the repeal of the Game Laws? It was not necessary for him (Mr. Gardiner) to prove to them that the Game Laws had brought more curses upon the country than any other law they had been subjected to. If they lost the Game Laws they simply got rid of an expensive machinery by which means their pockets had been touched in the shape of local taxation (Hear, hear). Therefore, in wishing to get rid of the Game Laws his object was not only to do away with those demoralising laws, but to ease the local taxation payments. The next question which he wished to put to

the candidate was this: Whether in the House of Commons he would vote for doing away with the Law of Distress? He (Mr. Gardiner) held that law to be one of the most iniquitous laws which they had been subjected to, and he saw no reason why the owner of the land should not share and share alike with any creditor in the case of bankruptcy (Hear, hear). The next question he wished to put was: Whether he would vote straight for compulsory compensation for unexhausted improvements -- (Hear, hear, and applause)—for the protection of their property invested in the soil, and for compulsory compensation for unexhausted improvements when they left the holdings (Hear, hear). Mr. Charles Page Wood did not give his perfect consent to that—he rather qualified it. The next question was: Whether he would support a reform and readjustment of their Local Taxation upon equitable principles, so that all kinds of property should be brought in to contribute towards local expenses incurred in this country? Many of the charges upon land, they knew, were of an imperial character, and he challenged anyone to prove to him that the maintenance of the paupers in their Union House the maintenance of their highways, and the maintenance of lunatics, and various other charges of an imperial character, were not charges which ought to be levied upon the national exchequer (applause).

Mr. C. P. WOOD: I am very proud indeed to answer. Some one in the crowd has very kindly suggested that as Mr. Gardiner asked me to give him a straightforward answer, it would be straightforward, and so it will. Mr. Gardiner has asked me, will I vote for the Repeal of the Game Laws? You recollect, I have referred to this. I have said that in my opinion there should be no form of protection whatever thrown over ground game. I am quite well aware that this opens up another question which is, as to how far we are bound by our laws to defray the expense of the prosecution of the scoundrels—(laughter) who take pheasants. My own opinion is that the man who would take pheasants would take fowls, and I consider that the owners of the covers in which these—I must not call them tame fowls—(laughter)—wild pheasants are concealed, are fairly entitled to protection, and I should be very unwilling indeed to take away any inducement there is to a landlord to live upon his property. I would abolish every form of protection that is now afforded by the law to ground game. There I stop. Mr. Gardiner has asked me respecting the Law of Distress, and this reminds me that Colonel Brise has referred to the Law of Distress. He says, with a laugh: How does the Law of Distress affect you now? But it is not a question as to how it affects us to-day. What has produced all this distress? Why a portion of it I trace undoubtedly to the Law of Distress. It seems to me that as long as landlord had the inducement that he would be first protected in case of danger, he had the temptation to take on to his property men who promised him a very large rent, but who could not fulfil their promises. I have not the remotest doubt that it is an act of simple justice that the Law of Distress should be abolished (applause). I don't know, gentlemen, that I could give any more straightforward answer (Hear, hear). Mr. Gardiner has asked me whether I am in favour of compulsory compensation for unexhausted improvements. I consider this one of the absolute rights of the tenant farmer (loud cheers). Gentlemen, I have a lease, I have sunk money in my farm, very largely, and too lavishly, and I should like to leave that property which is invested in the soil of the farm to my children, and, as such, I should wish for compensation for unexhausted improvements, and if I cannot get it in any other way, I would have it compulsorily. Now, as to the readjustment of local taxation. I thought I had pointed this

out, but if it is not sufficiently clear, I will repeat that I am in favour of any measure which will readjust the local burdens fairly between man and man (I hear, hear). I am quite well aware that my friend and legal adviser (Mr. Barnes) is here to keep me straight, or I might answer questions all night, but I suppose there must be a limit to it; but I have not the smallest atom of desire to go into the House of Commons under false pretences in any shape or way (loud cheers).

Mr. GARDINER said he must express his views as to the answers given by their worthy candidate. Two of the questions had been answered to his satisfaction; the other two questions he had qualified in a way which he could not altogether approve of. He hoped that on some future occasion he would be able to argue those questions with Mr. Wood in a friendly manner (applause).

### OFFER OF AN ESTATE TO IRISH TENANTS.

The following offer recently made to his tenants in the county Armagh by Mr. John Howard Parnell, brother of the member for Meath, may be of interest to Irish landlords who seek to retire from the difficult position of owning land in Ireland, and also prove to the English public the facilities that already exist under the Bright clauses of the Land Act: "To the tenants on Mr. John Howard Parnell's Colure Estate in County Armagh. Mr. Parnell, wishing to enable the tenants of his Colure Estate to purchase in the Landed Estates Court their respective farms, and to get from the Court a conveyance of their farms, subject to a proportion of the head-rent now payable by Mr. Parnell to Trinity College, is willing to co-operate with his tenants to carry out the following arrangement, viz., to sell, and let the Landed Estates Court convey to each tenant his respective farm; the purchase-money to be 23 years' purchase on the net profit-rent now payable by each tenant, after deducting therefrom each tenant's proportion of the head-rent payable to Trinity College, which will be about 12s. per statute acre; the Board of Works will lend tenants two-thirds of the purchase-money, charging for 35 years an annual instalment or sum on the amount so lent at the rate of 5 per cent., which annual instalment of 5 per cent., payable half-yearly, will pay off the principal and interest in 35 years. With respect to the remaining one-third of the purchase money, Mr. Parnell will let it remain out on a mortgage of each tenant's holding at 4 per cent., if the tenant cannot pay it at present. The following calculations will show the advantage that this arrangement will be to the tenants. Suppose a tenant pays a yearly rent of £10 (exclusive of proportion of head-rent), 23 years' purchase on this sum amounts to £230. The Board of Works will lend the tenant two-thirds of this sum, viz.:—£153 6s. 8d., at 5 per cent. Yearly instalment on £153 6s. 8d., at 5 per cent., £7 13s. 4d.; yearly interest to Mr. Parnell on £76 13s. 4d., the balance of purchase-money at 4 per cent., so long only as the £76 13s. 4d. remains due, £3 1s. 3d.; total of yearly payment for 35 years, £10 14s. 7d.—which sum is 14s. 7d. over the present rent of £10, the payment of which for 35 years will pay off the entire principal and interest of two-thirds of the purchase-money borrowed from the Board of Works, leaving only the proportion of head-rent of 12s. an acre payable to Trinity College, and £3 1s. 3d. interest to Mr. Parnell so long as the £76 13s. 4d. remains unpaid; thus, by paying 7s. 3½d. half-yearly, along with present half-yearly rent of £5, the tenant in 35 years will pay off the entire sum borrowed from the Board of Works. The distinction between the rent now payable and the instalments of purchase-money payable to the Board of Works is that rent is perpetual, and the payment of it does not benefit the tenant; while every payment made to the Board of Works lessens the amount of purchase-money payable in the future, and consequently increases the value of the tenant's interest in his farm. You will observe, the Board of Works will have the first charge on the estate, receiving 5 per cent. interest on the charge, while Mr. Parnell will have a second charge, receiving only 4 per cent. interest on it. Mr. Parnell will agree to take payment of the mortgage money by such small instalments as the tenants may find it convenient to pay, this to be a matter

of arrangement; with respect to the payment of head-rent, to which each tenant's holding will be liable, an arrangement can be made by the tenants by which each tenant's proportion of the head-rent may be paid to any one the tenants agree on (or in some local bank), who can pay it over to Trinity College. Each tenant will thus become an owner in fee of his holding, and have the benefit of all improvements he may make on his farm. Mr. Parnell requires this proposal to be agreed to within two months, otherwise he will not hold himself bound to abide by it. If it be carried out before the 23rd of March next, the tenant will not have to pay any rent after the Gale due the 29th September last. If the arrangement be agreed to, I can send each tenant a statement showing the amount of head-rent, purchase-money, and interest he would have to pay. Each tenant will be bound to indemnify the other tenants from the former default in not paying his due proportion of head-rent payable to Trinity College.

LAND.—Now is the right time to buy or hire land but not to sell or let it. Heavy land that five years ago could bring £40 an acre, now, in many cases, goes begging at £20. A light field near here, over three acres, was sold for £100, and immediately let to a responsible tenant at £7 per annum—more than double the interest on Consols. We are not always going to have "1879" seasons, so no doubt it is a good time to "go in" at a low rent and with other favourable conditions. The present is a panic time in farming, and panics, as we all know, pass rather quickly away. The bugbear of Free-trade and foreign meat has sobered prices, but the consumer will always be found, and he will not long buy at a very cheap price. My 230 sheep and lambs, which at last valuation were put down at £600, must be entered in my Christmas balance-sheet at nearly £250 less, simply because public opinion, influenced by circumstances, has changed their price. I bought 20 Black-faced shewing ewes the other day at 43s. Twelve months ago they would have sold for 75s. Of course farmers now going into a new farm will have immense advantages in rent and rates and cheap live and dead stock and machines. In fact, farm sales have taken place at panic prices. Dealers are feathering their nests abundantly. As a farmer cannot be rated higher than the actual rent which he pays, the low rent will carry a great saving in this matter, at the expense of some neighbour. In short, this cruel year has completely upset agriculture, depriving tenants of their capital, and knocking down prices of produce and value of land; so we must hope and pray for better times. It is just twenty-three years since I rode in a state carriage as Sheriff of London and Middlesex in the Lord Mayor's procession. How time seems to fly!—J. J. MECH.

TESTING HIS CREDENTIALS.—A jolly German gentleman of an American county tells the following concerning a countryman of his who was tendered the nomination for constable:—He went to his home and said to his wife, "Johanna, how long you lives mit me?" "Auchtee year," was the response. "I ish von tief, Johanna?" "No, Hans, you ish von honest man." "I ish von trunkard?" "Vell, Hans, you thinks a leedle too much peer sometimes." "Und I licks you, und drows de house de vinders out?" "No, Hans, you never does dose tings: you ish von gooder man, mein Hans." "Un—un—vell, Johanna, your fader vas un tief?" "No, Hans; mein fader vas just so goot a man as any puddy." "Your moder vas un pad voman, Johanna?" "No, Hans; mein moder vas un goot voman, und she is in himmel now." "Un—un—vell, your pruder vos de States Brison in?" "Ha! ha! Hans, I never had a pruder." "Un—vell, Johanna, your sieder vas un pad voman, hein?" "Hans, you don't speek no more vords from mine families. Mein dear sieder is yoost so goot a voman as vot lives, und you makes me cry, Hans, mit your nonsense." "Vell, vell, Johanna, I vas fooling, und I wanted to know, und now, I guess, I dakes de nomination."

BOTH PAIRS ALIKE.—A gentleman sent his Irish servant up to his room for a pair of boots, and at the same time told him to be sure and get mates, as there were two pairs in the closet. Patrick returned with two boots, but odd ones. "Why, don't you see that these are not alike—one is a long top and the other a short one?" said the gentleman, out of patience with the fellow. "Bedad, your honour," said Pat in apology, "and it's true for ye; but thin the other pair was just so, too!"

## CARTERS' ROOT SHOW.

Every practical farmer knows the difficulty of growing anything like a decent crop of roots this year. The season has been unpropitious from first to last, and it required some courage on the part of the well-known firm whose name appears at the heading of this notice, to hold a show of roots at a time when other noted and rival firms have declined doing so. Messrs. Carter, however, have no reason to regret their decision, and the show of roots and vegetables they have got together in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, is one of which they may honestly be proud.

The first class on the programme was, as usual, for twelve roots of Carters' Imperial Hardy Swede, and the entries numbered 115. This well-known swede was not to be seen in its usual perfection, as a matter of course, but a large number of the exhibits were of a very useful character. Perfect shape was out of the question, but the quality, on the whole, was better than most of the on-lookers expected to see. The first prize in the class was awarded to Mrs. Morten for an exhibit of excellent quality, rather small size, small necks, few fibrous roots, and tolerably even. Mrs. Morten, through her steward, Mr. Cave, exhibited a large number of entries, and they were all exceedingly creditable. Mr. N. Parry's 2nd prize lot were of good size and weight, and would represent a very heavy crop if they were a fair sample of the whole; but they were not very even, and were of a very different character to the first prize lot. Not far behind them were Mr. W. Perkin's 3rd prize lot, which, though rather rooty, were solid and useful. Amongst the exhibitors who showed good and useful roots, and who were not noticed by the judges, were Mr. J. Watts, Mr. E. Williams, Mr. J. Edwards, and Mr. J. Clarke, and beside these many exhibitors showed swedes which were highly creditable for the season.

Carters' Warden Yellow Globe Mangel were arranged in entries of eight roots, and the class on the whole was far better than could have been expected. There were 66 entries in competition, and Mr. R. Webb was very justly awarded the first prize for a set of large, clean, heavy roots, not all alike, but still of undeniable excellence. Sir Paul Hunter's second prize lot were not well matched, but yet were solid, shapely, and very useful. Mr. Fryer's third prize lot was very neat and clean, and might be preferred, by some judges, to those placed before them. Mr. C. Tough, steward to the Eton Local Board, Messrs. E. and R. Emery, and Mr. J. Mills, were all of them exhibitors of roots of a very useful and commendable character. And many other of the numerous exhibits were of a very creditable character.

The Long Red Mangels were, of course, much behind the display usually seen at Messrs. Carters' show, and, taking the season into consideration, it was surprising to find them as good as they were. The first prize fell to Mr. S. Beamish for eight roots of moderate size, not very even, but solid and good; and three other entries from the same grower were of very similar character—all very useful. The second prize fell to Mr. F. Lythall for some evenly grown roots, but they bore some signs of trimming. The third award fell to Admiral S. N. B. Middleton for rather smaller roots, the cleanest and best grown of the whole lot. Not far behind them came an exhibit from Mr. S. Mills, and the roots shown by Mrs. Morten were all of a very useful character. Mr. R. Webb showed some very useful mangels, but they were rather rooty. Amongst the rest Mr. M. A. Westaway's were worthy of notice.

Carter's Intermediate Mangel formed a very creditable class. Sir Paul Hunter's first prize lot were not large, nor well matched, but they were solid, and good; the

sort of roots one would like to have a large field of, equally good. Mr. Webb's second prize lot were large and uneven, but also sound and good. The third prize fell to Mrs. Beamish for large roots of not very good quality. Amongst the exhibitors who were not honourably noticed by the judges, but whose entries were apparently of sufficient excellence to deserve mention, may be cited, particularly, Mr. F. Fryer, who showed some very clean and useful roots.

The Yellow Tankard-shaped Mangels made up a particularly good class, most of the exhibits being very clean and neat. The White-fleshed Turnips were good, and amongst them the Green Top was of especial excellence, some of the entries of this well-known variety being equal to those shown in an ordinary season. The Yellow-fleshed Hybrids were not as good as usual, and the same may be said of the Kohl-Rabi; but the latter were excellent for the extraordinarily bad season.

Carrots and parsnips were good, but not large; and the same may be said of the cabbages. The class for the "heaviest, handsomest, and best-shaped roots" was, of course, at a disadvantage in such a season as that of 1879. Nevertheless, some good roots were shown which were highly creditable to the growers and the seedsmen.

The show of vegetables was about on Messrs. Carter's usual and extensive scale, and although some of the exhibits fell off somewhat in size—as well they might—the quality was as usual.

## PRIZE LIST.

Twelve roots Imperial Hardy Prize Winner Swede.—1, Mrs. Morten; 2, N. Parry; 3, W. Perkin.

Eight roots Warden Yellow Globe Mangel.—1, R. Webb; 2, Sir P. Hunter; 3, T. Fryer.

Eight roots Mammoth Long Red Mangel.—1, S. Beamish; 2, F. Lythall; 3, Admiral Sir G. N. B. Middleton.

Eight roots Intermediate Mangel.—1, Sir P. Hunter; 2, R. Webb; 3, S. Beamish.

Eight roots Yellow Tankard-shaped Mangel.—1, R. Webb; 2, Sir P. Hunter; 3, J. L. Ensor.

Twelve roots White-fleshed Turnips.—1, Her Majesty the Queen; 2, J. Clarke; 3, J. H. Love.

Twelve roots Yellow-fleshed or Hybrid Turnips.—1, W. L. Beale; 2, J. Chatterton; 3, J. Watts.

Nine roots Imperial Green Kohl Rabi.—1, B. P. Harris; 2, South Metropolitan District Schools (C. Osman, gardener); 3, Bedford Urban Sanitary Authority (J. H. Collett, steward).

The heaviest, handsomest, and best-shaped root of Improved Mammoth Prize Long Red Mangel of not less than 14 lbs. weight.—1, R. Webb; 2, Eton Local Board (C. Tough, steward); 3, S. Beamish.

## SINGLE SPECIMENS, GROWN UNDER ANY CULTIVATION.

The heaviest, handsomest, and best-shaped root of Warden Prize Yellow Globe Mangel, of not less than 14 lbs. weight.—1, R. Webb; 2, J. Clarke; 3, T. H. Farrar.

The heaviest, handsomest, and best-shaped root of Champion Intermediate Mangel, of not less than 14 lbs. weight.—1, J. L. Ensor; 2, R. Webb; 3, J. Clarke.

The heaviest, handsomest, and best-shaped root of New Yellow Tankard Mangel, of not less than 10 lbs. weight.—1, R. Webb; 2, J. L. Ensor; 3, J. Earps.

The heaviest, handsomest, and best-shaped root of Imperial Hardy Prize-winner Swede, of not less than 8 lbs. weight.—1, H. P. Truell; 2, H. Minter; 3, R. Thompson.

## PRIZES FOR ROOTS GROWN UPON SEWAGE FARMS ONLY.

Six roots Prize Mangel, any variety.—1, Eton Local Board (C. Tough, steward); 2, Croydon Sewage Farm (J. Parrott, steward); 3, South Metropolitan District Schools (C. Osman, gardener).

EXTRA PRIZES.—Collection of roots grown from Carter's Seeds.—Prize, T. H. Farrar.

Twelve roots of Carters' Imperial Hardy Swede, and the best twelve roots of Mangel Wnzel, any variety.—Prize, N. Parry.

EXTRA CLASS.—First prize, H. Swarn and Mrs. Morten, equal.

## SHORTHORNS AND HEREFORDS,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—In the controversy as to the merits of the Herefords as compared with the Shorthorns, I have admitted that as to early maturity—and weight at a given age—neither breed could claim an advantage. But the Hereford attains to early maturity and a given weight at much less cost than the Shorthorn, and has a greater market value with the butcher. In other words he excels in the economy of production and value of product. This in speaking of the two breeds as beef producers. The claim that is made for the Shorthorn breed—that they are of value for beef and milk, so far as American Shorthorns are concerned, is absurd, considered, that is on the only true basis, to wit—economy of production and value of product. That there are individuals that may make a good record under this claim; I have no doubt, but as a breed it is not based on fact. I had this in view in an article to the *Mark Lane Express* when I raised the question, whether the Ayrshire was not a better general purpose cow—that is for beef and milk. Considered under the standard I have laid down—to wit, economy of production, and value of product—this must be the test by which breeds are to be measured. In your journal for Oct. 20 you quote from M. de la Trehonnais, “Were it not for exceptional encouragement offered in provincial shows the Shorthorn breed would not be long in disappearing from our herds altogether.” Mr. Editor, I would put the statement as follows:—If it had not been for the exceptional encouragement offered by the agricultural societies to the Shorthorn breed, they would never have attained the position they have occupied. When this encouragement and support is taken from them they will lose that position, and the wonder will be that they ever occupied it. Through this control they have secured in the classification and premium list discrimination in their favour, and judges in their interest, and the results thus obtained have been put forth as an evidence of merit, thus giving them the commanding position which they have occupied. In this country they point to this commanding position as an evidence of merit. The Herefords made a show in 1878 at all of your leading fairs far superior to the Shorthorns. And still when your Royal Society made up their programme for 1879 they made that discrimination in premiums and classification that warrants the charge, that except for the exceptional encouragement given the Shorthorn breed by the agricultural societies, they would not have obtained, and could not maintain, the position they have and do hold. This will be demonstrated and the position lost, and the Hereford will occupy that position at your great Smithfield fat stock show for the last 20 years that he did for the first 20 years of the present century. Hereford breeders have only to put their stock in such condition as they can, and claim before that society fair and impartial judgment, and they will reclaim the position they have held and are entitled to hold. The Illinois State Agricultural Society was organised to advance the best interests of agriculture in all its branches. It was under the management of men in the main, and they intended to carry out these objects, but men in the interest of the Shorthorn breed; so manipulated this society's action that their influence was wholly given to that interest. In 1878 this was so manifest at the State show, that when the fat show was inaugurated they went out of their usual course, and selected judges outside of Shorthorn men, taking butchers for this purpose. And again at their annual State fair, held in September, they pursued the same course and selected experts, and the promise is that at our fat stock show to be held from the 10th to the 15th of the present month they will have

inaugurated and established a standard of merit and a system of judging that will commend itself to other societies and to the public. And could this matter be brought before your Smithfield Club, as it has been before the Illinois State Agricultural Society the partial judging would be done away with. The relations which England and America sustain to each other is such, that whatever is of interest to one is of interest to the other. And the great influence which is wielded by our agricultural societies should be such as to command the confidence of stock-men, and subserve the interest of the public. The Herefords' are making reputation very fast in this country, and we believe that they are to take a commanding position. We hope that steps will be taken by our State society, by which the cost of production will be an important element in the judging of the merits of beef animals. Your claim of cosmopolitan character for the Shorthorns I fear would not stand the test of a fair trial. I doubt whether you have a Shorthorn breeder in England, or whether there is one in America, who can test the merits of the breed with the Herefords and choose his position, making the test on the basis of economy of production and value of product.

I am Sir, &amp;c.,

Beech Ill., U.S., Nov. 3.

T. L. MILLER.

## EMIGRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—“Please, sir, can you emigrate me?” is the cry of many a well-charactered, brave-hearted fellow. Is there not a cause? Beneath the surface there is privation, and a growing desire to escape the end of no work, *i.e.*, “the workhouse.” I have just visited the Agents-General, with the following results:—

Melbourne helps out no one; New South Wales, Tasmania, New Zealand, the Cape, and Natal re-echo that policy. South Australia assists only by nomination in the Colony. Queensland requires £5 for suitable adults, and £1 for women. Canada (which is shut out till next March) is therefore the nearest and cheapest. Emigrants' steam ships £3 16s., or a better class £5 1s., including ship's kit; rail from London to Liverpool, 12s. 6d.; free rail to any part of Canada. Apply, Messrs. Allan, James Street, Liverpool. The rest of our colonies average £16—half-price under 12.

Practically, therefore, the Colonies have shut out emigrants from the Mother Country, all being now required to pay full fares. What is to be done? Migration is useless; and people, whilst life and hope exist, will flee from uncertainty or want. I was the means, twelve years ago, of establishing an emigration club, which safely landed the large number of 4,000 of her Majesty's subjects in her Colonies, besides persuading many others, and the majority are doing well; and with just pride, I hope this will allow me to be styled a “benefactor” to the community at home and abroad.

I almost despair of Imperial aid, and can hope but little from the Colonies. My experience suggests the formation of emigration clubs or societies in every county, and dotted among the towns and villages, and wherever there is a lack of work, throughout Great Britain. Let a local committee be formed; subscriptions solicited, each member paying in proportion to the family; a ballot for priority; lectures on colonial life and where best to go to. Let all trade unions co-operate for this purpose; and let all members be medically examined as to their suitability.

Emigration is undoubtedly the most permanent way of benefiting the people, and utilizing the useless powers wasting from lack of work, or superfluous labour. I hope public and Parliamentary opinion will be stirred up to the importance of this subject in our present state and

with such a forcible Colonial Minister as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, our Emigration Office might become a reality, and subsidising be largely exercised. The agriculturists, either farmers or labourers, are deeply impressed with the exceeding greatness of the subject, and their friends, "the present Ministers," might help them to our Colonies, and not cause them to become aliens in Texas, the Argentine Republic, &c.

Manitoba (so greatly applauded), the great Red River Settlement of Canada, can be reached for £12 or £14; and with good emigration elubs dotted throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and with such noble patrons of the working classes as the Baroness Burdett Coutts, the Earl of Shaftesbury, or the present Lord Mayor of London (Truscott), a vast number of poor but willing and able labourers might be transplanted to Manitoba or our Colonies.

My heart's desire is that all may be placed where they can support themselves. And emigration is a most excellent way of assisting the poor, and carries with it a great blessing, both on those who go and those who remain. The parochial clergy can engage in no more active Christian work; and a good emigration club would prove a help to every parish. The Guardians, too, have ample powers to assist emigrants with grants of clothes and money.

The Treasurer of our successful Emigration Society, Bonamy Dobree, Esq. (Director), London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury, E.C., will most gladly receive any contributions to assist the numerous and worthy applicants applying for emigration.

I am, Sir, &c.,

A. STYLEMAN HERRING,  
Vicar and Chairman.

St. Paul's, Clerkenwell, 45, Colebrooke Row, N.

### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT BRAINTREE.

On Wednesday, October 19, a meeting was held in the Lecture Hall of the Braintree and Bocking Literary Institute, under the auspices of the Farmers' Alliance. Mr. J. S. Gardiner, of Borley Lodge, presided, and there were also present—Messrs. James Youngman, W. Brown, C. W. Gray, J. Smith, J. Moss, J. Taylor, J. Gatward, F. Gardiner, D. Gardiner, W. Gardiner, W. Hobbs, E. Sach, Joseph Smith, jun., J. F. Beddall, G. H. Goodchild, T. Goodchild, S. Goodchild, J. Joseelyne, W. Rayner, W. Theobald, B. Collis, J. Blomfield, C. T. Hicks, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, read the following letter which he had received from Mr. James Howard, the Chairman of the Alliance:—

Clapham Park, Bedfordshire, Nov. 15, 1879.

My Dear Sir,—Mr. Bear tells me that you think of holding a meeting at Braintree. I should like to come, for I think the attack made upon me and Mr. Fowler by Ruggles Brise most ungentlemanly and outrageous. What would he have thought of any other public man remarking when replying, say to W. H. Smith—"You had better be looking after your bookstalls than troubling your head about public affairs." This is in reality what Col. Brise said to me and Fowler. Again, he was wrong in his facts. We had given no advice to landlords, and, for that matter, to tenants either. We had simply disused, I hope in a temperate manner, great public questions in which both of us for years had taken deep interest. I cannot think Col. Brise has advanced his own position by resorting to such an undignified, and, as I think, vulgar course.

It tickled my fancy exceedingly, the idea of his reading up mechanics and going to Leeds or Bedford to lecture upon agricultural machinery manufacture. Such a step by such a man would make Bentall, Ransome, Fowler, and the rest of us tremble in our shoes.—I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,  
JAMES HOWARD.

J. S. Gardiner, Esq.

Mr. W. E. BEAR, the secretary of the Alliance, wrote that as two meetings of the Association had been held in the county, it was thought that the promoters of the present meeting would be able to dispense with assistance from headquarters.

The CHAIRMAN, proceeding to the business of the meeting, said it had been charged against him that he, a Conservative tenant farmer, ought not to have joined the Alliance, or to have connected himself with people of different political principles. That was one of the strongest reasons why he had joined the Alliance (Hear, hear). When he found men of Liberal principles agreeing with him in advocating those things which they thought necessary and essential for the welfare of the agricultural interest, and when he found in the programme of the Alliance points which had been supported at the Chamber of Agriculture, and regarding which resolutions had been carried there by great majorities, he should be one of the most inconsistent of men if he had refused to support the principles of the Alliance. As soon as he saw its programme he decided to become a member, and he hoped he should continue to be a member as long as the Alliance could be of service to agriculture (applause). He was sure they would all agree that it was desirable to secure the better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament. For many years the interests of agriculture had been neglected by both political parties. Although farmers had supported sometimes one party, and sometimes another, their interests had been completely thrown on one side, and the farmers had never got those things which they asked for, and of which they stood in need (applause). The Alliance was a non-political association, so far as party politics were concerned, and they were bound to act upon independent principles if they wished to do themselves any good. He would therefore impress upon them the desirability of securing their representation by one of their own class, by a man whom they knew they could trust, and who would vote straightforwardly upon any question which affected their interests (applause, and a Voice: "Name the man"). The naming of the man was a question for the tenant farmers. He was one among them, and it was not for him to dictate to them whom they were to vote for, or to suggest a name. If they looked among themselves he was sure they would find a man, occupying an independent position, and who would be strong enough to resist the influence of party whips, who might represent them. Referring to the second item upon the programme of the Alliance—the stimulation of the improved cultivation of the land, especially by obtaining security for the capital of tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings, he said they knew very well the risk they ran in putting their capital into the land unless they had some security for it. But they held that a lease did not go far enough. In these days, when the farmer had to compete with foreigners and colonists on every hand, it was necessary to have something more than a lease. It was necessary that he should have compulsory compensation for his unexhausted improvements (applause). When they looked at the cost of draining, knocking down fences, bringing waste land into cultivation, marling, chalking, liming, and other matters of that kind, he thought they would clearly see the necessity for having legislative security for their invested capital. At present a tenant received little or no compensation for the capital which he had invested (Hear, hear). Regarding the necessity of obtaining greater freedom in the cultivation of the soil and the disposal of its produce, he observed that, in these days of free trade, no one would deny to farmers the benefit of making the best they could of the crops which they grew. They understood the desirability of having a free sale for their produce, and if the free sale of that produce would not make farmers prosperous he did not know what on earth would (applause). The Law of Distress he described as having a most grievous application. He saw no reason why the great gun should sweep the deck and leave nothing behind (Hear). In case of bankruptcy every creditor should share alike, and surely a landowner was better able to take a dividend than a man of smaller means (Hear). With regard to the game laws, he went further than the programme of the Alliance, which only advocated their reformation. Those laws were so bad in themselves that they could not be reformed. They could, however, be got rid of, and the best thing to be done would be to sweep them away entirely. By taking this course the game would still remain on the land and would still be the property of the occupier that

was now by the common law. Of course if the occupier chose to sign a lease which resigned the game to the landlord, that was his own matter, as it was done by his voluntary act. A man had the right to preserve game on his own estate, but he had no right, by so doing, to injure his neighbour or to destroy his crops (Hear, hear). Moreover, the prosecutions for game trespass were attended with very heavy expenses to the ratepayers. (Hear, hear). He had the game on his own occupation, and for years past he had not had occasion to prosecute a poacher. He would look after game as closely as others did, but he maintained that no one had a right to preserve game at other people's expense (Hear, hear). They were all agreed upon the desirability of obtaining the alteration of all legal presumptions which operate unfairly against tenant farmers. With regard to the endeavour to secure to ratepayers their legitimate share in county government, he observed that farmers had long advocated county self-government, and he was convinced that until such a government was entirely dependent upon the ratepayers and their representatives were directly elected by them, the county business would never be managed upon principles of economy (applause). As to the fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant, he thought it would have been a very good thing if the landlords had had to pay the educational rate (Hear, hear). If the landowners and the owners of real property had had to pay that rate they would have been more inclined to support the tenant in trying to obtain a re-adjustment and reform of local farmers taxation (applause). There were other matters in which they were interested, which were not upon the programme of the Alliance, and principal among these was the repeal of the malt-tax. If 70 per cent. were levied upon all the articles they produced as well as upon barley they would have good reason to complain of the pressure of such a tax, although it was asserted, and doubtless upon correct principles, that the consumer ultimately paid all taxes upon the raw article. The consumer, however, did not compensate them for the injury which they suffered by this tax of 70 per cent. upon one of the principal articles which they produced. Another question connected with the repeal of the malt-tax, which sooner or later they would have to take into account, was the vast amount of sugar now consumed by brewers in lieu of malt. Starch could be converted into sugar by a chemical process, and he had no doubt that in course of time, unless some obstacle were placed in the way, the use of malt would be superseded by this manufactured sugar (Hear, hear). Another grievance from which they were suffering was the tithe rent-charge. During the 33 years of his experience the tithe owners had received a premium over the sum at which the tithes were commuted in 26 years, in 12 years they had received under that, and the last seven years they received something like £84 above the £100, while during the last five years of depression they had received £50 or £55 over and above the commuted sum. How many of the tithe-owners did they suppose had returned ten per cent., or indeed any percentage at all? Some of the tithe owners to whom he paid money were very pleased to get it, and said that they were very much obliged to him, but they never offered him so much as a glass of water (Hear, hear). These grievances stood in their way, and were obstacles to their prosperity as cultivators of the soil. The sooner they joined such an association as this the sooner they would be able to work together to promote a common object, and the sooner they would be in a position to compete in the open markets of the world (applause).

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH thought that the programme of the Alliance dealt with matters which so nearly concerned the welfare of tenant farmers that they should accept that programme as a whole, and do all they could to further the objects of the Alliance. He felt they were driven to help themselves, for, as farmers, they were in such a mess as they were never in before (Hear, hear). He never recollected attending so poor a market as that which they had been at that day. He had six samples of wheat in his pocket, and he never had a bid for one of them, and if this was not the time to speak out he did not know when that time would be (Hear, hear). A good deal of depression was undoubtedly caused by the weather, but more of it resulted from the legislation of the country. Upon the question of representation he thought that if they selected a suitable tenant farmer of either political

party, their interests would be benefited. If a dozen tenant farmers were sent to Parliament they would have such an influence that farmers would get some of their grievances redressed (Hear, hear). Then again, there was no protection for the capital which the tenant had sunk in his land; it had all to be left behind for the benefit of some one else, acting as a premium to a new tenant to take the land. The law of distress, too, had emboldened landlords to take men who offered high rents, because they knew that, come what might, their three or four years' rent would be safe (Hear, hear). This law and the want of compensation for unexhausted improvements had enabled landlords to put up their rents in a way which could not otherwise have been the case (applause). He did not speak of the Maynard estates, or those of Lord Petre and Mr. J. J. Tufnell, where fair consideration had been used, but it was men who had bought land as a speculation, and had let it to the highest bidder in the hope of soon turning it into money again, who had availed themselves of the Law of Distress. It was on that account that he should like to see this law repealed, so that the farmers might have a fair chance of success in their undertakings (applause). The late Mr. George Goodchild, in 1868, brought the question of county government before the county Chamber of Agriculture, and carried the meeting entirely with him, the late Sir Thomas Western promising his complete support. Nothing, however, was done by either political party until, in 1878, a Bill was brought forward which satisfied some of them, but which did not go far enough for his friend, the chairman of the present meeting. Mr. Gardiner would like to see every individual ratepayer with the power of voting. The Bill went so far as to give the privilege to boards of guardians to send representatives to a county board. But some young Tory lord made what was almost a rabid speech against the Bill, and it was taken out of sight and quietly dropped. A very bad imitation of the Bill of 1878 was brought forward during the present session, but died a natural death (Hear, hear). The manner of taking the corn averages he characterised as most unfair. It was calculated that we grew some twelve million quarters of wheat, and nine million quarters of barley annually. In the year 1864 the averages were taken from 290 towns, and there was then a return of close upon five million quarters of wheat, and two and a half million quarters of barley. In 1870 these 290 towns had fallen, by hook or by crook—no one knew how or why—to 150. The return was then 3,398,000 qrs. of wheat, against five million quarters, and 1,840,000 qrs. of barley against two and a half million quarters. It would be seen, therefore, that the quantities had reduced as the towns had been reduced. The whole averages of the country were now taken from a quantity of under two million quarters, less than one sixth of the average growth of wheat in the country, while the barley was less than one-fifth. Yet it was upon these small quantities that farmers were called upon to pay about 12 per cent. over what the tithe averages were commuted at. They would see, therefore, the injustice of the existing state of things, and how great was the need of a Secretary of State for Agriculture, by whom such grievances might be redressed (applause). Agriculturists would then, he was assured, be in a better position in a variety of ways. Different matters connected with agriculture were dealt with in so many different government departments that it was almost impossible to obtain redress in anything which affected agricultural interests (Hear, hear). He had been asked why farmers did not rely upon themselves instead of joining the Alliance? They did rely upon themselves to a certain extent, and they would do so entirely if the laws would only give them fair play (applause, and a voice: "D'zzy will give you none"). At present the law interfered with the management of their business in a manner which was neither just nor right, and he joined the Alliance in the hope that some of these laws might be remedied. The sanitary and educational measures which had been passed of late years were very good in themselves, but it was not right that they should be carried out at the expense of the tenants and occupiers of land. There was hardly a landlord, unless he occupied the land which he owned, who had been called upon to pay for any of these things. Such a condition of things was undoubtedly harsh and unjust (Hear, hear). The sole object of the Alliance was to get farmers to use every legitimate means to have their grievances redressed, and to put them in a position to help themselves.

Mr. E. GARDINER briefly proposed

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the Farmers' Alliance deserves the support of all those who are interested in agriculture."

Mr. JAMES YOUNGMAN seconded the resolution. He said one wondered at the long-suffering patience of farmers. There was not an item in the programme of the Alliance which ought not to have been agitated for 50 years ago, and if their forefathers had been wise enough, generations back, to put their business on a fair commercial footing, the present crisis could not have been reached. Every farmer was agreed now that something must be done, and he believed that the Alliance was one of the things fitly ordered just now to help them to see what was to be done. If there had been a tenant farmer to every landlord in the House of Commons things would have been very differently managed (Hear, hear). He believed that one-half of the country was not worth cultivating without a good Tenant-right, and he knew enough of Essex to warrant him in saying that three-fourths of it was not worth cultivating without that Tenant-right (Hear, hear). The present state of things had been growing for years past. The Law of Distress had acted so as to put up rents and to increase the competition for farms unnaturally. With regard to their better representation in Parliament he did not know whom they could select to represent them. He was sorry to be aware of the fact that there were not many tenant farmers who were in a position to bear the expense of going to Parliament. This ought not to be so, and it would not be so if farmers would be true to themselves. It was in the power of every county constituency in the land to return a tenant farmer if they would. The necessity for Tenant-right was so urgent that if it was not accorded landlords and labourers would suffer as well as farmers. He could not understand why it was that both political parties had stood out against this movement. He should like to see the two great political parties competing together as to which should do this great work quickest and best. The farmers would not endure the existing condition of things for ever. Agriculture would not be banished from England yet, and under certain conditions it would go on with a fair amount of prosperity to those engaged in it. For himself, he was not particularly afraid of foreign competition—indeed, he had found considerable benefit of late from American produce, for cheap American cake and cheap American maize had helped him to make profitable meat. There had been difficulties in the past and there would be difficulties in the future, but English enterprise, skill, and capital would overcome them. He counselled all interested in agriculture to join in the work which was now going forward for the sake alike of labourers, farmers, and landlords. They did not wish to see the farmers and labourers sent to foreign countries, nor did they wish that the landlords should have to follow the plough or to let their farms go out of cultivation. He was glad to think that the men of Essex had already moved so bravely. There were some very clever men who asked farmers why they did not make good bargains for themselves; but, as had been already pointed out during the meeting, the law was against them. It was neither fair nor reasonable that when they went to make a bargain with a fair and honourable man they should guard themselves against his picking their pockets. The best chance for farmers lay in that high farming which would consist greatly in meat-producing and other things that would tend to increase the value of farms, so that landlords would profit quite as much in these circumstances as the tenants. Local taxation was a heavy burden, but tithes and rent and labour were heavier still. These were questions which must be dealt with on their merits, and he was not satisfied with that nibbling at local taxation which had resulted in taking off 9d. and putting on 1s. Local government should be in the hands of the people who were interested. A visitor recently at the lunatic asylum at Brentwood told him that he was astonished at the luxurious magnificence of the place. There were baths of Carrara marble and silver luxuries, which had been provided for the use of the lunatic paupers and which had been paid for mainly by poor tenant farmers. They did not order these things (applause). That was one of the instances of what came of having their business done by people whom they had not asked to do it. There was a probability that shortly another lunatic asylum would be required, and this showed that they must use their influence for

their own protection and for the management of their own affairs. He hoped they would continue to take the part which they had taken for many years past in the Chamber of Agriculture, and would go on advocating what was just and right. But the Chamber of Agriculture was instituted merely for talk; the Alliance aimed at action. If they could find a tenant farmer candidate to run side by side with another, whether tenant farmer or not, who would represent their interests, he hoped they would support him. If it did not cost such a candidate one penny so much the better. It was a shame to put expense upon a man who was desirous of doing a public service, and it was a shame for men to allow expenses to run to £4,000 or £5,000 for contesting a county election. If, however, farmers did their duty these expenses would not be so high, and he still hoped that Essex would continue to take the lead in the Alliance movement, and that other counties would follow its good example (applause).

Mr. W. BROWN, in supporting the resolution, said that if farmers desired relief from the burdens under which they were suffering they would have to use their own influence to that end. There was no class in England who had the means of returning so many representatives as the farmers, and, indeed, it was stated that they actually did return nearly two hundred members, or very nearly one-third of the entire representation of the country. This being so, it was very strange that there was no interest so much neglected in the House of Commons as that of the cultivation of the soil (applause). Hitherto the tenant-farmer had voted pretty much as his landlord had told him, and the consequence was that he had been regularly "sold," and was now "nowhere" (Hear, hear). At the meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture, at Chelmsford, on the previous Friday, some speaker said that the Conservative party could help the land if they thought fit. Sir H. Selwin Ibbetson, who was present, answered this by saying they must recollect that the Conservative party, although largely elected by the landed interest, also counted among its members in Parliament many who had been returned by the towns, and that when it was desired to do things for the relief of the land they were met by the opposition of those of their own party who had been elected from the towns. That seemed to him to be rather a weak admission, because if the tenant-farmers could return 200 members they ought to be able to sway the Conservative party. They might rest assured that until they made themselves heard in the House of Commons they would never get justice done to them (applause). He characterised the tithe rent-charge as simply an abomination, and the system upon which the averages were taken as a disgrace to the country (applause). The average of corn, as stated in that week's newspapers, was 48s. a quarter. He should like to know where those figures came from. In no case did the price exceed 48s. and most of the corn came below 40s. a quarter. Some few years ago the Board of Trade lessened the number of markets from which the averages were taken, and the consequence was that they were now taken on a false system altogether, and upon that system the farmers had to pay (applause). If he could get all the tithe payers to think as he did he would counsel them to strike against paying any more tithes until the present system was altered (Hear, hear, and laughter). Having remarked that, as regards the Game Laws, he could go a very long way with the chairman, he observed, speaking upon the pressure of the education rate, that he was a ratepayer in the parish of Felsted. They had recently been obliged to erect schools, costing something like £40,000, for the united districts of Felsted and Rayna. These schools had, of course, been built with borrowed money, which would have to be repaid in the course of 50 years, and they had to be maintained out of the rates. Now, in that very parish there was a foundation for the education of the people in that parish, and the income of that foundation was principally from tithes. The trustees had the option in their last scheme of giving half an acre of land to build a school upon; but they would not do it. They had, however, spent £1,600 in building almshouses for six old ladies to live in (laughter). He believed that there had been enough money left in the country by people interested in education to educate every child in the nation from richest to poorest if the funds were wisely administered. These abuses would go on until farmers made their voices heard, and it behoved them to use every means they could to make themselves more felt than they had been hitherto (applause).

Mr. GATWARD expressed his opinion that it was unfair for a Nonconformist to be called upon to pay tithes. Their county members always took a one-sided view of things. He was about to make some remarks upon the Liberation Society, when Mr. MOSS rose to order, and the CHAIRMAN ruling that Mr. Gatward was irregular, the resolution was passed.

Mr. JOHN MOSS proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. In doing so he referred to the criticisms which had been made by Colonel Brise upon his speech at Colchester. He explained that although in that speech he admitted that the Alliance was a political organisation, he distinctly stated that it was in no sense a party political movement. He characterised the apology of Colonel Brise published in this day's *Essex Herald* as more a justification of his criticisms than an apology for their inaccuracy (Hear, hear). He really did think that when Colonel Brise found he had misquoted him (the speaker) he would have tendered him an apology. In a letter published in the *Chelmsford Chronicle* of the previous Friday Mr. Beaumont expressed a hope that the light would dawn upon his (Mr. Moss's) mind, and that he would be prepared to join with him in maintaining the interests of the country (laughter). Well, he hoped the light had dawned upon him and that he was able to discern what was just and right. A large increase of light had certainly dawned upon him since he became acquainted with the principles of the Alliance, for he believed that those principles would tend to the benefit not only of tenant farmers, but of the whole of the nation (applause). He did not quite understand why the people of Essex should be frightened of the Alliance, seeing that it was not altogether new, a similar organisation having been originated in the county about 35 years ago, of which Sir Henry Smyth, sometime M.P. for Colchester, was the chairman. He concurred in the remarks of Mr. Youngman as to the necessity of Tenant-right, and expressed himself as able to go with the chairman to a great extent in his opinion of the Game Laws. He was also strongly in favour of the county expenditure being under the immediate control of the ratepayers (Hear, hear).

Mr. GATWARD seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried unanimously.

The meeting then ended.

## Farmers' Clubs.

### SUNDERLAND.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, a special meeting of the Sunderland Farmers' Club was held in the Three Crowns Inn, High-street, for the purpose of hearing a paper on "Agriculture as witnessed in various counties in England," by Mr. M. Dodd, of Marton Grange.—Mr. R. L. Pemberton, J.P., president, occupied the chair.

Mr. DODD said his paper did not pretend to deal with an particular phase of our national agriculture, nor did it pretend to give more than the barest outline of farming presented to the eye of a practical casual observer. In June last he, with two friends, left the county of Durham on a tour round the farming districts of England. In their own county agricultural matters looked anything but hopeful. Their crops were bad, and their hopes for a successful corn harvest very meagre indeed. *En route* to Manchester things seemed to be in a similar state to their own. In the south-east of Lancashire they found but small quantities of indifferent pasture, and in Cheshire their attention was drawn to a deal of land saturated with water. More to the south of the county, however, land appeared to be in a better condition. In Staffordshire they were greatly encumbered with the iron works, much more so than in the county of Durham, and having passed through the county he would not dispute its well known appellation of "the black country." Only a moderate proportion of the land in Warwick was arable. Corn was all turning yellow, and the yield would be very poor. Near Warwick the best

thing they noticed was the quality of their cows, mostly of the Herefordshire breed. Their mode of ploughing was somewhat novel, and to a north countryman unsatisfactory. Instead of two horses being attached to the plough they had eight or ten in a row. At Stratford-on-Avon this method of ploughing was in force, there being two drivers besides the ploughman. Passing through Worcester they found crops only moderate. They would probably have about eight or ten bolls per acre. Barley was very poor indeed. In Gloucestershire the district seemed to be farmed in an indifferent manner. Nearing Bristol they seemed to come to a better state of things. They there met what they thought was a thing of the past—a man ploughing with four oxen. In a tract of land beyond Bristol, not one-tenth was arable. In Gloucestershire they saw some of the finest land it was their pleasure to witness during the whole of their tour. Some of the farms, they were told, in the district were let at £2 per acre, and were of a type they thought they should like to farm. In Dorsetshire they saw a quantity of good land, and afterwards it was only moderate until they reached Salisbury. The land on Salisbury Plain was amongst the best they looked upon. In this district there was more corn growing than in Somerset. In Hampshire the land was of a light chalky nature, about two-thirds being employed in the growing of corn. They visited a large farm in Essex belonging to Mr. Mackie, but they failed to satisfy themselves as to their mode of farming. In Hertfordshire there seemed to be rather strong indications of a want of manure. There was some good light land in Norfolk, a very large proportion of it being arable. Lincolnshire they found to be a fine agricultural county. Cattle, horses, and sheep were of a high order. Berkshire bids fair to be a good farming county, although there were a number of black bogs to be seen. In Oxford there were considerable quantities of very fair grazing land, and, considering the season, very fair crops of wheat. A good deal of the land was subject to overflowing. In Bedfordshire there was no small number of really good farms, bearing evidence of the high class of farming on the whole. Mr. Dodd thought that produce in England might be divided as follows:—Wheat crops, Bedford and Yorkshire, especially in Selby; barley, Bedford and Huntingdon; root crops, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire; grazing land, Somerset and Bedford; farm labourers, Yorkshire and Durham; horses, Durham; cattle, Somerset and Yorkshire; sheep (half-bred and Leicesters), Durham. He would endeavour, from the standpoint of a practical farmer, to offer his ideas on the depression. He believed the depression arose, firstly, from a succession of unfavourable seasons; and, secondly, from extravagant rents. With respect to the first, it was naturally unforeseen and unforeseeable; while with respect to the second, it had been said, and reasonably said, that farmers occupy their farms at such rents as they offered for them. This was quite true, but it must be kept in mind how much farm produce has gone back in value within the last half dozen years. Not long ago beef sold at 10s. 6d. per stone, but now they only got 8s.; mutton sold at 10½d. per pound, and now it was only 7d. and 8d. Wool had been 2s. per pound and now it was 1s. Wheat brought 16s. per boll, while until lately they got 11s.; and other produce was pretty much in the same proportion. Another consideration was the amount of competition for farms which a few years ago caused them to let very high. As an occupation farming has attractions for most people. There were many who in commercially good times had made some money in other branches thought of purchasing land and as a consequence farms were let at high prices in the very best of times for their full value, and sometimes a little over; so that, as times and seasons have turned out, they cannot pay farmers on account of the high rents. An Agricultural Commission had been appointed to inquire into the depression, and, by some, great things were expected to result. He, however, did not expect much. They could but bring out facts, and these were a great deal too patent already. The produce of the land had four things to do—namely, pay the labourer, pay taxes, pay rent, and keep the farmer. In existing circumstances, it was very plain that many farmers could not do that unless an abatement was made somewhere. The question was, where must that abatement come from? Certainly, the labourer must be fed, assuredly the taxes must be paid, and the farmers must be kept; and he could only see one source where relief must come from, and that was an abatement of the rents.

## MAIDSTONE.

The first meeting of the members of the Maidstone Farmers' Club and Chamber of Agriculture for the season 1879-80 was held at Maidstone, on the 13th ult. The chair was taken by the President, Mr. George Marsham, J.P.

Mr. J. T. HATCHER introduced the subject of "Large versus Small Farms." In doing so he said he did not consider it possible for any one person to undertake with success the cultivation of such extensive tracts of land as would absorb as tenant's capital the vast sums of money that it was only possible to invest in some manufacturing business, and he should at once dismiss as impracticable the idea that capital *ad libitum* could be profitably employed in agriculture under one management. By large farms he wished to be understood as referring to holdings extensive enough to admit of the use of steam, and of all implements that were calculated to increase the produce and economise time or expense in harvesting or preparing produce. In that part of Kent farms of 400 to 1,000 acres required from £4,000 or £5,000 up to £10,000 in the way of capital, although hops required a larger sum. It was undoubtedly a fact that in that country, dovetailed together as they were, it would be undesirable to have all occupations of one uniform size. While he failed to see anything detrimental to the interests of the state in having a certain number of large farms, he could not doubt that many great advantages resulted from the facilities, offered by increased production and economy in expense through the use of machinery that would not be possible on very small farms, where only the steam thrashing machine was wanted once a year. They must all admit that the introduction of steam thrashing machinery was a great boon, while the use of machinery was an advantage which undoubtedly must be credited to large occupations, because it would not be possible to have the same helps with a system of peasant husbandry. With regard to stock farming, he thought they would all agree that whether they looked to flocks or herds, or to their splendid draught horses, the keeping up of the best strains of blood was much more likely to be accomplished on large occupations by men of capital, than by men on small farms and of lesser means. Looking at foreign competition, this was a matter of sufficient importance not to be lost sight of. Another advantage of large farms was that the tenants, from their superior education, social position, and other circumstances, could bestow more time and attention gratuitously to public offices connected with their system of local self-government. The largest farms, he might remark, would be all the better for the union of capital and labour in the person of the occupier himself. He considered personal supervision a necessity, and he would remind them of Franklin's maxim, "Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee." In referring to small farms he wished to be understood as referring to occupations varying from an acre or two, cultivated with a hoe, to the traditional farm of 40 acres, large enough to keep a horse or two for use, and then lent for hire when not wanted at home. The disadvantages of the small farms might be the advantages of the large ones to which he had referred, but there were undoubtedly many circumstances that told in their favour, and led to the conclusion that it would be unwise or impolitic if they were abolished or absorbed into the larger occupations. Here again they saw the advantage of a cordial union between capital and labour, the occupier being a man of small capital, say £200 or £300. What could he do with his wife and children to help him in a small farm and under a considerate landlord? Milk, butter, poultry, eggs, fruit, and garden produce might often be sold at retail prices under the direct supervision of the tenant, and would allow him to make such a return as would be relatively impossible or singularly difficult on a farm of 1,000 acres. Then the smallest farmers of this class would seldom want profitable employment when not required at home. They knew the value of a day's work, and were ready to give it without shirking, while their habits of thrift and industry did not leave them through life. He would now leave the subject for them to discuss. He was inclined to favour a system in which farms of all sizes might have an opportunity of succeeding, and he believed that in all cases the capital required to cultivate the farms should be in cordial co-operation and hearty alliance with labour.

In the course of the discussion Mr. C. WHITEHEAD said a great many political economists, who had held hitherto that

large farms were the best possible condition for a country which had to produce food to feed its people, were beginning to have just a small suspicion of doubt as to whether they had not been slightly wrong, and that their conclusions had been somewhat upset because the premises of the argument had been modified in a degree. It has always been held that the large farm system was the most profitable one—by that he meant the three-fold system of landlord owning the land, the occupier finding the capital, and the labourer doing the work—and that the great success which had attended English agriculture was due in a great degree to that system. But at the same time he must venture to say that in some degree the success of English agriculture was also due to the inherent energy of the English agriculturists and the British people generally. In England they produced twenty-eight bushels of wheat per acre, while the average in France and Prussia was sixteen bushels, and in the United States and Russia only thirteen bushels, and the same thing was observable in other branches of British agriculture. As to the practical advantages of large or small farms, he should like to make one or two remarks. In reference to horse labour, a farm of 100 acres in Kent would want at least four horses; 200 acres might be worked by five, six, or seven horses, while 400 acres might be worked by ten horses, and so on in proportion, the large farms having the advantage. Then as to the staff, he thought that the staff, including bailiff and shepherd, required for a moderately large farm would work a much larger farm. As to machinery it was impossible for comparatively small farms, of a size of 100 acres, to use machinery to any advantage; while in regard to steam ploughing, the small farms were practically cut off, as a steam plough could plough a square ten acre field in half the time and at two-thirds the cost of ploughing two separate fields of five acres each. As regarded the management of farms, he thought an ordinary individual farmer was quite as capable of managing 700 or 800 acres as he was 200. Another advantage of large farms was that much could be done in the way of abolishing hedges and roads while the buildings which would suffice for 200 acres would equally suffice for a farm of 400 acres. The occupation of land in England was divided in the following way:—There were 70 per cent. of the farms of England under 50 acres, and 12 per cent. between 50 and 100, while of the rest 18 per cent. were above 100 acres in extent; of the latter there were 5,000 occupiers of farms between 500 and 1,000 acres in extent. Out of that number there were no *bona fide* peasant proprietorships. Peasant proprietors or small owners might be divided into two classes. There were first peasant proprietors proper, who were themselves owners of the land which they occupied, and therefore in themselves represented the three-fold system, being landlords, occupiers, and labourers. That system held to a great extent in parts of Belgium, Norway, and Wurttemberg. The second class of small owners held either directly of the landlord, and worked the land by their own labour and that of their families, and who therefore represented only two of the elements of the system before referred to—the occupier and labourer. That again might be subdivided, there being what were called *metayers*, who paid no rent for the land, but gave a proportion of the produce to the proprietors, which came practically to the same thing. Then there were cottiers in Ireland, who held very long leases, and, like the *metayers*, did all the work themselves. The *metayer* system prevailed in Italy, Lombardy, and part of France. The small holding system of the Continent was not understood, as it was not appreciated in England. French historians, and especially Michelet, had written in praise of peasant proprietorships, and Sismondi particularly in favour of the *metayer* system, while they might remember an amusing and graphic account by Lamartine of the love which peasant proprietors had for their land—almost passing the love they had for their wives. The system was thoroughly engrafted on the Continent, where they believed there was nothing like it as regarded the social position of the inhabitants and the food production for the population. Mr. Mill and Professor Fawcett, while they had not gone so far as to say it would have superior advantages if adopted in that country, both considered that in Belgium where it was adopted the system was superior to that of the large farming which prevailed side by side; but Mr. Jenkins, the secretary to the Royal Agricultural Society, who was deputed to go to Belgium some years ago, did not come home with such a glowing

account as some of their political economists would have them believe, although he (the speaker) thought that Mr. Jenkins did not draw distinction enough between the peasant proprietor farming his own land, and the small holder who hired of the landlord at a high rent. Mr. Jenkins sagely remarked that "in Belgium they had found out that the small proprietor could afford to pay a much higher rent in proportion to the large one." In his travels, Arthur Young, who always wrote in favour of the very large system, could not help bursting out in Lombardy and France in favour of the *metayer* system, and of the peasant owners in Flanders, and talked of the magic of land proprietary, which enabled men to turn barren rocks and deserts into smiling gardens. An instance of the economy and saving habits induced by the system was shown by the large hoards of money which recently came from the French peasants when the great indemnity had to be paid to Germany. There were a great many obstacles to the adoption of peasant proprietorship in this country, including the laws of inheritance and entail, and the enormous cost of the transfer of land.

### AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

The first meeting of the Institution of Surveyors for the present session was held recently in their hall in Great George-street, Westminster, when the opening address was delivered by Mr. William Surge, the president. He chose for the subject of his address the agricultural depression and its remedies, and after a number of carefully compiled statistics bearing upon the subject from the experience of past years he turned to inquire what must be a base of hopes for the present unhealthy state of things. With regard to the law of primogeniture, he remarked that those who held land under it were unfettered by restrictions in dealing with their estates, whether by improvement, sale, or otherwise; but it was the practice of settlement and entail, and the consequent creation of the limited interest of tenancy for life, which, in the case especially of estates burdened with family charges and encumbered by mortgage, prevented the owner from effecting improvement, and made him unwilling to benefit the entail at the expense of the younger children. He thought the Court of Chancery ought to be empowered to authorise the sale of the whole part of an encumbered estate without the consent of the tenant in tail for the purpose of paying off encumbrances and carrying out improvements, the proceeds being of course invested for the benefit of the tenant in tail. If a court were empowered—like the Encumbered Estates Court of Ireland—to give purchasers a Parliamentary title, future dealings in land would be greatly simplified and transfers facilitated, and many heavily encumbered estates would pass into the hands of owners in a position to expend money on their improvement. He did not believe, however, that the result would be the substitution of a class of yeomen or peasant proprietors engaged in the cultivation of their own estates; for if the present occupiers had no more capital than would properly cultivate their farms, how were they to find the means to purchase them? They might borrow two-thirds, but where must they get the other third? Nor would the transaction attract purchasers in large numbers from the moneyed and commercial classes; for if a purchaser expended £40 an acre in buying land to pay him three per cent., and £10 per acre in its cultivation to him ten or twelve per cent., he would not net five per cent. on his entire investment, including remuneration for his personal services in management. The owners of large estates heavily encumbered and of small estates with limited incomes from other sources, would feel severely any reduction of rent; and the policy of the State ought to be, he thought, to remove impediments and to make the transfer of land as simple and inexpensive as possible in order that no obstacles may stand in the way of investments by capitalists. As to restrictive covenants in leases their true object was to maintain the fertility of the soil, and he did not believe that the great body of tenant farmers were so unreasonable as to ask that landowners should hand over their farms to persons who might turn out to be men of straw, with licence to break up grass lands, crop arable lands with corn year after year, and at length throw the farm upon their hands in a foul and exhausted condition to be relet at a

reduced rent. In well drawn modern leases, however, tenants were left full scope, provided they kept the land clean and in good heart, and had a fair proportion in fallow, green crops, and artificial grasses every year. The theory of tenant-right was good, and where it has not already grown into existence by custom farm agreements should provide for it, with a set-off for a land left foul and out of condition. It was difficult to see what a tenant would gain by the alteration of the law of distress. As to guarding against risk, landlords would be compelled to insist on the punctual quarterly payment of rent, whereas they are now enabled to give their tenants some credit; but it might be fair, as between landlord and creditors, to limit the right of distress to one year's rent. He did not regard reduction of rent as a remedy for agricultural depression, but rather as the distribution of its results between landlord and tenant. Though continued depression or prosperity could not be without its effects on rents, frequent alterations were harassing to all parties, and the judgment and discretion of the experienced land agent might be of great value in fixing a scale of rental that might be accepted by both landlord and tenant as calculated to meet these fluctuations of prices and vicissitudes of seasons which periodically occur. As a remedy for the inequitable incidence of local taxation, he named three alternative methods—subvention from the imperial exchequer, the assessment of purely residential property on a higher scale than land, on the application of part of the house tax to local purposes. Apart from the remedies for the existing depression which may be expected in the natural course of things—namely, the revival of trade and the return to productive seasons—he thought there should be, in order to place British agriculture in the best possible position to cope in future with foreign legislation, some legislative changes of the nature which he had indicated in his address, and a continued outlay of capital in building, drainage, and other improvements, hand-in-hand with which must go improved cultivation. He hoped that both landlords and tenants would combine in the endeavour to meet the exigencies of the times by mutual concession and in a fair spirit, a course far more likely to succeed than that of arraying their forces in hostile camps in the face of their foreign competitors, who would surely profit by their division. The part of land agents should be to endeavour by a firm but conciliatory policy, and by the aid of matured judgment and experience, to reconcile conflicting interests, to promote improvements, and to render such advice and assistance as may tend to promote and expedite recovery from the existing depression.—There was a very large attendance of members, and at the close of the address a hearty vote of thanks was given to the president.

ANSWERED.—A hater of tobacco asked an old negro woman, the fumes of whose pipe were annoying to him, if she thought she were a Christian. Yes, brudder, I 'spects I is. Do you believe in the Bible? Yes, brudder. Do you know that there is a passage in the Scriptures which says that nothing unclean shall inherit the kingdom of heaven? Yes, I've heard of it. Well, Chloe! you smoke, and you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven, because there is nothing so unclean as the breath of a smoker. What do you say to that? Why, I 'spects to leave my breff behind when I go dar!

GENERAL WOOD AND HIS CHAPLAIN.—Sir Evelyn Wood did not get on very well with his chaplain, when in Zululand, and on one occasion the following conversation took place: "When are you going to leave us, Mr. Blank?" asked the general. "Oh, about the same time that you do yourself, I suppose," meekly answered the parson. "I don't know so much about that," said Sir Evelyn, "for I want your ent, and I can't spare your rations much longer." "Ah! but I want my tent myself, general, though I don't want spare rations." "Yes, but you know mine is the 'flying column,' and I can't be expected to fly with a lot of parsons hanging on to my coat tails." "Well general, all I can say is that if you call seven miles and a half a day flying, I think I shall be able to keep up with you." "That's all very well," said the general, a little nettled, "but I hear now that there's a Roman Catholic chaplain about to join us, and if he does I declare I'll put him in your tent." "If you do I daresay I shall have sufficient strength to put him out again," meekly observed the man of peace.

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT IPSWICH.

Two meetings were held in Ipswich on October 28 in order to explain to farmers and others resident in the Ipswich district the objects of the Farmers' Alliance. The afternoon meeting, which was presided over by Mr. R. L. Everett, Rushmere, was held in the Saloon of the Public Hall, and was very largely attended.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter from Mr. W. Manfield, Ipsworth Thorpe, in which that gentleman expressed his regret that he should not be able to be present at the meeting, adding, "I do not agree with your programme in its entirety, but I am firmly convinced that some alteration is necessary in the Law of Distress, the Game Laws, and the laws relative to agricultural tenancies, so that a tenant may have greater security for his capital." In the course of his opening speech, the Chairman said he had not taken an active part in the formation of this Farmers' Alliance for two or three reasons. One was that there seemed to him to be a very grave omission in the programme, and in addition his experience of farmers as agitators, as working together for the attainment of any political object, had not been so encouraging as to induce him to throw in much strength in any movement of this kind with any very great hope of success. There was already in existence a very good organisation by means of which farmers had been well able in the past, if they were so disposed, to give vent to their grievances. He referred to the Chamber of Agriculture. These chambers of agriculture had succeeded to a certain extent, but they would have succeeded much more had they been more largely supported by the farmers. As it appeared to him that nothing but good could result from the discussion of the grievances under which the farmers were suffering, he consented to take the chair rather than the meeting should fall through for the want of a chairman. He considered that this Alliance commended itself by those who had taken it up, and upon its principal founders. Mr. Barclay, member for the county of Dorsetshire, and Mr. Howard, of Bedford, who, with Mr. Reed, was about one of the first men who ever attempted to give security to the tenant farmer's capital by legislative enactments (applause). That there were many agricultural reforms very much needed there could no doubt, nor was it likely that these reforms would be obtained unless the farmers themselves put their shoulders to the wheel and got them themselves. With regard to these agricultural reforms, he should put in the forefront the repeal of the Malt Tax. He explained the action that had taken place in the House of Commons with reference to this tax, and said that notwithstanding there had been so much agitation, that tax remained unrepaid. It would be difficult to persuade any other class of producers that if they were taxed 50 to 70 per cent. upon the articles they produce it would be for their benefit. It was reserved for farmers, and farmers alone, to hold that idea. At the time of the agitation in reference to Free Trade many distinguished statesmen said the Malt Tax could not stand for a day if the protection of the Corn Laws was taken away. He regretted that this subject of the Malt Tax was omitted from the programme of the Alliance. Mr. Everett then showed how the friends of Malt Tax repeal had been deceived by their leaders. Colonel Barttelot was a first-rate leader while the Liberals were in power, but when Colonel Barttelot and his friends came into power, and there was a surplus of six millions to be disposed of, some faithful friends mentioned the subject of the Malt Tax, but where was the leader, Colonel Barttelot? He said he did not think it was a suitable time (laughter). When would it be a suitable time if the remission could not take place when there was a surplus of six millions (applause). He was now Sir William Barttelot, and though he (Mr. Everett) did not like to say so, the promotion he got from the Government certainly had an ugly look about it (laughter and applause). With respect to the question of local taxation, he took the lead at the Central Chamber of Agriculture and in the House of Commons on this subject. Sir Massey Lopes was now a member of the Government, and we had never heard his voice on the subject of local taxation since he had had a seat in the Government. This was where farmers had been beaten; they had been sold by their leaders, who led the farmers well when in opposition, but when they got to the position where

they had the power to deal with the question there was something they liked better, and they sold the farmers, and left them in the lurch (applause). The question was would the farmers stand this in the future, or whether they would decline to be played with in this way. Farmers had been neglected without administering the rebuke which they were capable of administering, and which if they had administered would soon have brought the Government to their senses (applause).

Professor HUNTER explained the programme of the Alliance, which he said was as follows:—To secure the better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament; to stimulate the improved cultivation of the land, especially by obtaining security for the capital of tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings; to encourage greater freedom in the cultivation of the soil and the disposal of its produce; to obtain the abolition of class privileges involved in the Law of Distress and Hypothec; to promote the reform of the Game Laws; to obtain the alteration of all legal presumptions which operate unfairly against tenant farmers; to secure to ratepayers their legitimate share in county government; to obtain a fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant. With regard to securing better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament, that seemed to include all others. It was through Parliament alone that the farmers could obtain redress for the grievance under which they suffered, and they could not attain this object more effectually than by sending their own representatives to the House of Commons (applause). It might be urged that the tenant farmers were represented by the landlords; but how, he would ask, would the landlords like to be represented by the tenant farmers (laughter and applause)? There was nothing more astonishing than the results produced in Scotland by the farmers putting their shoulders to the wheel, and taking various questions of agricultural interest into their own hands, and insisting upon their views being represented by either Conservatives or Liberals. He did not think that the Law of Hypothec had been much discussed there, and he did not think that the Law of Distress had been put prominently forward in England. With respect to the question of obtaining local security for the capital of tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings, Professor Hunter thought it was a maxim that the English law borrowed from the old Roman law, that whatever was fixed in the ground became the property of the owner of the soil. Unfortunately those by whom the English laws were formed had but an imperfect acquaintance with the Roman law, and there were some most important provisions in the Roman law which they did not know of—namely, that where the tenant, without being obliged to do so by the terms of his contract, erected or enlarged any building, or planted anything, that he should be entitled to compensation at the termination of his lease. That was a principle simply of justice which prevailed at that time, but, unfortunately, our judges, who are the founders of English law, did not know of the important qualification, and the result was that the law of England said whatever was fixed in the ground, or was put in the soil, became the property of the landlord without compensation to the tenant. As to the Agricultural Holdings Act, one of the first things that those who had the management of the crown lands did, was to issue notice to the effect that these lands would be contracted out of the Act. This was setting an unfortunate example to the landlords of the country. Professor Hunter spoke at length upon the Game Laws, and gave some statistics as to the damage done by rabbits, and referring to the prosecutions which had taken place under these laws, mentioned a case in which a farmer was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for having in an evil moment killed a rabbit which suddenly ran across his path. The injustice of the imprisonment was brought before the House of Commons, and Mr. Secretary Cross telegraphed to have the man released, but this was not done until he had been eight or ten days in prison. Anything more disgusting, anything more offensive than for the farmer or the farmer's son to be sent to prison for killing a rabbit on his own land, could not well be conceived. The Alliance did not pledge itself to the total abolition of the Game Laws, but were satisfied with directing the attention of the farmers to the question. Farmers had the remedy in their own hands, and if they only did as had been done in Scotland, there could be no difficulty in settling the game question so far as the farmers were concerned. Professor

Hunter explained the Law of Hypothec in Scotland in connection with the Law of Distress in England. The Law of Hypothec would have been abolished before this had not the English landlords stood in the way, fearing that the Law of Distress in England would be prejudiced. With respect to the Malt Tax, there were many objects which gentlemen would like to have seen introduced, but the programme as stated by him was what had been agreed upon after much consideration.

Mr. JAS. YOUNGMAN (Charsfield) moved:—"That this meeting approves of the formation of the Farmers' Alliance, believing that the attainment of its objects would be advantageous to the interests of agriculture." He thought all agriculturists present were agreed as to the terms of that resolution. There might be room for other items in the programme of the Alliance, but he thought it embraced enough for the present. He had some little fear lest this should become a party movement, not by the fault of the farmers themselves, or by the fault of the promoters of this organisation. He trusted that the promoters might be on their guard against the political element, but the influence might be too strong against them. What was to be desired was to see the two political parties competing together to see which could do the work that required to be done the quickest and the best. He had a great belief in a man attending to his own business. For generations the laws of this country had been made by the landlords, and what was wanted was the infusion of a few of other classes amongst them. We had had flagrant instances of class legislation. There never would be a better time for the tenant farmers to move to bring about reforms which were so necessary for the farming community. It had been said that a great deal more capital wanted to be put into the land, but, unfortunately, until the law was altered the occupier did not feel safe in putting his money into his occupation. He was much pleased with one sentence in a letter which Lord Tollemache addressed to the local papers, to the effect "Security lies at the basis of all good farming." He wished Lord Tollemache could have been present that day, as his lordship would have done good service to the cause of agriculture. There was no doubt that his lordship was willing to do something for the well-being of the farmer. Lord Tollemache had a good name in this county, and farmers were not the men to refuse such influential help (applause.) They were prepared to have co-operation from all classes. Perhaps the most pressing question of all, as far as farmers were concerned, was that of security of capital. Unfortunately there were not wanting instances in which farmers, who had very largely increased the buildings on the homestead and doubled the cereal produce, have had to leave the occupations in consequence of some change in landlords or in agents, or some circumstances over which the tenant had no control. A glaring case of that kind had recently occurred in this county. A farmer, after investing his own money, and after the investments of his forefathers for 80 years, had been compelled to give up his occupation. This farmer grieved over it every day, and his "grey hairs were being carried with sorrow to the grave." It was the law of England, and not the landlords or the agents, that was to be complained of. He trusted that under the auspices of the Alliance there might be something more than a nibbling at local taxation, by means of which 9d. was taken off 1s. was put on (applause). The great point to be aimed at was to get a tenant farmers' representation. He knew that the question of expense was a great difficulty. It cost several thousand pounds to contest a county. It would be a shame and dishonour to them, as tenant farmers in this county, if it should cost several thousand pounds to get a good tenant farmer representative for this county.

Mr. J. S. GARDINER (Borley) seconded the motion, and in doing so urged the advisability of the farmers selecting from their own class a man to represent them in the House of Commons. It was in the House of Commons that the battle must be fought. If they failed to send their own men into the House of Commons, they might rely upon it they would continue to be deceived by either one party or the other. When the Corn Laws were repealed, Mr. Cobden and Mr. John Bright stamped the country, and they were very glad to make use of Charles Lattimore, a tenant farmer, in connection with that agitation. Afterwards Mr. John Bright, when he occupied a strong position in the House of Commons, dropped the Game Laws as a person would drop a hot potato—(laughter)—and that gentleman had from that time to the

present ceased to urge the repeal of the Game Laws. To attempt to improve the Game Laws would be to aim at an impossibility. The Game Laws were so bad in themselves that they would have to be swept away. The sweeping away of these laws would not prevent a moderate preservation of game, but would do away with the great *batue* system and the nursery for crime which we knew the Game Laws to be one of the principal factors of. It was all very well to say that farmers had a right to destroy vermin of the kind when on their own land, but could they shoot in the dark (laughter)? There was only one class of people that could manage to catch game in the dark, and that was the gamekeeper (laughter). The man who farmed under a game-preserving landlord found the game-keeper a comfortable sort of individual, never telling the landlord lies about the tenant (laughter). If farmers wished to get their grievances redressed they could only obtain that redress by selecting men from their own class to represent them. A man who wore the agricultural boot, and knew where it pinched, knew where it pinched others also, and what kind of legislation was required to effect a remedy? What was wanted was an independent-minded man. It was not necessary that he should be independent in pocket, but not subject to the party whip, from whatever quarter it came (applause). Farmers had all sorts of prescriptions offered them. They were told that they ought to put more capital into the soil. They had been putting capital into the soil for the last five years, but where was it gone to (laughter)? They might put capital into the soil for five years longer, and and that would go to the place where the other was gone (laughter). It would be a shame to thousands of farmers that it should be said of them that they could not find a man from their own own body to represent them (applause).

Mr. W. E. BEAR, the secretary of the Alliance, said he wished to reply to some libels which had been industriously circulated in this and neighbouring counties. The objects of the Alliance appeared to be so thoroughly satisfactory that its enemies could find no fault with them, and hence they invented something, and said, "We don't object much to these objects, but there is something behind." That something behind they alleged was the furtherance of party interests. Lest that libel should discourage some from joining he was anxious to protest against its truth. The leaders of the Farmers' Alliance were honourable men, and they claim to be believed in repudiating that assertion (cheers). He assured them that the promoters had no party objects whatever, and he declared publicly that the question of agricultural reform came with him far above party interests, and he would vote for the best agricultural reformer—whether Conservative or Liberal (applause). He hoped, therefore, they would dismiss from their minds any idea that this was a Radical association as far as party politics were concerned. He hoped it would be radical as far as concerned pulling up abuses by the roots. He also denied that they were setting class against class. That was one of those clap-trap cries used in the absence of argument. There had never been any speeches of that kind. Of course if the landlords opposed them they were bound to be against them, but several landlords had spoken in their favour, and speeches of Earl Cowper, Lord Waveney, the Marquis of Tavistock, and Lord Hartington went in many respects quite as far as any member of the Farmers' Alliance. The Alliance simply sought the objects it proposed on its programme, whether they were opposed by one class or another. The Alliance had been accused in a neighbouring county of deceiving the farmers, because certain members of it had advocated the addition of another object to the programme—viz, the reform of the laws relating to landownership and transfer. He very much hoped the members in general meeting would add that object to their programme, but until they had done so it was not one of the objects of the Alliance. It would be in the power of the members to say whether it should be one or not. The desire to add that object had never been concealed, those who were in favour of it having stated it publicly at the first meeting.

Mr. H. BRIDELL said it was only about seven days since he attended a large meeting on the subject of agricultural depression. He went there in the hope that he might hear something that he could apply to his own circumstances, to make him better off—not by taking the property of others and transferring it to himself—but by altering the laws and adjusting the burdens which agriculturists had to bear. With the exception of some remarks made by one of Lord Rendlesham's tenants, he (Mr. Bridell) did not hear one word that

appeared to him to offer a practical remedy. He came to the Farmers' Alliance meeting, and he was tempted to think the same of that (applause). The Chairman was a little wrong in his history as to the agitation which had been going on in regard to various matters in which farmers had a direct interest. Sir Fitzroy Kelly led them well up to the time when that gentleman was made a judge, when, of course, he could not very well take further action in the matter. It was only right to judge a man by what he did, and not by what he would have done. He (Mr. Biddell) could say nothing in defence of Col. Barttelot, who undoubtedly sold the farmers, and there were others who did precisely the same thing, but Sir Massey Lopes did not sell them, for out of the six millions surplus, he obtained a million and a half in favour of that for which he had been such a warm advocate at the Central Chamber and elsewhere (applause). The Chairman had spoken in eulogistic terms of Mr. C. S. Read, but that gentleman was not amongst the 17 who voted for the repeal of the Malt Tax. Mr. Everett did not say a word about that, though he took good care to throw the blame upon the Government (applause). Wherever he (Mr. Biddell) met Mr. Read he should call him to book for that omission unless he offered a better explanation than he had yet given (applause). The programme of the Alliance was all very well, but he (Mr. Biddell) should like to have seen something which the tenant farmer could have gone to work at now, instead of waiting until he had to leave his farm, as in the case of the Law of Distress (applause). He could suggest some things: The shifting of the tax off barley and putting it on to beer, or something else—at least, let Parliament deal with it as they thought best. Then let the school rate be made a national rate (applause). Ignorance was said to be a national sin; then let the remedy be national; it ought not to be thrown upon the tenant farmer (applause). A great deal had been said of late as to the tithe. If there had not been such high prices of corn the tithe would not have been so high; therefore the natural remedy would be that when there were a number of bad years the average would be brought down some ten or twelve per cent. He, however, thought the number of years on which the average was taken was too long, and he should like to see that reduced (applause).

The CHAIRMAN said he was very sorry if he had reflected too severely upon gentlemen who had taken a prominent part in matters which affected agriculturists. It was quite true that Sir Fitzroy Kelly was a strong advocate while in the House of Commons, but he (Mr. Everett) feared that it was an arranged thing that the motion for the repeal of the Malt Tax should be proposed by Sir Fitzroy Kelly and seconded by Sir Bulwer Lytton, and that both those gentlemen should receive promotion in order to get rid of an ugly question (applause). The Chairman then put the motion, which was carried.

Mr. J. S. GARDINER proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Everett for presiding.

Mr. R. HAWARD (Mells Hill) seconded the motion, and in doing so dwelt at some length upon the various matters in which farmers had a direct interest, and the grievances which ought to be redressed.

The motion having been carried amidst applause, and the Chairman having acknowledged the vote, the proceedings terminated.

The evening meeting was held in the Public Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor of Ipswich.

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, said he consented to preside that evening because he heartily sympathised with many of the objects of this association. It had been said that the programme of the Alliance did not go quite far enough, but he thought it would be generally accepted that the items which it included were those in which the farming unity had a direct and substantial interest, and that if a reform in those matters could be brought about its objects would be accomplished (applause). Agriculturists had and were passing through a crisis of unprecedented severity. Free trade and foreign competition had caused the people of England to undervalue to some extent the importance of the agriculture of this country. The Mayor gave some statistics as to the imports of corn into this country, showing that whereas in 1840 it cost this nation 8s. 6d. per head for the different commodities, in 1878 we sent out of this country as much as 60s. per head of our population. It must be manifest to all

that if we could keep in this country the immense sum annually sent out for foreign produce, it would be an immense boon, not only to agriculture, but to the country at large. He pointed out that our home produce might be much increased, and he said, as a practical farmer, he knew to his own cost how much the cost of labour had increased within the last few years. Having dwelt upon the subject of local taxation, the rates which farmers were called upon to pay, and the desirability of landlords finding capital to improve their home-steads, the Mayor pointed out that the interests of the landlord and tenant were up to a certain point identical, and that though we had heard a great deal about the want of sunshine and the excessive rain, still something more than a fine season was wanted to place the farmer in a position which he ought and deserved to occupy.

Professor HUNTER then addressed the meeting, again explaining the objects of the Alliance. He pointed out that the alleged cause of distress in the manufacturing interests—over-production—would not explain agricultural depression, the cause for which must be found elsewhere. He showed that there were many reasons why the English farmer should be most successful, and quoted statistics by Mr. Caird proving the immense increase in the price of land in the United Kingdom in the last twenty years, all of which he argued went to prove that the farmers had been paying too high rent, and thus converted their share of what the Premier called the three profits into a loss. As a remedy for this, he showed that Protection was impossible, the real remedy being a lowering of the rents. There was, however, one direction in which the landlords and tenants might do something to relieve what threatened to be an enormous fall in rents, and that was by increasing the capital applied to the land, so as to make it more productive to all concerned. The true remedy was a larger production at a smaller proportionate cost; but he maintained that there was everything in the state of the law to hinder so desirable a result. He showed how tenants were discouraged from the application of capital to their farms by the want of security for their investments. However generous, he said, landlords might be in particular cases and little inclined to stretch their powers to the injury of the tenant, the latter had no legal security, and he utterly denied that the goodwill of another man was an adequate security for the investment of capital. Until the farmer had this security nothing like the full produce of the land would be obtained, and in this way this question was one of vital importance to the nation. Professor Hunter then went on to speak of the game as another serious evil with which farmers had to contend, and in conclusion enforced the desirability of direct representation of the tenant farmers in Parliament, observing that if the tenant farmers were alive to their own interests, and the great public interest involved, it need not be a very costly thing to return a tenant's representative. Before closing he greatly amused his audience by reading a clause from a lease used on the property of a noble earl in the north, in which the most stringent covenants were inserted, prohibiting the tenant from disturbing game with dogs or by firing blank ammunition, or from keeping any dog but a sheep dog, which was not to be allowed to go about the fields except with the shepherd, and for the purpose of tending sheep, or from carrying a gun, except when loaded with powder only to scare rooks, the gamekeeper being entitled to satisfy himself how it was loaded; and such like provisions. He wondered, he said, that any persons were found willing to hire land on such ignominious terms (Applause).

Rev. J. F. A. HERVEY moved "That this meeting approves of the objects of the Farmers' Alliance as calculated to promote the interests of agriculturists and the nation at large, and considers the association deserving of general support." He said he felt some diffidence in coming forward on such an occasion, not being a farmer himself. This was not regarded as a political movement, and it had been he certainly should not have come forward. He did not wish to see a man sent to Parliament because he happened to be a farmer, any more than he wished to see him sent there because he happened to be a landlord. He desired that the best man should be sent to Parliament, whether he was a farmer, landlord, or anything else. The cost of contesting a county was one of the evils of the present system, the result of which was that representation of counties in Parliament was confined to twelve or fifteen wealthy men in the county. He contended that the expenses of such elections should be paid out of the county rate, as that

was a necessary step in reform. It was a very vulgar and snobbish idea on the part of voters to suppose that he (the voter) did a candidate a good turn by sending him to Parliament. As to the Agricultural Holdings Act, the rev. gentleman observed that the great objection in making it compulsory was that it would interfere with the freedom of contract. There was a great outcry against the interference with contract, as if it was some sacred, holy thing that had never been interfered with in other matters. He, however, pointed out that it was in the case of the Factory Act and Merchant Shipping Act. Nor would the law allow a man to marry his grandmother. (Laughter). He maintained that there was no question in which interference with the freedom of contract would be more justifiable than in the land question, for the simple reason that the land was what every person in this country had to live upon, and it was not private property in the sense that a man's watch was, and could not be dealt with so. He expressed a hope that there might be some modification of the Game laws.

Mr. ROBERT HAWARD, in seconding the motion, spoke at some length on the question of security for tenants' capital, and the game laws. He also urged that the law of distress operated harshly upon the tenant farmers by forcing up rents unnaturally through increasing the competition for farms. He spoke of the injury done to the farmers' crops by game, and warmly condemned the employment of the police in its preservation, and pointed out that besides other injuries to the ratepayers the reduction of the assessment of game ridden farms was an injustice to other occupiers. Speaking on the county government question, he said about 200 magistrates, some of whom were but small ratepayers and others not ratepayers at all, had the power of taxing tenant farmers as much and as often as they pleased.

Mr. C. H. COWELL and Mr. F. G. BUGG also addressed the meeting, the latter gentleman, observing that this was pre-eminently a farmer's question, and it was no use farmers disguising the fact that it was their work; and if there was anything to be done it must be done by the farmers. The only marvel to him was that the farmers should have been content to go on year after year without taking security for the capital which they were prepared to put into the land.

The resolution passed at the afternoon meeting was agreed to, and a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding brought the proceedings to a close.

#### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT MAIDSTONE.

Under the auspices of the Farmers' Alliance a meeting was held at the Star Hotel, Maidstone, on Thursday October 30th, the chair being occupied by the Mayor (Charles Ellis, Esq.). We have only space for the speeches of Mr. James Howard and Mr. W. Fowler.

Mr. J. HOWARD, late M.P. for Bedford, after remarking that his whole interests were bound up in the welfare and prosperity of agriculture, both directly and indirectly, said it was not likely he would stand upon any platform to advocate changes which he did not believe would be advantageous. He and his friends were appearing before the farmers of the famous county of Kent to make a plain and straightforward statement as to the objects of the Farmers' Alliance, and to advocate its programme, and he would ask the gentlemen he saw around him to dismiss from their minds anything they had heard prejudicial to the Alliance, and to depend upon their own judgment in deciding whether its objects were worthy of support or not. It had been asked—What need is there for another agricultural association, seeing that so many already exist? The answer to that was two-fold. The first was that none of the existing agricultural associations had obtained or even sought to obtain the principal objects of the Alliance, and, further, it was a startling fact that none of the existing agricultural associations, notwithstanding their number, was charged with the special duty of looking after the interests of the tenant farmers (applause). He challenged his opponents to name one such association. The Alliance had been started to supply that want; it would look after the interests of the tenant farmers both in and out of Parliament, and it would see that no additional burdens were placed upon their shoulders without raising a note of alarm. Were not the interests of the great tenant farmer class, with its four hundred millions

sterling of capital, of sufficient importance and magnitude to justify the formation of an association to look after them? The wonder was that such an association had not been formed long ago. The tenant farmers of the kingdom had long complained, and justly too, that their voices had been unheard in Parliament (Hear, hear). No matter what Government had been in power, and no matter what they had demanded, their demands had either been ignored or they had been evaded, and the promoters of the Alliance believed that would continue to be the case until the farmers of the Kingdom adopted one of two courses—either send to Parliament as their representatives men of their own class (cheers), or, failing to find such candidates, withhold their suffrages from any candidate who refused to support a programme agreed upon (renewed cheers). The programme of the Alliance had been prepared with that object, and he believed it would commend itself to the great majority of the farmers of the country (Hear, hear). The Alliance believed that if the interests of the farmers were to be well and efficiently looked after in Parliament, the work would best be done by members of their own class, for independently of the greater practical knowledge they would bring to bear upon the various subjects laid before the House of Commons for consideration, they would naturally feel a deeper interest and wider sympathy in the views of men of their own class. Some years ago the tenant farmers of the county of Norfolk set an example by choosing one of themselves as the Parliamentary representative, Mr. Clare Sewell Read—(cheers)—and he would ask had not the wisdom of that course been proved, and was not such an example worthy the consideration of the great agricultural county of Kent? (cheers.) Nothing would rejoice Mr. Read more than to find in the next Parliament a number of men of his own class to support his views. The present depression in agriculture had naturally brought the question of direct representation in Parliament more prominently forward, and therefore it was that the tenant farmers of Warwickshire had determined to support Mr. Lane, a very intelligent practical farmer, while those of Essex had decided to bring forward Mr. Page Wood, both counties having further determined to pay the necessary expenditure of their candidature (cheers). And it so happened that Mr. Lane was a Conservative and Mr. Wood a Liberal, yet, notwithstanding this difference in politics, the Farmers' Alliance would exert its influence to secure the return of the two gentlemen to Parliament (Hear, hear). Their motto, indeed, had been from the beginning, and he hoped would continue to be, "Agriculture first and party after" (cheers). Could anyone deny that the great body of tenant farmers in England and Scotland had a right to a larger share in the Government of the country than it had hitherto possessed? There were 187 members elected by the English counties, and yet only one was a *bona fide* tenant farmer. The tenant farmer class was the only one in the whole community not directly and efficiently represented, and he had sometimes thought that even the labourers would send their representatives before the farmers began to bestir themselves. A move had, however, been made in the right direction, the Farmers' Alliance were now seeking to remove the impediments from the path of the agriculturist, and it was felt that could best be done by sending to Parliament a number of practical tenant farmers (applause). In advocating direct representation for farmers, however, he wished to have it clearly and distinctly understood that he was actuated by no feeling of hostility to the great territorial class; he had no feeling against that influential body, and he had no wish to set class against class (Hear, hear). He would deprecate any such result; he had no desire to wrest from any one any privileges or rights to which they were entitled, of which they were in possession, and which they used for the good of the community, and he believed it to be quite possible to hold adverse views, without their being inimical to those interests (applause). From his own experience he had no hesitation in saying that the landlords of this country compared most favourably with those of any other country with which he was acquainted, but although he entertained so high an opinion of them it was no reason why they as a class should monopolise the representation of the counties in Parliament (cheers). The House of Lords was composed almost exclusively of the great territorial class, and therefore there was less need to fill the House of Commons with members of that powerful, respected, and influential body (cheers). How

could it be expected that a landlord should take a view of a public question from a tenant's standpoint? The thing was impossible; it was almost contrary to nature (Hear, hear). The interests of landlord and tenant were, as a fact, no more identical than were those of the farmer and labourer. The three it was true had an interest in the general welfare and prosperity of agriculture, but he need only mention two or three questions to show that the tenants had a separate, distinct, and defined interest apart from the landlords. There were the questions of rates and taxes, restrictions in covenants, the Game Laws, and Law of Distress (Hear, hear). He had not mentioned the question of rents because he believed that might well be left to the natural law of supply and demand (Hear, hear). They had no sympathy with the agitation going on across the Channel on that matter (cheers); they were reformers and not revolutionists (renewed cheers). The popular talk about the identity of interests would not, at all events, bear the scrutiny of Parliamentary history, for the voice of the tenant farmers had been systematically ignored in Parliament (Hear, hear). Perhaps there were few topics which bore more directly upon the farming interest than that of cattle diseases, but what had been the history of the legislation in reference to it. Was it not for years a catalogue of blunders? Did either the past or the present Government listen to the views of intelligent farmers, and were not millions of the tenant farmers' capital wasted before wise counsels prevailed? ("Yes"). Few present would forget the timidity of Mr. Forster, and perhaps fewer still would forget the obstinacy of the Duke of Richmond on the same question. It would be remembered that so obdurate was the present Government that Mr. Rad had to resign his seat in the Cabinet before the Duke of Richmond was brought to his senses, and efficient means adopted for keeping the disease out of the country (Hear, hear). And had not the wisdom of the views advocated by the more intelligent tenant farmers become apparent by the comparative immunity the country had since enjoyed from that dire disease (Hear, hear). To turn to another question, the farmers had long contended that as they paid rates they had a claim to a voice in the county expenditure and the county government. He happened to be one of those who were generally called the "great unpaid," and from his experience at quarter sessions he was bound to admit that the demands of the ratepayers were reasonable (Hear, hear). Was there ever a more contemptible measure brought forward for the consideration of Parliament than the County Government Bill? Was the voice of the farmers attended to in the consideration of that important, and to them, financial question? If the provisions of that bill were looked into, the only conclusion that could be arrived at was that the bill was one of the greatest insults ever offered to the ratepayers of England (cheers). Then the Rivers Conservancy Bill, which was to deal with the damage caused by the river floods to the tenant farmers' property, was dropped because of the opposition of some powerful landowners ("Shame"). There was also another question which occupied the attention of Parliament during the last session. Many would remember that Mr. Sampson Lloyd, the Conservative member for Plymouth, brought forward a motion for the appointment of a minister of agriculture and commerce, who should have a seat in the Cabinet—a measure that had been advocated by some of the wisest men the country had seen, yet the Government gave it their most strenuous opposition. Fortunately they were ignominiously defeated, as they could adduce no solid argument against the motion (applause). Then again they would remember Mr. Samuelson's application for an inquiry into the working of the Agricultural Holdings Act, a measure which had certainly failed to accomplish the objects for which it was brought in. Those objects, as avowed by the Duke of Richmond, were to secure to the tenant the capital he invested in the land, to give him, in fact, that protection to which he was entitled, his lordship describing—and Earl Beaconsfield did so also—in glowing language the advantages which would result to the tenants and the whole community from the passing of the Act (derisive laughter). Before the Bill was passed he, as the spokesman of a deputation to Lord Beaconsfield from the Farmers' Club, ventured to state it was not worth while to trouble Parliament to pass a bill giving to the landowners permission to give compensation for unexhausted improvements, and he thought the result had shown that those views were not far wrong. The pro-

perty of the landowner was still to be held sacred, but no such sacred rights were to surround the property of the tenant. He would now, for a moment or two, refer to the question of local taxation, in order to show that the pecuniary interests of farmers were not well looked after in Parliament. The sanitary acts, if well and properly carried out, would no doubt prove a great boon to their rural populations, but it was a most unjust provision that permanent improvements in a village should be paid for by those who had only an ephemeral interest in the parish. He had always thought that a rate for sanitary purposes should be imposed on the landlord, who had a permanent interest in the parish, instead of on the occupier, who, as was frequently the case, had only a very temporary one (Hear, hear). So again with regard to education. That act was passed mainly for the benefit of the labourer and in the interest of the whole community, but whatever might have been the resultant benefit in those directions, the measure had borne very hardly upon the tenant farmer—(Hear, hear)—for it had drawn from him a good deal of juvenile labour, the value of which, at certain seasons, could scarcely be measured by money (Hear, hear). Still to the honour of the farmers of England they had loyally complied with the provisions of the Act (applause). Therefore it seemed unjust that the school rate should be levied on the occupiers; as the Act was not passed in their interest, the burden should have been thrown on the shoulders of the owners. He knew that political economists maintained that rates fell ultimately on the owners, and he was not prepared to deny that it was so in the long run, but he held that the doctrine did not apply to new rates, for if burdens were imposed on a class there was a tendency for them to remain there for a lengthened period (Hear, hear). Therefore the object of the Alliance was to prevent the imposition of additional burdens on the tenant farmer without due notice being given. In conclusion he would observe that at no former period in the history of their country had the future of the land of England been looked forward to with so much anxiety and so much apprehension as at the present time (Hear, hear). Not only were the tenants and landlords inquiring what were the means and remedies to be applied, but the whole population was joining in the inquiry. The enormous and ever increasing sums of money being spent in the purchase of foreign agricultural produce was receiving the attention of the whole country, as was also the necessity of removing all obstructions to progress out of the way of agriculture (Hear, hear). That important changes were pending must be obvious to the most casual observer, for land reforms were no longer left in the hands of philosophers or writers more or less obscure. When such men as Earl Cowar and the Marquis of Tavistock came forward, as they did last week, and openly condemned the laws of entail, primogeniture, and primogeniture, the time could not surely be far distant when those questions would occupy the attention of the Legislature. No class was more interested in those matters than the tenant farmers, and no class had greater interest in the questions of security of tenure, security of capital, the reform of the Game Laws, the abolition of the Law of Distress, and other points alluded to in the programme of the Alliance, and it was therefore necessary that the Parliament dealing with them should contain influential and practical farmers who would be able to bring to bear upon them long experience and practical knowledge. On those grounds he asked them to heartily support the Alliance (loud cheers).

Mr. Wm. FOWLER, who was also loudly cheered on rising, was the next speaker. It had, he said, been constantly thrown in the teeth of those who advocated the Alliance that it was nothing but Radicalism in disguise. But he could tell them that a great many Conservatives were members of the Alliance and that it was only the interests of agriculture that were sought to be promoted (Hear, hear). It was outrageous that men like Mr. Howard and himself, who had been before the world so long a time, should be openly called false, dangerous, and deceptive men. There was, however, one consolation—nobody would fully believe it (laughter). There might however, be a few misled, and therefore he wished to say that that was no party organisation, and that it was only political in the sense that it was intended to improve the policy of the Government as far as agriculture was concerned (Hear, hear). He was pleased to hear Mr. Howard say he had no wish to set class against class. He himself was not a farmer, in fact his friends were mainly among the landowners. As far as

was concerned he would not do an injustice to any one for the sake of any class whatever. The question was, however, whether they, the agricultural class as a whole, were well dealt with by the law. If they were the Alliance was not wanted, but if the law were wrong then they had better find out the evil and combine to alter it (Hear, hear). The Alliance was not a thing to be regarded with suspicion, but it was an association formed for a good, honest, and honourable purpose. He had sometimes been highly amused at having been called a revolutionist, because he had for many years contended that the law with regard to the holding of land in this country was absurd and foolish, and that it ought to be altered in the interests of the owners themselves and of the community at large, but he would ask—What is there revolutionary in that? When they remembered that Lord Hartington, the Marquis of Tavistock, the Duke of Bedford, Earl Cowper, Lord Carrington, and the Duke of St. Albans held somewhat similar views, they would not, he thought, be able to say that he and Mr. Howard were revolutionists because they were found in such company. Now, he believed that the interests of landlord and tenant were identical, for if the latter were not doing well the former could not also do well for very long at any rate, as they had found out this year to their cost (Hear, hear). As to setting class against class that was all pestilent nonsense, but if the farmers thought that there was anything wrong in Parliament, they would have to insist on an alteration themselves—nobody would do it for them (Hear, hear). That was the rule in every trade and class. He should like to refer briefly to some of the points touched upon by Mr. Howard. In reference to the Agricultural Holdings Act, the preceding speaker had alluded to the opinions of several authorities, but he would just like to add that Mr. Caird, in an interesting book called "Land Interests," referred to the relations between landlord and tenant, and said it was useless to look for enterprise and progress among the tenants where there was no real security for the capital invested. Nothing, indeed, could be plainer than that (applause). He did not know whether any of them had seen a reprint of Mr. Samuelson's speech last session on his motion for an enquiry into the working of the Agricultural Holdings Act. But in proposing his resolution, the hon. gentleman stated that the results of inquiries he had made on the matter, and the answers he had received from all parts of the kingdom were republished with the speech. These replies showed that the measure was one of the most important that had ever passed the House of Commons (Hear, hear). Parliament first passed the Act and then, as if afraid of its work, added a clause so that anybody who chose might have nothing to do with it, the result being that scarcely an appreciable number of estates in the country were now under the system! Passing on to the Law of Distress, Mr. Fowler said it was, no doubt, very nice for a landlord to be able to feel that his rent was safe, but the effect of the law was very detrimental to the farmer. It deprived him of the credit he might otherwise obtain from merchants and tradesmen, while it also handicapped him in the matter of rent. Many men took farms at too high a rent, and it was frequently the case that the landlord or his agent let a farm to a man with inferior capital over the head of a man with more capital and a greater knowledge of farming, because the former made a higher bid than the latter, and the owner was, under any circumstances, sure to get his rent (Hear, hear). He would like to know, however, who benefited by such a law; he did not believe it did the landlord any good, for it only reduced the value of his property by inducing bad management. He had never yet met any one who could tell him why one man should have priority over anybody else (Hear, hear). After briefly alluding to the tithes, which, he said, were a charge on the land, and were, consequently, more a landlord's question, Mr. Fowler spoke of the taxation question, expressing his belief that that was not of such pressing importance as some others. Doubtless, there were many unfairnesses, and some rates pressed unduly on the tenant, but a re-adjustment between landlord and occupier would not very materially affect the latter. Now, as to the Game Laws, he was not prepared to go as far as some gentlemen. The Chairman at the Colchester meeting, a Conservative farmer, and his friend Mr. Howard, a former Liberal member of Parliament, had said that they would have no Game Laws at all, but he himself, while he would like to see ground game got rid of, thought that

winged game would not do much harm to anybody. He felt, that, if they had no Game Laws whatever, difficulties might arise in the question of trespass (Hear, hear). He would now deal with the competition we had to meet from America; of which they were continually reading something astounding. He noticed a few days before that the increase of the area under wheat cultivation in one year in America was equal to the whole area under the same cultivation in this country, while from across the Atlantic also we had received in twelve months meat of the value of £8,000. From that he argued we were in a most peculiar position, for while we had had several bad seasons we had had to meet a competition which exceeded all past experience (Hear, hear). That naturally led to the question was there anything in the foreign system which gave a greater advantage to the agriculturist? An American had explained the difference by saying, "We brush away all your old-fashioned notions." And there was doubtless something in that, although the Yankees went, perhaps, a little too fast for this country. The great necessity was, in fact, freedom for the tenant and freedom for the owner, and the British agriculturist was bound, in duty to himself and his country, to see that he was not placed under disadvantages which could be avoided (cheers). Landlords and tenants were alike hampered by several laws which had been referred to that evening (renewed cheers) and unless both were made more free they could never hope to withstand foreign competition (applause). He trusted that out of the present dire calamity some great improvements would proceed (Hear, hear). Mr. Fowler then proceeded at considerable length to deal with the law of entail, showing how it prevented the proper cultivation of large estates, and he quoted copious extracts from a speech of Lord Carrington in support of his argument. He urged that it was better for the general community that the owner should have absolute control over his land, and replying to the suggestion that if entail were abolished some families might be ruined through the gambling propensities of some scapegrace, asked if many families in all classes were not frequently broken up by such means, and if the nation were any the worse for it. Freedom would enable impoverished families to sell portions of their estates to wealthy men who would be able to properly develop them, and the result would be a wonderful change in the country in the course of twenty years. That was a subject to which he had devoted much attention, he very believed he had "freedom" on the brain—(laughter)—and he was strongly convinced that when there was freedom of land tenure and freedom of cultivation every class would be vastly benefited (loud cheers).

The following resolution, moved by Mr. E. Wood, Aylesford, seconded by Mr. Page, was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting approves of the formation of the Farmers' Alliance, believing that the attainment of its objects would be advantageous to the interests of agriculture."

The *Penrith Observer* states that, at a recent stock sale at Orton, a number of half-bred gimmer lambs were sold for 2s. 6d. each, and a number of wether shearlings at 2s. a head.

"REVOLUTIONARY" PROPOSALS.—It is an odd fact in connection with the proposal for reforming the land laws, which the Tories denounce as revolutionary, that it is accepted by some of the greatest landlords in England. Lord Hartington, heir to the Cavendish estates, has already stated his readiness to remove all restrictions; and now Lord Tavistock, who inherits the Bedford estates, declares himself on the same side. He would abolish primogeniture, and settlement "except in favour of widows and younger sons"—an odd exception—make land as saleable as a chattel, establish an Encumbered Estates Court, and make the provisions of the Agricultural Holdings Act compulsory. It is clear that the enfranchisement of the soil will not meet with passionate opposition from the landlords, and we wish we could expect as little from the legal profession. The solicitors, however, have not spoken yet, and hitherto they have resisted any change in the methods of conveyancing radical enough to threaten the most profitable portion of their business. Any thorough reform will have to be accompanied by a new method of calculating law-charges.—*Spectator*.

## AGRICULTURAL TABLE TALK.

On October 28th Lord Carington entertained his South Bucks tenants at dinner in the Wellington Room, Red Lion Hotel, High Wycombe, on the occasion of the half-yearly audit. Lord SUFFIELD proposed the toast of the evening, "The Health of Lord Carington, your Friend and Landlord," which was received with great cheering. Lord CARINGTON thanked the tenantry for the manner in which they had drunk his health, and after some local remarks, said: "We have heard the opinions of the political leaders, but perhaps it will be of advantage to see what owners of land have said on the subject. The Duke of Rutland, a man conspicuous for his conscientiousness and consistency, in a very remarkable speech, boldly advocates a 5s. duty on all wheat that comes from America, and 1s., or perhaps nothing at all, on Canadian wheat. The Duke of Beaufort, lately returned from America, writes to Mr. Daniel Owen: 'The result of my consideration of the subject is this—that climate, steam, and transport by sea and land, together with the labour question on both sides of the ocean, have made it out of the power of our agriculturists to compete with the growers of wheat on the American continent, and that they must turn their attention to cheaper and better modes of growing beef and mutton.' The Speaker of the House of Commons says: 'I think we may fairly hope that with better seasons the depression may be only temporary;' and a landowner with 3,000 acres on his hands—i.e., 4½ square miles—which he is cultivating himself, thinks 'not a few country gentlemen will come down, and that a social revolution is upon us.' Here we have, gentlemen, four different opinions of large landowners. 1st. Advice to return to Protection. 2nd. Advice to lay down as much grass as possible and trust to stock. 3rd. We are told to hope for better seasons. 4th. A dread is expressed that many landowners will be ruined, and that a social revolution is imminent. It is on the first and last of these opinions I shall call your attention. The repeal of the Corn Laws was followed with prosperity in the landed interest; the Tory prophets of evil, who foretold the ruin of the agricultural interest, were, as the racing papers would say, floored to a man. The price of wheat in 1846 was 57s. 6½d., and if you take the average of the next ten years you will find it exactly the same sum, 57s. 6½d., and the highest quotation of wheat in that time was in May, 1847, when it stood at 100s. 5d. per quarter. The Governments of Lord John Russell, Lord Palmerston, and Lord Aberdeen, got the credit of the good times as Governments always do, and the extreme part of the Cobden school predicted better times for agriculturists than had ever been known. But Free Trade, though an immense benefit to the nation at large, like all other reforms, affects individual interests. It is useless to deny that Free Trade, however beneficial to the country at large, does make the profit of the farmer less than it was in the days of Protection. Cheap bread is of vital importance to the nation at large. Our ports are open to the world, and we buy our corn in the cheapest market. The loaf is cheap, and ought to be cheaper, and with our own yield, with America in the present and Canada in the future, England is assured of a plentiful supply of bread stuff at low prices. This immense advantage is one that will never be given up out of consideration to the agricultural interest, and the question is, what are the circumstances that hamper landlords and farmers in addition to Free Trade, and make it difficult, and in some cases impossible, to farm with profit? With regard to the dread of social revolution, shall we for a moment or two consider the position of the ordinary landowner of the present time—by that I mean a man who derives the whole of his income from land—tenant for life of an estate more or less encumbered with settlements and mortgages and other fixed charges. At the risk of being thought an egotist, I will take my own case. Following the advice of my best friends during my father's lifetime, being twenty-two years of age, I re-entailed the estate. I inherited, eleven years ago, property in Bucks, in Lincolnshire, and in Wales. I found property had been bought in this county, and to pay for that property the Welsh estate had to be sold, and the money reinvested in the land purchased in Bucks. The farm buildings were so bad on the Welsh property that it was calculated that the purchaser would have to spend one whole year's rental on them to put them in decent repair. Mind, I do not blame my father for this; but I do blame the strictness of the entail, which prevented him putting the buildings into

such a condition as to enable the tenants to do justice to themselves and the land by which they got their living. The river Humber washed away five acres of good land for several years at Winterringham, and formed an island in the bed of the river. A revenue cutter sailed round it and the Government took it, and the sea laid up several acres of land at Humberstone. As a tenant for life I couldn't afford to repeal the attacks of the river, or to accept the gifts of the ocean, for I could not charge the estate for permanent improvements, nor could I sell a single acre of the thirty-four square miles which I inherited. Under these circumstances what are the landlords to do? On all sides we hear of reductions and returns to tenants. These are duly chronicled in the papers with a certain grim humour as "liberality of a landlord." It keeps some tenants going, and saves the landlord having to cultivate the land, but 10 per cent. reduction is no real use, and doesn't solve the question at all. Are the Game Laws to be abolished? Generally speaking, I don't think that in England any serious damage is done by game. Ten years ago there was a great outcry, but common sense came to the rescue, and the enormous quantity of ground game was got rid of. Rabbits are considered vermin, and they might be with advantage destroyed, but all the iniquities of the old Game Laws are done away with. The absurdity of no man being allowed to carry a gun unless he owned 100 acres of land is a thing of the past. The sale of game is legal, and sympathy with poachers is gradually dying out. I have yet to learn that the word farmer is synonymous with fool, and certainly no one but a fool would take a farm where game is preserved to an injurious extent. Labourers' pay—now can you reduce that? Lord Beaconsfield told us at Aylesbury that the farm labourers' wages have been raised 40 per cent. within the last forty years. Thank God that is so. But take the average wage of farm labourers, it is none too high, there can be no retrenchment in that quarter. The last advice is that the landlords are to cut down their personal expenditure, and farm the land thrown on their hands. How can I offer the land at a still lower rent to meet the hardness of the times, and still pay the unalterable charges and repair of the estate? Taxation and the rates have a great deal to do with the crisis. The expenditure of the country is appalling, and next year the bill will be a heavy one indeed. I will not trouble you with figures, but call your attention to the alarming increase of the national expenditure. The total expenditure of 1872-73 was £70,714,000, that of 1878-79 was £85,407,789. This shows a steady increase of over two millions a year, or a total of fourteen millions in six years. Sir Stafford Northcote's estimate of the expenditure of the coming year is £81,153,573, but this does not include the Zulu war, the cost of which will be frightful. The English troops in South Africa were 22,000, as against 27,000, the fighting line which went to the Crimea. It is useless here to question who is to blame. The fact remains. The bill must be paid. Taxation may, gentlemen, have something to do with the present agricultural crisis, but we must go deeper into it still. It appears to me that now we must inquire into the system of the Land Laws, the question of entail, and the difficulty of the transfer and sale of lands, and whether it is right that estates heavily mortgaged should be left tied up in such a manner that escape from the debt is rendered impossible. People say take care how you introduce this subject, as you are sitting on a barrel of gunpowder. Is there no danger at sea, when a vessel has sprung a leak, if you sit with your hands folded and trust to a fair wind to blow you into port—is there no danger, I say, of the good ship settling down with her cargo and her crew in forty fathoms of blue water? With the question of simplifying the operations of transfer or mortgage of land, I do not propose this evening to deal. The principles of Lord Selborne's bill are well known, and will be carefully discussed, nor need we argue whether the law which, if a landowner dies without giving any directions as to the disposal of his property, gives all the land, without diminution or change, to the landowner's next heir is just to the family, or beneficial to the country at large. The time has, however, come that the great question of entail should be calmly discussed, whether a man should have the right to re-entail property heavily mortgaged. Many consider that the laws which allow a landowner, by his deed or by his will to prevent his land being sold, seized, or lessened in size, either during his own life or for many years after his death are necessary for the very

existence of the landed interest of England. May these laws not be a positive danger to the country, and one of the reasons of the present agricultural distress? In no way do I wish to introduce a principle that a living man may not do what he likes with his own—buy, sell, let or farm as much as he chooses, leave it all to his eldest son, divide it amongst his children, or leave it entirely away. But though we properly respect the rights of the living, ought we not to curtail the power of the dead? The largest landowner in England and Scotland has a total of 1,358,548 acres. I see no harm in that; there is no reason why he should not own two million acres; but what I do think wrong is that a landowner should, either by his own act or by the deed of his predecessors, be saddled with an enormous tract of country of which it is impossible for him to get rid of a square yard, however necessary, however beneficial the sale of a small portion of it would be to the country, the estate, to his tenants, or to himself. I will try to show what the consequence is. In the north of the county I have two strong clay farms on my hands; one I cannot get a bid for, nobody will cultivate it at any rent. I say to my agent, "What am I to do?" he answers, "The buildings must be rebuilt, the worst land laid down in grass, the land drained and cleansed, and in two years you may get a tenant." Very good, but all this ought to have been done years ago, and the tenant would have been saved, and the land would never have got into so miserable a condition. But the same millstone is round my neck that hampered my father, that I must wear till my death, my brothers as well, if they succeed me, and the land is not free till after our deaths, or the twenty-first birthday of an unborn heir. As tenant for life I hoped against hope, trusted to the good season of 1879 to put things right; that season failed, the tenant is ruined, and the land starved. It is a small matter, one farm in hand, you will say; but look around us. I hear of a proprietor with 4,000 acres on his hands, a Berkshire landowner with thirteen farms, and land thrown up in all directions. People would improve their properties if they could, but the majority cannot, as is shown by the committee of the House of Lords, consisting of the Duke of Richmond, Marquis of Salisbury, Earl of Derby, and Lord Egerton of Tatton, who reported, in 1870, that of twenty million acres in this country requiring drainage, only three million had been drained, and that, taking into account also all other necessary improvements, only one-fifth of the land had been properly dealt with. Is not this a serious state of things? Farmers say it is not so much the low price we complain of, but the yield is so bad. What else can you expect? We shall be told that these views are dangerous to the Constitution, to the Queen, to the House of Lords, and to the welfare of England generally. But, gentlemen, is it possible to deny how much good has been done by the gradual reforms that have been brought about in the present reign? Is it not better that questions of this importance should be properly and reasonably discussed on their merits than that strong opposition should be offered to their very mention, that all the power of intellect, position, and wealth should be brought against the idea that such laws may be improved, until England wakes up suddenly to find the measure of such reforms brought forward by those who express themselves most hostile to them, and a Land Bill hastily passed through Parliament, with clauses that may take away from landowners the fee simple of their land? We shall be told that these restraints are necessary owing to the temptations to young men coming early into their estates. But, as a rule peers do not inherit before middle age; it is the exception, and many of the young ones recognise the responsibilities of property. Are we, for the sake of protecting a few, a very few, foolish men from the consequences of their own folly, to hamper the whole of the landed proprietors of England, and to make living men, anxious to improve their estates and benefit their tenants, feel the "dead man's grip," from which there is no escape? I have reminded you of the disturbed state of the country previous to the repeal of the Corn Laws. In 1879 comes again a time of trial, and we have distress, but not disaffection; disappointment, but not despair. Is it too much to hope that the land laws will also be calmly considered with a view to their improvement; that landlord and landowners will become the owners and lords of the land; and that by free trade in land the agricultural difficulty will be surmounted? The owners and cultivators of the land will weather the storm together—the landlords with their acreage reduced perhaps, but with their properties in good order, free

from crushing debts, a credit as well as a profit to themselves; and the farmers, with their balances at their bankers' reduced but still solvent, still able and willing to fight against bad seasons and low prices, till the good time comes, and come it will, when the Almighty shall send us the fruit of the earth in due season, and the country will hail the return of prosperity to the agricultural interest of Old England.

In the course of a speech delivered at the dinner following the Northmolton ploughing match.

Sir THOMAS AGLAND, M.P., said he was one of those who thought that landlords and farmers had a great deal to learn, but he at the same time believed that the farmers had a great deal more in their heads than people gave them credit for. After working with the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society for twenty years, and editing their Journal, he thought he knew something about farming, and it was not until he himself took a farm that he had any idea of how ignorant he was. His advice to them, as he had said before, was not to look to Parliament to do their work for them. Do not let them listen to those who said "The way for the British farmer to get help is to return so and so to Parliament," because really there was but little Parliament could do for them. Let them remember this—that it would be quite impossible for any Parliament to take steps with the view of making food dearer in England. They were frequently being told that the burdens on agriculture were so tremendous that Parliament should take some of them off. He would not argue this now, but he did think the British farmer had sense enough to know that whatever was taken off the rates was pretty sure to find its way in the end, not into the farmers' pockets, but somewhere else. With regard to the present depression in agriculture—as it was called—no doubt they had read the Parliamentary debates, and had seen what the different leaders had to say. If he might venture to express an opinion he would say—do not let us be in a panic at present about the future. He did not think that any man could at the present moment predict what would be the effect of the enormous growth of wheat in America, or what might be the possible effect of the importation of cattle from that country. It seemed to him that the wisest course for all would be to keep calm and quiet, prepared for whatever God or the course of nature might send them. At the same time they should look very straight and fearlessly at matters immediately before them. To put things in more direct and practical language, he might say that he thought it altogether premature—although he did not wonder at it, seeing the panic that existed—to raise the cry of "Down with rents all round." He was not afraid to speak plainly on this question, and he certainly did think that such a cry as this was premature. On the other hand he must admit that of late years there had been quite sufficient to justify them in looking very attentively and very closely into the position and relations of those who cultivated the soil. Various speakers had of late sought to enlighten them on this subject. Some thought an entire change of the Land Laws necessary, and that the real reason why the British farmer could not pay his way was to be found in the existence of eldest sons, and in entails, and things of that kind. Then, an interesting theory had been propounded as to the three incomes that were to be got out of the land. He had no doubt that this was a very fine and a very scientific theory, but it struck him that probably it would turn out, like the scientific frontier—the more they extended it and the further they advanced the greater would be the mess in which they would eventually find themselves. He thought they would find it far better to be practical than theoretical; if wheat could permanently be grown cheaper in America and imported into this country at a much lower rate than we could grow it in England there was no doubt the farmer would have to turn his mind to something else than wheat growing. But the time of the establishment of this fact had not yet arrived, and he did not feel at all sure that they would ever have to face such a fact. Should they have to do so of course it would be necessary to greatly alter the existing state of things, but at present it would be premature to jump at a conclusion, and the best thing they could do would be to look at things as they now existed, and see where they could improve them. There was plenty of room for improvement. No doubt those who visited the Kilburn Show noticed with interest the exhibition of dairy produce. Did they know that

in London foreign butter was driving English butter out of the market, not because it was cheaper—for it was dearer—but because it was better? This was the fact. English butter was falling in price and foreign was rising, and if anything could be done to improve the English butter he advised those whom it concerned to see to it. Passing to another matter—the rearing of stock—he had no doubt that in this part of the country farmers were wise in refraining from spending much money in that which paid badly—winter feeding of stock in stalls; a man who devoted himself to bringing forward young stock was much more likely to spend his means profitably than those who followed the example set by the Somersetshire farmers last year—that of buying young stock from the North Devon hills at enormous prices and fattening them, but in the end having to sell at very little more, and in some cases at less, than the price they paid for the cattle. Let those in this district stick to the breeding and rearing of young stock, and to selling them as well as they possibly could. Another thing was that he thought there was a great deal to be learnt in the improvement of grass land. At the time of the Kilburn Show he had great delight in going with forty farmers—none of them Englishmen—to the Duke of Bedford's estate, and also to Mr. Lawes's place, in Hertfordshire. Mr. Lawes was a country gentleman, who for forty years had spent £3,000 a year in making experiment for the good of the public and the British farmer. Those who read the *Agricultural Journal* knew the value of Mr. Lawes's experiments, and not content with what he had already done, Mr. Lawes had endowed his laboratory with £10,000, so that the experiments might go on for ever. Now they might be sure that a gentleman, and one who was a practical farmer, would not do all this unless there was something to be learnt. One thing he had noticed as pretty well proved—that overdoing land with dung, guano, nitrate of soda, or nitrogenous manures had a tendency to choke the clovers with coarse grasses, whilst mineral manures tended to improve the clovers—that was to keep them up—if not smothered by coarse grass. They might say that this was but common sense, and that they knew this before, but he had paid attention to this matter for 30 years, and felt that as yet all were but in their infancy in connection with it. One thing that was certain was this—that the use of oil-cake with sheep on grass land was most useful. Another thing of importance to the permanent growth of their pastures was to take care that they were not nibbled too tight, and especially when young, to give the grass time to grow. There was a great deal to be learnt about the elements of food. Much had been taught us about human food, and to a great extent this same teaching was true in its application to the food of animals. It was a fact that very often too much of one kind of food was given, and that a mixture would have obtained better results at a less cost. Do not, however, let young men take up an idea and fancy they know better than their predecessors. He advised them to remember that they had a lot to learn before they could venture to put their fathers right, and the very first thing to do was to learn all that their fathers could tell them. Thanks to Earl Fortescue and other gentlemen, the young farmers of the present day had the opportunity of getting a really sound education, but do not let them imagine that books would teach them all the essentials of farming. A great deal of true knowledge was to be derived from practice, and let them remember that there was a great deal of valuable practical knowledge in the old men's heads—let the young men obtain that knowledge before they fancied that by their book learning they could put the old men right. Reverting to Parliamentary work, they would remember that a great deal had been said about the Agricultural Holdings Act. He did not like the Bill; he did his best to improve it, and he brought in a Bill of his own. His opinion then was—and he had not since seen any reason to change that opinion—that the law should be so altered that a farmer should have real security—at least for the last two years of his holding—so that he would reap the profit or be paid for what he put into the land in the shape of food or manure. To that extent he was in favour of compulsory legislation. But with regard to the larger forms of improvement, he thought it better that landlords should undertake these themselves, or in case they could not do this, then they should make independent agreements with their tenants for these improvements. He thought that the law of the land should be—and here he might startle some of his friends—that when an estate was sold or changed hands by any other

means, or by the death of one person and the succession of another, the farmer who had made arrangements never expecting a change, should not for at least two years, be disturbed in the terms of his holding. That would be but simple justice. At the same time they must not trust too much to legislation. He did not believe that leases or lawyers could make a good farmer. A man might be hampered or bothered, but he could not be made a good farmer by law. He did not know what were the arrangements of his noble friend in the chair, but he had no doubt they were characterised by that prudence and good judgment which distinguished all his dealings in such matters; but he knew of a good deal of land where there was ample security, and at the same time liberty to a farmer to farm as he liked. There was a good deal of talk about the liberty of cultivation. Now, what was wanted? Did they want to grow wheat every year, and to grow weeds, when American wheat was coming over here at 5s. a bushel? Did not farmers farm well at present? He believed that there were some arrangements as to the sale of hay and straw which might be altered with advantage, and the sooner the alteration was made the better, but they could not alter these things by law. It would be very difficult for everything to be arranged by law, and he believed it very undesirable that any land should be so tied up that the tenant could not do justice to the soil he occupied. If it was true—as he said the other day at Exeter—there were a good many farmers who had more land than they could manage, and if there were landlords who had more land than they could do justice to, it would be better for all if some of this land found its way into the market, and so gave the parties selling more money to make a good job of what they retained.

The Marquis of Ripon, presiding recently at the annual dinner of the Ripon, Harrogate, and Claro Agricultural Society, spoke at considerable length on the subject of the agricultural depression. His Lordship began by observing that in that part of the country they had been agreeably disappointed in the very gloomy anticipations as to the harvest with which they were filled at an early period of the year. Cautioning those present against anything in the nature of panic, he said the most formidable of the causes of the existing depression was foreign competition. It was somewhat difficult to speak respecting it with any certainty. Two very eminent agriculturists—Mr. Read and Mr. Pell—had gone to the United States of America for the purpose of investigating the condition of agriculture in that country, and he hoped they would return laden with interesting information. Those gentlemen would find that there were plenty of persons who would be ready to inform them that the United States were prepared at the shortest notice to feed the whole population of the globe, and that if they would only give them twelve months they would feed the inhabitants of the moon and the stars, if they should have any. However, if he were frankly to give his opinion, he did believe that the competition from our own colonies and from the United States, and from other countries, would continue to be of a very keen and searching kind; and he had no doubt that they must all of them, owners and occupiers of land alike, face the difficulty that was likely to arise, and see in what way they could best meet it. No doubt, such circumstances might entail various sacrifices of by no means an agreeable character upon all of them. He very much suspected that agricultural arrangements of all kinds would have to be conducted on a much more commercial footing than they had been during the years that were passed. It was perfectly possible, he believed, in agriculture as in manufactures, to make fortunes by means of small profits; but in the case of the farmers it could only be done by availing themselves of every possible means, by keeping their eyes open, looking out for every new invention, adopting every labour-saving machine, and making the utmost of the capabilities of the land. He foresaw one change, which perhaps he regarded more calmly than he might have done in the years when he was younger, but he was very much inclined to believe that in the present day hares and rabbits were not very compatible with agriculture. He did not suppose that any gentleman present wished the hare to be entirely extinguished. That was a revolutionary change which he could scarcely contemplate. But he was quite sure of this—that these were not times in which it was

right or wise to permit ground game to do any injury to the occupiers of land, and, if he in the past had been open to any criticism in the matter, he could only say that it would be his endeavour to mend his ways. They saw now and then, upon occasions of this kind, gentlemen throwing out all sorts of hints, as if a return to Protection was really the thing which would benefit the agriculturists. That appeared to him to be a very mischievous proceeding. He was not going to argue the question of Free Trade there; but he asked them, as practical men—men who had the great advantage of living in the neighbourhood of manufacturing districts and close to large and teeming populations, he asked them, as practical men, whether they thought it would be possible to reimpose a duty on the food of the people. He asked them whether they thought that in the distress last year, which was borne so patiently by the great mass in this country, they would have seen the same result if it had been possible to say that bread was dearer to keep up the profits of the farmers, or the rents of the landlords? He had very little faith in anything legislation could do for the benefit of trade or industry. In these matters men must depend on themselves. They might remove restrictions—and he held it highly desirable to remove any restrictions which might stand in the way of the furthest and fullest application of capital to the land, whether by the occupier or the owner. He confessed that he was not one of those who looked forward with fear to the future in respect to the agricultural interests of this country. He could quite believe that, with changing circumstances, changing or changed arrangements might be required; but he believed also that, with good common sense and mutual friendship between the various classes interested in the land, the farmers would surmount the difficulties they now encountered, and he heartily hoped, if he met them at a similar anniversary to this next year, he might be able to congratulate them upon the improved state of affairs.

### AGRICULTURE OF CYPRUS.

Cyprus seen at a distance from the West has the appearance of two large, oblong islands running parallel to one another in the direction from North-west to South-east. These apparent islands are the two ranges of mountains which run in that direction, the one along the Northern the other along the Southern part of the island, and between which there lies a vast plain, the highest part of which does not exceed 400 feet above the level of the sea. The most fertile portion is equal in extent to about 439,000 acres. Although one and continuous it is commonly considered as consisting of three separate parts, each having a particular denomination. The Westernmost part is called the Plain of Morphia, that in the centre the Plain of Nicosia, and the Easternmost the Plain of Messaorea. The last-mentioned part is the most fertile and the largest. It extends as far as Famagusta, and its name is often given by the inhabitants to the three parts of the plain taken together. This vast plain of Messaorea, which, both as to extent and to fertility is not inferior to some of the plains in France and Italy, has been neglected to such a degree that the traveller is seized with a sense of melancholy at its aspect. Now and then, and far between, villages are met with of an earthy aspect, partly fallen to ruins, and the sight is rendered still more gloomy by the absence of any single tree to rest the eye upon. The extreme length of Cyprus from Cape Epiphania to Cape St. Andrea is 139 miles. The extreme breadth from Cape Kormakiti to the shores of Akrotiri, 59; and the narrowest from the anchorage of St. Simeon to the roadstead of Larnaka, 27. The area of the island is 3,648 square miles, equal to 2,334,720 acres, and its circumference 370 miles. Such is the general aspect of Cyprus, given in much greater detail and with accompanying maps in the report made to the Governor of Malta by Dr. G. C. Schinas and Mr. E. L. Galizia, which, as will be seen hereafter, exercises a considerable influence on the agriculture of the island.

The population has much diminished from what it was

in former times under the rule of the Lusignans and the Venetians, when all agree that there were 2,000,000 persons, but the highest estimate at present does not exceed 250,000. With regard to the character, more especially of the rural population, the Turks, who are comparatively few in number, are honest but indolent, and generally poor. The Greeks are more industrious, they are strong, tall and stout in person, of sober and quiet habits, and very hospitable and courteous to strangers. The peasants are very frugal, their food consisting principally of bread made either of barley alone, or of barley mixed with wheat. All kinds of domestic animals and game are abundant and excellent. Wine is not drunk but in winter, and even then in a very small quantity, and only by the inhabitants of some of the larger villages. The most important articles (wheat, barley, lentils, and okra) forming the principal portion of the food of the country people are the produce of their own fields. The same remark applies to almost all articles of clothing, which are mostly made from cotton or silk grown upon their own lands. It is calculated that the cost of living of a country family composed of six persons, does not exceed £18 a year. The inhabitants, generally, are not a very active and industrious people; but this is, probably, a natural consequence of the misgovernment under which they so long lived, deprived as they have been of any prospect of reaping for themselves the fruits of their labour. Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that the land is not well cultivated, that the plantation of trees is not improved, and that trees and even woods are suffered to be destroyed with very little or no advantage to individuals, and certainly to the great detriment of the climate.

A large estate is very seldom, if ever, entirely cultivated by its owner. He generally leases it to be cultivated, under his own superintendence, on the "Metayer system." There are, it is said, about 80 large estates called "Chifliks." The following are the largest:—The Chiflik belonging to Ali Bey, in Polikrysokko, it is irrigated, of an extent of from 10,000 to 12,000 scale, *i.e.* 3,030 to 3,636 acres; the Chiflik belonging to Mohammed Pasha Kobruski, in Koukliaof Baïb, of an extent of 7,000 to 8,000 scale, or 2,121 to 2,424 acres; the Chiflik belonging to the same Mohammed Pasha, in Ashelia, of an extent of 2,424 acres. Some of the remaining Chifliks vary in extent from 4,000 to 5,000 scale, or 1,212 to 1,515 acres, and of this class is the estate of Kolossi, near Limassol, once the property of the Knights Templars. There are, besides the Chifliks, other estates of an extent varying from 800 to 1,000 scale; but, generally, farms are from 500 to 600 scale, and the extent ordinarily cultivated by the owner and his family is from 10 to 200 scale. Small farmers owning very fertile lands, of not less than 300 scale in extent, are to be found in Messaorea, but their number is not great, and, either from habit of rigid economy, or from a desire to show that they are worse off than they really are, they do not evince such a degree of comfort as is generally enjoyed by the higher class of farmers in Malta. They hire, of course, some labourers, it being impossible for one family to work and cultivate 200 scale of land. It is held in Cyprus that an active farmer with his family is well able to cultivate an extent of land of from 70 to 80 scale; that a less active farmer (soil, number of labourers, of animals, and other circumstances being equal) cultivates an extent of from 40 to 50 scale; and that, as a rule, the extent which can be cultivated by a family of six persons provided with a pair of bullocks and the necessary implements is, upon an average, 60 scale or 13 acres. A cultivator of 60 scale of land is a person holding 120 scale, because, generally speaking, an agriculturist in Cyprus tills no more than half the land he occupies. An individual possessing

120 scale of land is considered to be in easy circumstances. For the working of a large farm of 800 scale, or 242 acres, managed by the owner of it, no less than five farm-servants, viz., persons employed all the year round, and able to work as ploughmen, are required, besides a bailiff. A farm servant receives 180 piastre a month (21s. 2d.) without food; except during the mowing and threshing season, when he receives the same amount with food. Wages are paid in money, or partly in money and partly in grain, namely, 2 kilos or 2 bushels of barley, and 1 kilo or 1 bushel of wheat, valuing these articles according to the market prices. The bailiff receives 200 piastre and 1 kilo of wheat a month, without food. Persons employed occasionally in certain seasons are paid differently. A woman or boy, during mowing and threshing season, earns 3 piastre a day, without food; and a man 2 francs (1s. 7d.) a day without food. Many Arab fellahs, however, from Latakia, repair in harvest time to Cyprus, and are employed at 1 franc (9½d.) a day, without food. In some localities, a farmer, during certain seasons, obtains the assistance of a neighbour, or that of two or more farm-servants of another farmer. Generally, a large proprietor, if skilled in agriculture, retains a portion to be cultivated on his own account, and lets out the rest on the "Metayer system," on the following conditions:—"The landlord, besides the land, to furnish the seed; the tenant to provide labourers, animals, and implements; and the produce to be equally divided between them, the tenant, however, in cases of grain crops, to receive, in addition to his share of the grain, the whole of the straw. That is the system generally followed in Cyprus. The duration of leases varies, according to circumstances, from four to ten years; and the month of September is generally the time of entry.

The principal, not to say the only, agricultural implements for loosening the texture of the soil in Cyprus are the plough, the spade, and the "tavola" (harrow), in a very primitive form. The plough is very little different to that used in Malta; its shape is very much the same as that described in the Georgics. The draught-pole, the handle, the upright, and the share-head, are of oak; the iron share is attached to the extremity of the latter. It is generally drawn by two oxen, by means of a long draught-pole fastened to a yoke of a very rough description—a plough which can never cut to a great depth and turn over the soil. For the sowing of cotton, in order to widen the furrows, and to prepare a receptacle for moisture for the seed during the heat of summer, another form of plough—double-winged, and with a bundle of rigid branches of spray attached to it—is used. It is hardly necessary to add that the mould boards, or wings, are made of wood, and that their curve is unskillfully contracted. The spade is employed in the mountainous part of the island; it is sometimes made use of for weeding, stirring the soil, and breaking clods of earth. The "tavola" (harrow) is used for pulverizing, and at the same time impressing the surface of the soil. It is a rectangular plank, 9ft. 5in. long, 1ft. broad, and from 2in. to 3in. thick, drawn by bullocks; a person stands upon it, and sometimes other things are placed instead, in order to compress the land. It is much heavier than the Maltese "Xatba," which, with the "tavola" used in Cyprus, stands for the grubber and the roller, in use in countries where the art of agriculture is better cultivated, and which pulverises and compresses the soil much more effectually, and with less exertion of annual strength.

Lands in Cyprus are very seldom and sparingly manured. Indeed, manure is very scarce, and the cost of manuring, including that of the manure itself, is at present disproportionate to the price of the produce. With the fattening and rearing of cattle great advantages would accrue to the island. The dung of well-fed cattle

would considerably promote and increase the growth of forage, which, in turn, would largely contribute to the multiplication of cattle, both for the stables and the dairy, yielding an abundance of manure matter, and thereby securing an uninterrupted rotation of crops and highly improving agriculture generally. An increased quantity of manure could not fail to secure great profit to persons willing to undertake that branch of rural economy—the rearing of cattle, which, at present, is almost totally neglected in the island. The importation of manure, which might be procured at moderate prices from France, Italy, and particularly from England, might for a time supply the present scarcity. Doubts may be entertained in Cyprus as to the fertilising property of those manures, owing to the possibility of their being adulterated; but the importance and value of several of them, more especially those procured from England, are unquestionable.

There is no place on the island where wheat and barley are not grown; the greatest quantities come from the districts of Messaorea, Morpho, Famagusta, Larnaka, and Krisokhou. The produce, for several years, of wheat has been 51,600 quarters, and of barley about 115,928 per annum. The vine is, beyond doubt, the most important plant in Cyprus, and it would probably have been better and more extensively cultivated but for the existence of an exorbitant tax, which in the last few years has caused a rapid decrease in this branch of agriculture. There are principally two kinds of grapes—the white and the black. The white grape, which is grown for the fruit in its natural state, is not so sweet as the black, from which are obtained both the common black wine, and the other superior reddish-yellow wine, known in Cyprus and elsewhere by the name of *Commanderia*, a name originally given to it because the vineyards in which it was produced were a *Commenda* of the Knights Templars, near Limasol.

Numberless flocks are to be seen in Cyprus, grazing in the plains or on the slopes of the mountains, and very often also in fields under crop. The breed, both of sheep and goats, is beautiful, especially that of the broad-tailed. They are all, however, the mere creatures of the soil and climate, living only by grazing; and it is a wonder how they live in summer, when the land is parched up by the sun, with only some thistle and holly on the surface. The export of pelts during several consecutive years amounted to £5,000 from kids and 20,000 from lambs. Though the cheese is not good, yet, by improving the breeding of sheep and goats, and by a better management of the dairy, an excellent produce, with a good profit, might no doubt be obtained.

It may almost be maintained that there are no roads in Cyprus. In the plains one may travel many miles without seeing but now and then some narrow strip of ground not, like almost every other part of the plain, covered with thistles. This kind of cartway is very irregular. It starts, for instance, on even ground, and, at distances of a few yards, ridges and furrows are met with, intersecting each other in all manners of ways; the road then narrows, and gradually becomes invisible; it then reappears after a while, rugged and stony, again to disappear all of a sudden. Such are the roads, if they are to be so called, which are travelled over by the few carts in the island. In crossing a stream, the traveller meets, occasionally, a small old bridge, about twelve feet in span, over which he passes not without some risk. The hill and mountain roads vary in breadth; by their track, however, when visible, they may be said to be from one to four feet. They are all covered with turf and bushes, or full of holes and protuberances. They are on loose vegetable soil, with a precipice on one side. To pass through carob and olive groves is no less dangerous, no passage

being cut across the branches of trees. Ravines often break the way, making it necessary for the mule to descend, almost vertically, to a considerable depth, to walk some way in the water among sprigs and stones, and to go up a very steep ascent to re-take the road. The construction of a single line of railway, even if carried to a considerable length, would not have the effect of greatly improving the present means of transport, inasmuch as the conveyance of goods to the railway from parts of the island at a considerable distance from it would cost no less in time and money than the old direct transport of the goods to their destination. On the whole, the construction of good and well-drained ordinary roads, made to intersect in all directions the productive districts of the island, would be preferable; and if, in the plotting of such roads, due attention is paid to their curves, gradients, &c., all, or most of them, might at some future period be easily converted into railways.

### CANADA.

Our Canadian correspondent writes under date of October 17th: The "illimitable and fertile," which was the burden of the Aylesbury romance, seems not to prove a fascinating field for Canadians, let alone Englishmen. The newspapers keep printing paragraphs in this style: "About 125 or 150 persons left Picton, Nova Scotia, for Manitoba; but some of them are already back with its mud on their boots, poorer but wiser men." Another paper says: "We have one man back from Manitoba. He went there and examined it carefully, and then came back. It is significant that he is now taking up a lot of land in Dudley, Ontario, for his son. He doesn't say much about Manitoba, but merely remarks that the prairie province has many drawbacks." In fact, the enchantment of distant wilds seems generally to fade away like a mirage on closer acquaintance. Thus the *St. John News* remarks: "Last spring Mr. Sylvanus Chinell, of Lacolle, went to Leadville, Colorado, in hopes of bettering his worldly condition. He has recently returned home a wiser and more contented man, and repeats the old story of disappointed expectations, encountered almost at every turn, by himself and thousands of others. He does not now take much stock in fictitious, exaggerated statements." Again, we read in the *Montreal Witness*: "Many young men from the Eastern Townships, who left for Minnesota and Manitoba to make their 'fortunes' last spring, have returned and report times hard. No employment for willing hands; labour market over-stocked." For all this, there is still a heavy exodus from Canada to the States—from Nova Scotia in particular. This is a curious commentary on the prosperity somebody has been telling the *Sheffield Telegraph* has come to the Dominion from protection. In fact, never before in the history of St. John and Halifax were people leaving in such numbers. The *Globe* says the steamer which left Halifax for Boston on Saturday carried away 300, while of 200 immigrants who left Ottawa and Brockville recently for the North-West, 145 had tickets for Dakotah, and out of nine car-loads of freight, seven were for the same destination. Twenty-five labouring men left Ottawa for Bay City, Mich. Yet despite the fact that we cannot find work for our own people, each weekly steamer from England brings 300 or 400 additions to our overcrowded labour market.

There are now about fifteen farmers' delegates in Canada—five of them in the Quebec Eastern Townships, and the balance in Ontario and Manitoba. I had hoped it was a misstatement that anybody contemplated inducing English farmers to settle in the Eastern Townships. But I'm sorry to say it is not. I have on several occasions set forth the circumstances under which these dele-

gates are invited hither, and my *bona fides* in this matter is sufficiently established by the following references to Ontario farms and farming—pages 1 and 2 of the Government Handbook, issued April, 1869:—

"All through the earlier-settled portions of Ontario, in the neighbourhood of all the principal towns, and in the spaces between Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, there are hundreds or thousands of good cleared farms which can be purchased at from 20 dols. to 50 dols. an acre. These are generally 100 acres each, with from 40 to 80 acres cleared, and all with buildings of some kind or other. The goodness or badness of the buildings usually governs the price. There are plenty of such locations to be had within reach of churches, schools, good roads, and often within half-a-day's drive of a good town or village. Other places with better buildings, in the most favoured localities, will be worth from £500 to £1,000 sterling. But either class of farms can be had in any number."

The writer then describes the mode of farming, which (according to the official presentment) is the cause of the unprosperous condition of the occupiers of these "good" locations, and which leads to so continuous an exodus of Canadian cultivators to the States, or elsewhere:—

"The course of a settler on new land is first to remove the forest, then to sow wheat among the stumps. Clover and grass follow the wheat, and the land then remains untilled until the roots of the trees are rotted sufficiently to admit of ploughing. It is then dragged, and wheat again sown. Then follows just such kind of cultivation as it is believed will produce the best immediate returns. Grain follows grain as long as it will grow and produce even half a crop. Then the land is sown to clover, and allowed to lie over and recuperate until it will bear other crops, and as soon as it will again bear grain it is made to do so. Thus the changes are rung until the stumps are all out, and the fields are reduced to level surfaces. Then the same system is pursued, varied by occasional naked fallows, to kill the weeds which this system engenders. Then grain crops again until the land will bear no more; then rest, and so on round and round the cycle. As a rule, Canadian, and generally American, farmers do not make one-fourth of the manure that is produced on an English farm. The want of manure keeps the straw short, and the hay crops light." The writer proceeds to show that the farmer finding his crops fail under this system, blames the land, not himself, and then continues: "Besides this cause of discontent, the family has in the meantime grown to manhood and womanhood, they must be provided for. . . . The father reasons thus:—'If, instead of this cleared farm on which I live, I could again go on to new land I could purchase enough wild land for all my sons, I could have them around me, they would help me to clear up a place for myself, and all would help one another to clear up their several farms as they are wanted, and as my sons marry and settle.' To do this, however, requires capital—the only capital the man has is the cleared farm, and the extra stock not required on a new place—he sells the old homestead, buys forest tract, and once more goes into the forest to carve out a new home. This is the reason why so many cleared farms can always be purchased, and can be had at prices so low that they are well worth the money. Now all these farms, though they have been so ill used, at once spring into renewed fertility by good farming, the soil is good, it has never been deeply cultivated, there is a new farm (so to speak) lying under the old one, and it only wants to be brought to the surface by an inch at a time to give new life to the injured but not worn out soil. . . . The ordinary Canadian farmer, if he has his seed, his team of horses, or oxen, his plough tackle, two or three cows, a few pigs, and perhaps six sheep, thinks

himself well off, and he does not hesitate to go into debt for the other necessities of life, depending on the country merchant for his supplies and on the results of the coming harvest to pay the merchant's bill. Of course, all this is very bad, but it is the reason why Canada in general and Ontario in particular holds out such favourable opportunities for the old country farmer, with moderate skill and tolerable capital."

There does not seem much room for "selling extra stock" here. This ingenious official's account of the state of "any number" of Ontario farms is correct beyond doubt. His presentiments on other points may safely be left to the judgment of your experienced cultivators, who can determine, without any coaching, the sort of favourable opportunities this state of matters holds out to English cultivators strange to our climatic and agricultural conditions. Mr. Byrne, agent for Ontario in England, must have forgotten, if indeed, he ever knew anything of his fascinating official presentment (which has since been sat upon and suppressed) when he took exception not long ago to my averment that farmers in Ontario are generally a struggling class. All that stuff about the farmer wanting his family round him, &c., is merely thrown in to help out the probabilities of the official version. The "forest tracts" of Ontario (save the free grants), yet unsettled, are all in the hands of speculators, who would ask as much or enough to make "several farms" as would more than exhaust the levitating cultivator's means; and even if the lands were cheap it would take half a life-time to clear enough to make a bare living. It is instructive that no pretence is made by the writer that the farmer when done up on his exhausted farm thinks of going to the Ontario free grants! And yet the agents and lecturers in England say "any quantity of 'the finest land' can be had in Muskoka gratis." How is it the farmer does not go there? By the way it is a pertinent question—when the outgoing farmer "sells the old homestead" (in the terribly exhausted condition described above) to whom does he sell it? Not to a Canadian. That is certain. The native not only knows all about the "improved" property in question; he has one of his own—in a similar condition—he too wants to sell. The English "greenhorn" is the alone possible purchaser. In that fact you have the key to the immigration position. The official narrative throws enough light on the situation. It shows a shifting agricultural population, a heavy debt and high taxes, and a half or two-thirds exhausted soil, from which the climate and other unfavourable conditions compels a speculative industry to force in a hurry nearly all it can give, and then depart to fresh fields and pastures new. Remember that Mr. Arch, Mr. Clayden, and Mr. Taylor personally inspected these "good" cleared locations where a "new farm lies under the old one. Yet Mr. Clayden is now recommending New Zealand. Mr. Arch said he would come and settle only for "other engagements," but has not turned up yet—nor did Mr. Taylor send out the expected purchasers. It is not safe to prophesy before one knows. Yet experts here do not in their hearts, I believe, anticipate the visit of the delegates will result differently from those preceding them. For myself, I will believe in a rush of emigrant farmers into Ontario and the Eastern Counties when I see them here. And, in saying this, I do not ignore the fact that the weather has been almost unprecedentedly attractive, the Government efforts prodigious, and the delegates themselves guarded far more carefully from contact with the profane than were Messrs. Taylor, Clayden, and others. I was sorry to find Mr. Sidney Smith making a rather disparaging allusion to Mr. Clayden in a recent number of your journal; for, in my view, a more conscientious, care-

ful, and qualified emigration investigator has not been to Canada.

I post with this the *Winnipeg Nor'-Wester*, from which you will get an inkling of the amazing and organised puffery everywhere in vogue *re* Manitoba and the North-West. The articles in the London *Times* of Sept. 29 and 30 are taken here to indicate that the leading journal is going to write up the Canadian "illimitable and fertile." If so, I trust it will be careful to get correct information. The details some one has given of the land settlement conditions are ludicrously incorrect. When they are true they refer to the former land conditions, abrogated by the present Government. A settler cannot get 160 acres of homestead and 160 pre-emption—only 80 of each, and for 5 miles on each side of the line he cannot get either, but must buy at 6 dols. an acre. The *Times* account is incorrect both as regards price and conditions of settlement. However, in my next I will send you a full statement. The *Nor'-Wester* says that Mr. Conolly (the *Times* correspondent) and Messrs. Pell and Read were the only guests invited to the private dinner given by the Manitoba Club at Winnipeg, except Mr. Russell, the Surveyor-General. The Manitoba Club represents all the leviathan land speculators.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Your Canadian correspondent is not a good tactician, whatever his other good qualities may be. A skilful debater always admits the good points of his adversary's case, because he knows that, sooner or later, they will come to light, and then does his best to show the superiority of his own position. But your correspondent admits nothing. From beginning to end of his letters I cannot find a single admission of any one good thing of which Canada is possessed. Her statesmen are mere tricksters, whose mission in life is to deceive; her citizens are all men who are casting longing eyes to the flesh-pots over the border; delegates and her other visitors are mere puppets, *sans* eyes, *sans* brains, *sans* everything, in fact, for which your correspondent is so eminently distinguished; her cattle and sheep exist only in the minds of crazy enthusiasts, her grain and fruits are mere abortions unworthy of the name; her immigrants are poor, deluded wretches whom fools or knaves have wilfully, and of motive dark and mysterious, brought over to be a tax on the country; her climate is either a furnace or a something below zero; and her lands are either mere barren inaccessible wastes, or "improved" locations from which every trace of fertility has been sedulously extracted by the holders in fee.

But what are the real facts when relieved from the glamour of your correspondent's unreasoning and unreasonable hostility?

British North America comprises an area of over three millions of square miles, of which at least one million lie within a temperate zone, and are fertile and capable of cultivation. One million of square miles comprise 640,000,000 of acres, and if we allow three acres (a liberal estimate) as requisite for the maintenance of a human being, and the animals necessary for his support, we have a country capable of maintaining a population of over 200,000,000. Its present population is certainly under five millions. So much for capacity. This country, again, has the finest fluvial system in the whole world, and water power is no mean item in the world's economies. Its land, again, is of a natural fertility which is so widely and candidly admitted that it were the purest folly for your correspondent to deny it; and its mineral resources are proved already to be most varied and most extensive. Its climate may have some disadvantages, but they are probably not greater in the aggregate than those to which any

other spot under the sun is at some time or other subject. That Englishmen live and thrive in it is proved beyond question, and that their intellectual activity is certainly not blinded your correspondent proves in his own person.

These natural advantages granted, what can all the cavilling and misrepresentation in the world achieve against them? Your correspondent is kicking against the pricks. The land of broad expanse and unsurpassed fertility is there. The maps show the expanse, numberless explorers prove the fertility, and all that is required is a practical and monstrous race to establish great and prosperous communities. Not one word that your correspondent applies to Canada could not a few years ago—very few, as the world counts years—have been applied with equal or greater force to some of the now most thriving of the Western States of the Union. Your correspondent, in his cavilling and cantankerous present, ignores alike the pregnant lessons of the past, and the inevitable demands of the future. We do not live in an age of Malthusianism. The world goes on breeding, and will do so to the end of the chapter. With all our sanitary aids, the growth of life must more and more exceed the inroads of death, and where are the yearly-increasing millions to find homes and livelihoods?

The key-note of your correspondent's tactics, and also of their failure, is sounded in his letter which appeared in your issue of the 13th inst., wherein, after sketching the life of a settler in the new lands, he winds up with the epithet, "in short, a rude plenty." Good heavens! what would he have? Let me tell him that at this moment there are in the British isles hundreds of thousands of persons who, groaning under abject poverty, or writhing under and rebelling against the almost more unendurable "genteel poverty," would fall down on their knees and thank God for that same "rude plenty" at which he sneers, especially if, as I most honestly and fervently believe, for all men with strong arms, reasonable industry, and a fair amount of brains, that same "rude plenty" is the prelude to comfort, independence, and a fair affluence.

I cannot help feeling intensely amused at the cool way in which your correspondent "sits" on the delegates. Let me tell him that they are all shrewd, hard-headed, practical men, who are not to be led aside from the honest discharge of their duty: But they are strangers in a strange land, and without some guidance would be also, if I may be permitted the Ibernicism, at sea. Who better qualified to show them the country than those appointed to the duty? No doubt your correspondent is, far and away; but then, you see, he would not accept the duty. If he doubts the general capacity of the delegate "greenhorns," as he terms them, I should advise him to try his hand with one of them at a bargain, and I think they could give him a wrinkle or two on any agricultural or common-sense subject he likes to name.

With your correspondent's remarks on the working-man in Canada, and surplus immigration of that class, I join issue *in toto*. We know what excessive working-class organisation in this country has done in bringing about the present lamentable check to our industries. To talk about "vassalage," as your correspondent does, is to talk nonsense. As to the Dominion Government and its agents being responsible for the present immigration of destitute persons, a categorical and detailed denial would take up too much of your space; but I give the denial none the less emphatically. There is no capitation grant, and no government agent benefits one penny piece by sending out these people. The Government has no control over the steamship companies, and if, tempted by the present low rates of passage-money, people of no means manage to get across, at this season more especially, in the name of common justice why blame the Government?

Your correspondent in his letter of Oct. 10th, says:—"The deputies do not find land so cheap as they had supposed; this was my own experience when I came out," and yet he complains that "improved" lands are being offered to British greenhorn immigrants, out of which all the fertility has been drawn by those who are now seeking fresh homes elsewhere. Now this is arrant clap-trap. The two conditions are antagonistic. The value of land is no more fictitious there than it is here. Good land is worth a large sum, and bad land a small sum all the world over; and the very fact that land is not cheap is proof positive that, just in proportion to its dearthness it is good or advantageously situated. Of course land of inferior quality ten miles from Toronto would be worth more than a picked section on the North Saskatchewan, but when your correspondent attempts to upset the inevitable laws of supply and demand he is a fool for his pains.

In conclusion, I will take the liberty of quoting candid opinions on Canada from authorities whose *bona fides* even your correspondent will not, I think, venture to impugn.

The London *Times* of the 24th of this month says:—"The Dominion of Canada has always invited immigrants, but, till recently, that splendid country had nothing to offer which could rival the prairie States of the Far West. All this is changed, however, and the emigrant can now find in Canada as great inducements to settle there as Minnesota, or any other State in the Union, can offer. The Canadians, if more scrupulous, are less energetic in advertising their country than the citizens of the North American Republic. Conterminous with Minnesota is the Province of Manitoba. All that Mr. Andrews has said in praise of the former may be truthfully repeated with regard to the latter. The area of Manitoba is but small in comparison with that of some Western States; yet it is twice as large as Massachusetts, and it can support many millions of people and furnish a large surplus of grain for exportation. Yet Manitoba is but a single province in a territory which is open and ready for settlement—a territory covering 380,000 square miles, exceeding in extent France and Germany combined, and equal in fertility to any corresponding tract on the globe. In the Canadian North-West there is a Homestead Act under which the settler is treated still more generously than in the United States."

The Hon. David Wells (U.S.) says it "is as fair a country as exists on the North American continent;" and again, "Such a country is one of the greatest gifts of Providence to the human race."

The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, First Lord of the Admiralty, spoke to his constituents at Westminster upon his return from America as follows:—"I have spoken about America, I want to say one word about Canada. Let me say that, if America is prosperous and happy, I venture to think that Canada is still more prosperous and happy."

Professor Goldwin Smith, who, like your correspondent has made his home in Canada, and who, I am really inclined to credit with speaking his convictions quite as sincerely as does your correspondent, says:—"I have found Canada a very happy and pleasant country to live in. I don't think I can be deceived in saying the farmers of Canada are a prosperous race."

Mr. T. B. Potter, M.P., speaking of Ontario, says:—"I had no conception of the richness of the soil or of the climate, . . . and there is evidence of a thriving and well-to-do and progressive people."

And so I could go on by the yard, quoting opinions of both residents and visitors, but *quantum suff*.

One word of advice to your correspondent, and I have done. It is a well-known fact, as any mad doctor can tell, that one of the commonest phases of craziness is to doubt the sanity of other people. Therefore, when your

correspondent calls everybody who has a good, or not a bad, word to say for Canada, greenhorns, or interested mendacious parties, let him take note of this particular phase of knavery, and reflect.

With many thanks for your great courtesy and fairness in allowing me to reply through your columns,

I am, Sir, &c.,

J. M.

### FARMING IN JERSEY.

Channel Island farming is in its general character very different, on the one hand, from that practised in Scotland, and, on the other, from the spade husbandry and crofter cultivation to which some well-meaning but unpractical people give so many worthless certificates. The size of the holdings is reckoned not by acres but by a measurement called a "vergee," two vergées and three-quarters going to make an imperial acre. Of these vergées, the farmer as rule rents or owns from twenty to forty, paying (where tenant) on the worst land about £3, and on the best fully £6 a vergee—the latter rent equal to £15 per acre. In the locality visited, that lying in the centre of the island, the soil is mostly of first-rate quality—a rich deep loam, resting on a gravel bottom, which is, of course, preferred to an under stratum of clay. Of cold stiff soils, such as many Lothian farmers have to battle with, a Jersey farmer would take no account. "It would not pay us to cultivate land like that here," said one of them; "but we have none of it." A question as to the prices obtained in Scotland for potatoes gives the islander another opportunity for a chuckle. "Twenty-five and thirty pounds an acre, with forty as top?" he repeats—"why, what do think of us sometimes drawing £100 an acre?" In this statement, surprising to a stranger, but so satisfactory to the host that it is over and over again repeated, lies the secret of the islander's prosperity. To inquiries about wheat growing and dairy produce, but little attention is paid—"Oh, well, you know, it is the potatoes that pay our rents," is a reminder always added to any reply about these matters. In his cultivation of the potato the farmer here does not find the crop so speculative as it is in this country; and the part of the holding thus treated is always the basis upon which the use of the rest of the land depends. On a holding of 40 vergées, which was a common size among those visited, 16 vergées is devoted to potatoes. To the preparation of this land a great deal of attention is given. For turning over the soil, a light plough is first used, after which there is brought into operation a heavy cultivator, of a kind peculiar to the islands, which travels along the drills on two high wheels, with the mould board attached to a wooden frame. With this implement, which the islanders assert is much better adapted to their style of farming than any English plough, the ground is tilled to the depth of eight or nine inches, the draught being so heavy that a team of nine or ten horses is required. For fertilising, stable and byre manure, supplemented with a dressing of guano, representing about £5 per acre, is applied; the seed costs very little, as only one vergee is renewed in a year by purchases; for weeding and lifting, £3 an acre is generally sufficient; and, after being planted in March, the crop is ready for marketing at the end of May or early in June. Coming to maturity at this early period, the tubers are rarely much injured by disease, and of the abundance of the crop (mostly "Myatt's earlies") a good indication is afforded by the dissatisfaction which the grower feels if at each plant he does not find twenty potatoes or more—a very different calculation from that of the Scotch farmer, who has for the most part to be content if he takes four marketable tubers from a "shaw." This

year, as has been said, the yield has been exceptionally profitable—one farmer stating that he had been informed by the officials in charge of the weights at St. Helier, that as much as £700,000 has been realised for the crop in the island, though he was himself so much surprised at these figures as not to be quite sure of their perfect accuracy. It is not, however, to be understood that the return is always so good. In 1873, when the crop was looked upon as very fair, only £300,000 was obtained for it. Last year, again, as was explained in rather a bitter tone, some sellers ascertained that they were not getting from dealers the full market value of their produce. Telegrams telling that the London market was glutted were followed by great falls in the prices current, and the crop in the long run gave but a poor return.

Though reckoning so much upon the potato, the Jersey farmer has one or two other very serviceable strings to his bow. Here and there the land under tubers is made to grow three crops, and that without additional manure—first barley and then turnips; but as a rule the agriculturist is content with a second crop (mostly of turnips), which, he calculates, is sufficiently profitable to pay the rent of the land. On some holdings, where the quality of the soil allows, the profits of the second crop are increased by a little bit of the ground being grown with carrots, for which, after a second dose of manure as much as £55 per acre is sometimes obtained. In other instances, where the tenant does not find potatoes always suitable, a crop of parsnips is grown with about £4 worth of fertilising stuffs, but no farm manure is taken, giving in a fairly good year as much money per acre as carrots. With the remaining thirty vergées the farmer has little trouble. After the potato year, he throws the ground newly cropped with tubers into wheat, of which he generally thrashes, without any manure having been applied, about 2½ quarters per vergee, or nearly seven quarters per acre. Regarding this crop the islander cannot be got to congratulate himself. Some years ago, when the price obtained averaged 12s. per bushel, wheat, it was said, paid well enough; but now that sales have to be made at 6s. 6d. to 7s. per bushel, the yield is not a profitable one. After this cereal the land stands in pasture and hay for two years, still without manure, and at the termination of the three years thus made up the rotation is again begun with potatoes. In the byre, to which considerable importance is attached, there are often kept on a farm of the size in question as many as twelve head—four milking cows giving about three gallons of milk a day, and representing from £12 to £15 of profit in the year; four heifers to sell, worth on an average fully £15 a-piece; and four calves. On nearly all the farms a few pigs are fed, and for this purpose a small patch of land is grown with the Jersey cabbage, a vegetable which shoots up with a stalk of six or seven feet in height, affording capital material for the manufacture of those walking-sticks that our tourists are so fond of carrying away from the island. The apple-trees which grow on every part of the farm are another source of income. On many holdings these trees are deteriorating in consequence of their age, but few attempts are being made to replace them with another growth, and, as a consequence, the annual revenue derived from this fruit has in some places fallen from £100 to £40, or less. This season the crop is almost a failure, but this the farmers don't trouble themselves much about—they are satisfied, they say, to depend on their potatoes.

With one or two acquaintances half-an-hour was spent in inspecting a forty-vergee holding which was in the market, and which had the reputation of being one of the most desirable places in the island. The proprietorship of land, it should be explained, very often rests with the occupiers themselves, or if not with the farmers, with

small lairds, who, possessing from 60 to 100 vergées, live comfortably on the 6 per cent. yielded by their rents. Regarding the property visited, one of the neighbouring landlords explained that the purchase price would most likely run up to £4,000 or a little more, and for this the buyer might reckon on becoming possessed of a holding worth £6 per vergee a year, or £240 in all. For the stocking of this place other £350 would be all the sum required, two horses, costing about £30 a-piece, being quite able to overtake the work of the farm. On the steading, which was minus a barn, consisting only of a stable, byre, and outhouse, some little improvement seemed to be necessary; but as a set-off to this it was pointed out that there was in addition to the farmer's house—a snug-looking cottage of two flats—a second dwelling-house, from the letting of which as summer quarters some little revenue might be calculated upon. In the labour bill one considerable item would be the management of the cows, which during the day are tethered to different parts of the pasture (so that all the ground may be uniformly grazed), and at night are housed in the byre. The entire work of the place would, however, be easily overtaken by two men and a woman, whose pay is not by any means extravagant, the men receiving as a rule 2s. and in a few favoured cases 2s. 6d. per day, and the woman generally half that sum, both "finiding" everything for themselves. In spring the tenants help one another in preparing the potato land, four or five pairs of horses being necessary, as has been said, for working the heavy plough that is then used.

From a brief visit of this kind to Jersey farmers, it can scarcely be determined whether or not the method of cultivation adopted is the one by which the greatest amount of profit is taken from the soil, the impression being that a little more spirit imparted to the system would not be amiss. The land is exceptionally rich; the climate, in place of having to be battled against, does everything for the agriculturist; the crops are never injured by game, and rarely by blight; and "Jersey farming," as one who had had long experience of it said, "is really a capital business." It must be remembered, however, that it is impossible to make this satisfactory state of matters applicable in the consideration of any question as to the relative merits of large and small farming in localities where circumstances are altogether different. In Jersey, the population is stated as numbering 57,000—30,000 resident in St. Helier, and 27,000 in the country districts. The land under cultivation amounts to 20,000 acres; and the proprietors are said to number 2,500, so that the average size of one possession is eight acres. But these figures give no accurate idea as to the way in which the land is held. On a property worth £1,000 there are often, for example, six or more proprietors registered, while the right of possession really remains in the hands of one man, who, having a share worth £500, farms the entire holding, merely paying to his five fellow-proprietors, or "renters," as they are called, a guaranteed sum of interest every year. In the best part of the island, too, a considerable proportion of the land is in the hands of men who, out of the profits of their farming, have bought as much ground as yields them a very fair rental.—*Scotsman.*

**COUNTER IRRITATION.**—A young wife in Michigan had just got settled in her new home. All seemed fair and promising, for she did not know her husband was a drunkard. But one night he came home at a very late hour, and much the worse for liquor. When he staggered into the house the wife, who was greatly shocked, told him he was sick, and to lie down at once; and in a moment or two he was comfortably settled on the sofa in a drunken sleep. His face was a reddish purple, his breathing was heavy, and altogether he was a pitiable-looking object. The doctor was sent for post-haste and mustard applied to his feet and hands. When the

doctor came and felt his pulse, and examined him and found that he was only drunk, he said—"He will be alright in the morning." But the wife insisted that he was very sick, and that severe remedies must be used. "You must shave his head and apply blisters," she urged, "or I will send for some one who will." The husband's head was accordingly shaved closely and blisters applied. The patient lay all night in a drunken sleep, and notwithstanding the blisters were eating into his flesh, it was not until near morning that he began to beat about, disturbed by pain. About daylight he awoke to a most uncomfortable consciousness of blistered agonies. "What does it mean?" he cried, putting his hand to his bandaged head. "Lie still—you mustn't stir," said the wife. "You have been very sick." "I am not sick." "Oh, yes you are; you have brain fever. We have worked with you all night." "I should think you had," groaned the poor victim; "what's the matter with my feet?" "They are all blistered." "Well, I'm better now; take off the blisters, do," he pleaded piteously. He was in a most uncomfortable state—his head covered with sores, and his feet and hands were still worse. "Dear," he said, groaning, "if I should ever get sick in this way again, don't be alarmed and send for the doctor, and above all, don't blister me again." "Oh, indeed I will; all that saved you were the blisters, and if you ever should have another such a spell I should be more frightened than ever, for the tendency I am sure is to apoplexy, and from the next attack you will be likely to die, unless the severest measures are used." He made no further defence; suffice it to say—he never had another attack.

**MISS FLYNN AND HER LOVER.**—Miss Mary Flynn was studying medicine and being courted at the same time. Mr. William Budd was attending to the latter part of the business. One evening, while they were sitting together in the front parlour, Mr. Budd was thinking how he should manage to propose. Miss Flynn was explaining certain physiological facts to him. "Do you know," she said, "that thousands of persons are actually ignorant that they smell with their olfactory peduncle?" "Millions of 'em!" replied Mr. Budd. "And Aunt Mary wouldn't believe me when I told her that she couldn't wink without a sphincter muscle." "How unreasonable," "Why a person cannot even kiss without a sphincter!" "Indeed!" "I know it is so!" "May I try if I can?" "Oh, Mr. Budd, it is too bad of you to make light of such a subject!" Mr. Budd seized her hand and kissed that. She permitted it to remain in his grasp. "I didn't notice," he said, "whether a—a—what do you call it?—a sphincter helped me then or not. Let me try again!" Then he tried again, and while he held her hand she explained to him about the muscles of that portion of the human body. "It is remarkable how much you know about such things," said Mr. Budd—"really wonderful! Now, for example, what is the bone at the back of the head called?" "Why, the occipital bone of course?" "And what are the names of the muscles of the arm?" "The spirals and infra-spiralis among others." "Well, now, let me show you what I mean. When I put my infra-spiralis around your waist so, is it your occipital bone that rests upon my shoulder-blade, in this way?" "My back hair primarily, but the occipital, of course, afterwards. But, oh, Mr. Budd, suppose pa should come in and see us?" "Let him come! Who cares?" said Mr. Budd boldly. "I think I'll exercise a sphincter again, and take a kiss." "Mr. Budd, how can you?" said Miss Flynn, after he had performed the feat. "Don't call me Mr. Budd, call me 'Willie,'" he said, drawing her closer. "You accept me, don't you? I know you do, darling?" "Willie," whispered Miss Flynn, faintly. "What, darling?" "I can hear your heart beat." "It beats only for you, my angel!" "And it sounds to me out of order. The ventricular contraction is not uniform." "Small wonder for that, when it's bursting with joy!" "You must put yourself under treatment for it. I will give you some medicine." "It's your own property, darling; do what you please with it. But somehow the sphincter operation is the one that strikes me most favourably. Let me see how it works again?" "But why proceed? The old, old story was told again, and the old, old performance of the muscles of Mr. Budd's mouth was enacted again. And, about eight years later, Mr. Budd was wishing that Mary would catch some fatal disease among her patients, and Mary was thinking that the best possible use Willie could be put to would be as a subject for the dissecting table.—*Mac Adeler.*

# Agricultural Societies.

## ROYAL OF ENGLAND.

Monthly Council, Wednesday, November 5th, 1879.

Present: H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., the Duke of Bedford (President, in the chair), Lord Vernon, the Hon. W. Egerton, M.P., Sir A. K. Macdonald, Bart., Sir W. Earle Welby-Gregory, Bart., M.P., Sir Brandreth Gibbs, Mr. Amos, Mr. Aveling, Mr. Bowly, Mr. Cantrell, Mr. Chandos-Pole-Gell, Mr. Davies, Mr. Dent, Mr. Bruce, Mr. Forster, Mr. Gorringe, Mr. Hemsley, Mr. C. Howard, Mr. J. Howard, Col. Kingscote, Mr. Leeds, Mr. McIntosh, Mr. Martin, Mr. Neville, Mr. Odams, Mr. Paim, Mr. Randall, Mr. Ransome, Mr. Rawlence, Mr. Russell, Mr. Sanday, Mr. Sheraton, Mr. Shuttleworth, Mr. Stratton, Lieut.-Colonel Pieton Turbervill, Mr. Jabez Turner, Mr. Wakefield, Mr. Wells, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wise, Professor Simonds, and Dr. Voelcker.

Lord Sudely, of Toddington, Winchcomb, was elected a Governor, and the following new members were elected:—

Ashead, A. E., of Ulgham Grange, Morpeth.  
Aldworth, Thomas, of Durtford.  
Allsopp, George H., of Burton-on-Trent.  
Anniball, John, of Nottingham.  
Baxendale, Salisbury, of Bonnington, Ware, Herts.  
Bogler, B. H. C., of 6, Great St. Helens, E.C.  
Bridges, Rev. Sir Brook G., Bart., of Goodnestone Park, Wingham.  
Cape, Joseph, of Seaton, Worthington, Cumberland.  
Capon, Edward G., of Fair View, King's Norton.  
Carleton, Major William Frederick, of The Elms, Brackley.  
Chappell, John Thomas, of 9, St. Michael's Place, Brighton.  
Cheese, Arthur, of Howey Hall, Llandrindod.  
Christie, William Lingham, M.P., of Glyndenbourne, Lewes.  
Clapham, Felix, of Tavistock Chambers, Covent Garden, W.C.  
Collins, Edward, of King's Heath, Birmingham.  
Craddock, Robert, of Hull Farm, Chipping Norton.  
Creagh, S. Pierce, of Brook House, Stourton, Bath.  
Dalton, Robert, of 23, Cumberland Street, Carlisle.  
Danes, George, of Compton Wynnyates, Kineton.  
Daniell, John, of Symond's Hall, Wootton-under-Edge.  
Darwin, Francis Alvey R., of Creskeld Hall, Otley.  
Davison, J. Thomas, of Whitley Lodge, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
Dewhurst, John Bonney, of Aireville, Skipton.  
Ecroyd, Edward, of Low House, Armthwaite, Carlisle.  
Eussell, Henry D., of Anroth Castle, Begelly, R.S.O., Pembroke.  
Gassiot, Charles, of Elmwood House, Upper Tooting, Surrey.  
Gee, Thomas, of Bronall, Denbigh.  
Gibbins, William B., of Eatington, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Greene, J. Ball, of Ardkill, Killiney, Dublin.  
Gridley, William, of 9, Duke-street, London Bridge, S.E.  
Hammond, Edward William, of Steel Cross House, Tunbridge Wells.  
Hart, Jabez, of Bulkeley, Malpas.  
Hedley, George R., of Elswick Grange, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
Henkell, Rudolf, of Mainz-on-Rhine, Germany.  
Heywood, Lonsdale, Arthur Pemberton, of 23, Grosvenor Square, W.  
Hick, Francis, of Burrington Park, Plymouth.  
Hill, Richard Price, of Rookwood, Worcester.  
Housman, William, of 19, Gayton Road, Hampstead, N.W.  
Howard, The Hon. Cecil M., of Osbas'on Hall, Kinckley.  
Kenyon, James, of Ewbank Works, Accrington.  
Kidston, John Pearson, of Nyn Park, Barnet.  
Leslie, The Hon. George Waldegrave, of Leslie House, Leslie, Fife, N.E.  
Leverett, Frederick, of 2, Ladbrooke Grove Road, North Kensington.  
Lye, John Gaunt, of 8, Lancaster Place, Strand, W.C.  
McLean, Douglas, of Napier, New Zealand.

Mackintosh, Robert T., of Elinburgh.  
Markham, Gervase, of Harehills Grove, Leeds.  
Mead, Benjamin, of Manor Farm, Ellesboro', Dunstable.  
Methuen, Charles L., of 87, Pembroke Road, Clifton, Gloucester.  
Millard, James Henry, of Oxford Villa, Reading.  
Morris, Christopher, of Upton Lawn, Chester.  
Morrison, Allan, of Hall Baro, Beaconsfield.  
Neild, Frederick, of Lower Lodge, Fenhurst, Sussex.  
Nice, George, of Downhill House, Bishopstone, Hereford.  
Nicholson, Henry, of 25, College Hill, E.C.  
Northcote, Francis S., of Clapham, Lancaster.  
Penny, Thomas Stubbs, of Toue Villa, Taunton.  
Penrose, W.M., of Birkdale, Lanc.  
Pexton, William, of Green Hamerton, York.  
Richardson, Wm. W., of South Park, Lincoln.  
Riddell, David, of Blackhall, Paisley.  
Rixen, Ebenezer Arthur, of 2, Manor Cottages, Sudbury, Harrow.  
Rouch, Isaac E., of Cleveland House, Chiswick, Middlesex.  
Russell, Thos., of Heremere Hall, Hurst Green, Sussex.  
Savory, Francis Evance, of Aldington Manor, Evesham.  
Seckham, Samuel Lipscomb, of Bletchley Park, Bletchley.  
Senhouse, Humphrey P., of Netherhall, Maryport.  
Shaw, Elijah, of Bryngwyn, Hereford.  
Skinner, Captain T. Henry, of Tillington, Petworth.  
Swanston, David, of Thonock, Gainsborough.  
Syme, David, of Bangholm House, Edinburgh.  
Thornton, Robert, of High Cross, Framfield, Sussex.  
Toller, James, of Winfold Tarn, Waterbeach, Cambridge.  
Verschoyle, Captain Robert H., of Springfield, Ross, Herefordshire.  
Vokins, William, of 1, Porchester Terrace, W.  
Wallis, John C., of Home Farm, Diddington, Brandon.  
Webb, Jubal, of Kensington High Street, W.  
Whiteley, William, of Westbourne Grove, Bayswater, W.  
Wigram, James Richard, of Northlands, Salisbury.  
Williams, D.P., of P. nberry, St. David's, Pembroke.  
Williams, H. S., of South Brook, Chepstow.  
Wilson, Courtenay, Freeman, of Tatchbury Manor House, Tetton, Hants.  
Wilton, Henry Staines, of 261, Oxford Street, W.  
Woods, James, of Salisbury Hall, Barnet.  
Woods, Thos. H., of Durrants Farm, Rickmansworth.

## FINANCES.

Colonel KINGS-COTE, M.P. (chairman), presented the report, from which it appeared that the Secretary's receipts during the past three months had been duly examined by the Committee, and by Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., the Society's accounts, and found correct. The balance in the hands of the bankers on October 31 was £1,287 4s. 6d. The quarterly statement of subscriptions and arrears to September 30, and the quarterly cash account, were laid on the table. The arrears then amounted to £1,318. This report was adopted.

## JOURNAL.

Mr. DENT (chairman) reported that the following entries had been received in competition for the Farm prizes offered by the Carlisle Local Committee in connection with next year's show:—

Class 1. Arable or mixed farms, above 200 acres. Six entries.

Wm. Atkinson, Burnside Hall, Kendal.  
Robert G. Graham, Barrofoot-on-Esk, Longtown.  
Wm. Handley, Green Head, Milnthorpe.  
Robert Jefferson, Preston House, Whitehaven.  
Joseph Lowthian, Winder Hall, Turil, Penrith.  
Robert Tinniswood, Rose Bank Farm, Dalston, Carlisle.

Class 2. Arable or mixed farms, not less than 50 and not over 200 acres. Nine entries.

William Benson, Boonwood, Gosforth.  
Thomas Donald, Sanden House, Abbey Town, Silloth.  
Thomas Kitchen, Thomas' Close, Penrith.  
Exors. of Rowland Parker, Moss End, Burton, Westmorland.  
Joseph Rothery, Stanger, Cocker-mouth.  
Wm. Savage, Hanging Bank, Penrith.  
George Shepperd, Kings Meaton, Kirkbythore, Penrith.  
Joseph Wagstaff, Skirsgill Farm, Penrith.

John Wilson, Fleatham House Farm, St. Bees, Whitehaven.

Class 3. Stock or pastoral farms, above 200 acres. Two entries.

Wm. Leathes, Lamplugh Hall, Cockermouth.

James Mounsey, High Lorton, Cockermouth.

Class 4. Stock or pastoral farms, not less than 80 and not over 200 acres. No entry.

The Committee had to report that the *Journal* would be issued in the course of the current month, and they recommended that copies be forwarded, as published, to the Superintendent of the Government Farms, Madras Presidency. Copies of Mr. Jenkins' paper on "Buttermaking" had been forwarded to each member of the Society; about 5,000 had been sold, and the pamphlet had also been translated into Welsh at the expense of Mr. Joseph Peers, of Ruthin, who had bought 1,000 copies for gratuitous distribution.

This report was adopted.

#### STOCK PRIZES.

Mr. CHANDOS-POLE-GELL (Chairman) reported that the Committee had arranged a preliminary prize sheet, which would be printed, and sent to members of the Council.

This report was adopted.

#### IMPLEMENTS.

Mr. SANDAY reported the recommendations of the Committee, that at Carlisle, next year, the judges be empowered to award gold and silver medals to any implements or machines for the cultivation of the land, by steam or other mechanical force, which in the opinion of the stewards and judges are new inventions, and have not been previously submitted to trial by the Society; and that it be an instruction to the stewards and judges that the gold medals be awarded only in cases of special merit, and for implements and machinery likely, in their opinion, to be practically useful. The Committee were of opinion that the time had arrived when an effort should be made to bring the machinery yard within moderate compass; and with this object in view, they recommended that the maximum size of stands be 150 feet, and that the Committee be empowered to decide the space allotted to each exhibitor, and to disqualify any of his proposed exhibits; and that the charge for space in the miscellaneous department be doubled. The Committee also recommended that exhibitors who so desire be allowed to exhibit the whole of their entries upon their stands in the machinery-in-motion department. This report was adopted, after a conversation in which several members enforced the importance of curtailing the extent of the showyard, so as to enable visitors to inspect the whole of the exhibits shown; and after an amendment, proposed by Mr. RANDELL and seconded by Colonel KINGSCOTE, to strike out the following words:—"And that the Committee be empowered to decide the space allotted to each exhibitor and to disqualify any of his proposed exhibits," had been negatived by 15 votes against 11.

#### SHOWYARD CONTRACTS.

Mr. JACOB WILSON (Chairman) reported that the Kilburn showyard had been duly cleared, and a continuous fence put up, in accordance with the agreement, at a cost of £179 16s. 6d. The Society's plant had been removed to Carlisle, and the entrance buildings erected. The plan of the Carlisle showyard, showing approved embankments and general arrangements, had been considered by the Committee, and ordered to be forwarded to the Carlisle local authorities.

This report was adopted.

#### CHEMICAL

Mr. WELLS (Chairman) reported that the Committee had received Dr. Voelcker's report on the Woburn experiments, and that they had read and approved the financial recommendations of the Woburn Sub-Committee. The

total sum received by Dr. Voelcker to the 25th June, 1879, for analyses and consultations was as follows:—

	£	s.
March.....	39	10
April.....	93	15
May.....	97	8
June.....	40	5

£275 18

and a cheque for £137 19s. had been given to the Secretary by Dr. Voelcker. For the fees for the quarter to 29th September, £102 5s. had been received. The number of analyses for seven months was 815, exceeding already by nearly 150 the number of analyses for the whole of last year, 1878. Dr. Voelcker had read to the Committee a paper on the comparative value of soluble and insoluble phosphates, which was ordered to be printed, and sent to the members of the Chemical Committee, with a view to its discussion at the December meeting.

This report was adopted.

#### EDUCATION.

Mr. DENT reported that twenty-three candidates had been entered to compete for the Society's Junior Scholarships at the forthcoming examination, on November 19th and 20th, from four schools; Bedford County School, Devon County School, Saubach Grammar School, and Surrey County School. The usual examiners had agreed to act, and gentlemen invited had accepted the office of Honorary Local Secretaries. The Committee gave notice that at the next Council Meeting they would move for the renewal of the Educational Grant for 1880.

This report was adopted.

#### VETERINARY.

The Hon. W. EGERTON, M.P. (Chairman) reported that the Committee had received a letter from Professor Simonds, giving the result of consultations in writing, and reports from Professor Axe upon cases investigated in the country, of which they recommended that the following be published:—

#### REPORT OF AN OUTBREAK OF DISEASE IN A FLOCK OF SHEEP, THE PROPERTY OF JAMES HOWARD, ESQ.

On the 11th of August I received instructions to inquire into an outbreak of disease in a flock of sheep the property of James Howard, Esq., of Bedford. The flock in question was located at College Farm, and originally consisted of six lots, comprising 65 shearing wethers, 14 ewe lambs, 16 ram lambs, 9 shearing wethers, 5 shearing ewes, and 10 we her lambs.

During the past winter the three first-named lots were pastured on clover, and received a also a liberal supply of cake. The three lots last referred to were housed, and received as food corn, cake, and roots.

About the 15th of July the 65 wethers were turned on tares, and about four days later the 14 ewe lambs and 16 ram lamb, were likewise placed in the same pasture. It should, however be stated that the several lots were kept separate from each other.

About the 3rd of July the housed sheep commenced to receive tares, as well as corn, cake, &c. The lot of 10 wether lambs were at this time having a liberal amount of cabbage, and therefore only a small proportion of vetches were allowed; hen.

The disease first appeared on the 28th of July, among the 65 wethers, and by the 7th of August it had shown itself in all the lots referred to, excepting the 10 wether lambs, which, as just stated, were only sparingly supplied with vetches. At the time of my visit 15 of the 65 wethers had been slaughtered on account of the disease, and a large number were then sick.

The symptoms presented by the latter were characteristic of the disease termed apthæ.

Early in the attack food was either refused altogether or partaken of indifferently, and the general expression was dull and listless. The mouth at first hot and clammy, soon discharged a frothy saliva, the tongue was moved from side to side, and the lips and face became more or less enlarged.

The tongue and lining membranes of the mouth generally were beset with small round white bladder-like spots, and presented also a swollen and inflamed condition. In some the mouth was extensively ulcerated, and the eruption extended over the lips and face, reaching as high as the eyes. In such cases the breath emitted an offensive odour, and the salivary discharge was blood-stained and sticky. Inability to feed, and the constitutional disturbance associated with the disease, produced great prostration and wasting. In the latter stage of the disorder diarrhoea was sometimes present, and lung complications were also frequently developed, giving rise to coughing, a discharge from the nostrils, and embarrassed breathing.

I had an opportunity of making a post-mortem examination of one of the sheep. In that case the lips and face presented small pustules, and the skin was extensively ulcerated. The membrane covering the tongue and the inside of the mouth generally was studded with small round white vesicles, and in some parts also with ulcers similar to those referred to in connection with the skin.

The mucous membrane of the fourth stomach, as well as that of the intestines, was redder than natural, owing to vascular engorgement, and it was besides infiltrated with serosity, and slightly thickened.

The liver was pale in colour, softer in consistence than normal, and somewhat friable.

The kidneys and spleen were congested. The lungs showed patches of consolidation and extravasated blood spots. From a full consideration of all the facts pertaining to the outbreak, I came to the conclusion that the cause of the malady was in some way connected with the vetches. Accordingly I visited the field in which they were, and carefully examined them. The plant was generally straggling, and in itself as good as could be desired, but I noticed that it was not only much blighted, but that the heads of the vetches were everywhere invaded with grubs (insect larvae). In the majority of plants examined, not less than 40 or 50 of these parasites were counted. In what relation, if any, they stand to the disease, I have not been able to determine. It may be pointed out that, by the universal presence of these creatures, the sheep were compelled to partake of a large quantity of animal matter from day to day, and to depart so far from their natural aliment as to become, for the time, semi-carnivorous. Whether these insect larvae have any immediate connection with the origin of the malady, or whether the cause is to be found in the blighted condition of the plant, or in a combination of these with other conditions, I am unable to determine. It is highly probable, however, that when partaken of in such quantities as were here present, the grubs are capable of giving rise to considerable disturbance of the digestive canal, and lay the foundation for active disease. That the cause of the outbreak was connected with the tares is rendered probable by the fact that so soon as the animals ceased to feed on them they quickly recovered, and no further outbreak occurred.

It should be mentioned that the stock ewes were pastured on the tares on the 9th of August—two days prior to my visit—and have continued free from the disorder up to the present time. This fact does not in any way affect the conclusion arrived at in respect of the cause, inasmuch as aphæ is a disease belonging essentially to young animals. Moreover, at that time the insect larvae were changing their state, and dispersing.

With reference to general management, it was suggested that the use of the tares should be discontinued, and that the sheep should be pastured on grass, and receive also crushed corn, cake, and bran. It was further advised, in the case of the sick animals, that nutritive gruel be administered, and exposure to wet and cold scrupulously avoided. A dose of aperient medicine had already been given to each of them, and this was supplemented by the daily administration of antacid and antiseptic agents.

Astringent applications were prescribed for the eroded and ulcerated mouth, and the advantage of good nursing pointed out.

J. WORTLEY AXE, Professor.

#### REPORT ON AN OUTBREAK OF "HOOSE" IN A HERD OF CALVES THE PROPERTY OF P. Broughton, Esq., Tunstall Hall, Market Drayton.

On the 18th of September I was requested by Professor Simonds, to visit Tunstall Hall, and to inquire into the facts relating to an outbreak of disease as above stated.

In the spring of the present year Mr. Broughton purchased at different times and of various persons, 111 calves from three weeks to a month old. All of them were reared on new milk, and excepting occasional instances of slight ailments to which pail-fed calves are liable, the whole of them made good progress, and showed no signs of weakness or disease. The process of weaning was got over without difficulty, and about the third week in May all of them were turned into a park of fifty acres, during the daytime, and received, besides grass, one pound of cake, half a pound of pea-meal, and the same quantity of Indian corn. In the evening they were housed, until the second week in June, when they were allowed to remain out altogether. The park occupies an elevated position, and the soil is dry, and of a light loamy character. The water-supply is derived exclusively from a running stream, and there are no swampy places or stagnant pools in the pasture. Up to the third week in July they continued to grow and accumulate flesh; after that time many of them were noticed to shrink, and gradually waste away. In the meantime, symptoms of disease appeared, and by the first week in August several of them were dangerously ill. The first animal died about a fortnight later, since which time others have succumbed at shorter or longer intervals, until the day of my visit, when sixteen were reported dead.

During the last week in August they were removed on to aftermath, but the change had no perceptible influence on the progress of the disease. I had an opportunity of observing several calves in an advanced stage of the disorder, and others which were then regarded as healthy. A very casual examination of the latter, however, was required to satisfy me that some insidious disturbance was going on within them, and that they were all more or less in a state of disease, in several there were marked signs of unthriftness, and in some actual symptoms of disease. The last-named instances were distinguished by their low condition, harsh and staring coat, arched back, feeble movements, depending head, dull expression, and occasional cough, aggravated by exertion. That the cough was not belonging to an ordinary cold and catarrh was shown by the absence of discharge from eyes or nose, and by its peculiar husky character. Those animals more advanced in the disease were extremely emaciated; the appetite was capricious or entirely absent, there was diarrhoea, extreme thirst, and other phenomena of fever; the back was arched, the breathing quick, and accompanied by a frequent cough, the movements were unsteady, and on the chest sounds were unmistakably those of bronchial disease and lung consolidation. Post-mortem examinations were made of two animals, one of which was euthanased and the other destroyed for the purpose. The lungs in both instances presented extensive areas of consolidation, and parasites in large numbers, or their debris, were found in the bronchial tubes leading up to the patches of hardened lung. The mucous layer of the alimentary canal throughout showed signs of congestion, more or less intense, but this was quite a secondary matter, and consequent upon the vitiated condition of the blood from deficient aeration. I had the pleasure to confer with Mr. Kettle, veterinary surgeon, of Market Drayton, who was in attendance on the stock; and the course of treatment adopted by him I thought eminently adapted to do all that could be done to arrest the progress of the disorder.

As to the origin of the malady, there can be but small doubt that the larvae of the lung parasites were in some way or other connected with the pasture. The exceptional season just past has been abundantly favourable to the life and development of these destructive creatures. Both in regard to lambs and calves we hear from all parts of the country of the most alarming losses arising out of parasitic lung-disease, the so-called "husk" or "hoose."

J. WORTLEY AXE, Professor.

#### REPORT UPON AN OUTBREAK OF DIPHTHERIA IN A HERD OF PIGS, THE PROPERTY OF THE REV. H. R. PEEL, ABBOTT'S HILL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

In accordance with instructions received, on the 19th October I visited Abbott's Hill, and investigated the facts relating to an outbreak of diphtheria in a herd of pigs, the property of the Rev. H. R. Peel. The herd were of the Berkshire breed, and consisted originally of 24 pigs, of various ages and of both sexes. They were divided into nine lots, and occupied three sheds. Each lot had a separate compartment.

Shed No. 1 contained a sow and five pigs in one compart-

ment, one sow in another, and a boar in the third. Shed 2 contained two sows and one boar, in separate sties. Shed 3 contained one sow, and two lots of young pigs, three and eight months old respectively, also in separate sties.

Shed No. 3 formed one side of an open yard, into which the three eight-months-old pigs had access. These animals had also the range of a small paddock adjoining.

Sheds No. 1 and 2 were detached, and situated a small distance from each other, and also from No. 3.

The disease was first noticed on the morning of the 18th of September, in one of the three pigs last referred to, and located in shed No. 3. In the course of the same day it also appeared in four other pigs, situated in sheds No. 1 and 2, and in a sow occupying No. 3 shed. The pig first affected died on the day of the outbreak, and a sow far advanced in the disease was slaughtered at my request on the following day for the purpose of a post-mortem examination. It was pointed out by Mrs. Peel in the course of the investigation that the open yard and paddock referred to, as well as No. 3 shed, were flooded in July last, in consequence of the overflowing of an adjoining river; but a detailed inquiry into all the circumstances of the flooding threw no light on the origin of the malady. The lapse of time between the flood and the outbreak of the disease, taken together with the fact that the malady appeared almost simultaneously in parts of the farmstead where the flood did not reach, and which had no connection with it, are points strongly opposed to any idea of causative relation between the two events. While inquiring into the general health of the farm stock, I was informed that a cow, pasturing with others in an adjoining meadow, became seriously ill on the 11th of September (eight days prior to my visit), and died the same evening. The carcase of this animal was opened in a yard close by the sheds, and afterwards buried. In reference to the cause of death, it was pointed out that, the day previously, she had gained access to a small shrubbery skirting the pasture, and partaken freely of deadly-nightshade. It was also noticed, in confirmation of this view of the matter, that others of the same herd had suffered from the effects of the plant at the same time but in a less degree. I was particular to inquire as to the prevalence of human diphtheria in the neighbourhood of Abbott's Hill, as it is somewhere recorded, on the authority of Dr. Sanderson, that pigs have contracted the malady by devouring the excrement of persons suffering from the disorder. In this connection, however, I was not able to gain any clue to the origin of the disease. In the circumstances of food and water there was nothing to explain the cause of the outbreak. The former consisted of "toppings," and wash from the house. It should be mentioned, in regard to the former, that the stock from which the supply was being drawn had been in use for two or three weeks. The water-supply was obtained from a spring, and is said to be of good quality. It was used not only for pigs, but likewise for horses and cattle, and in some instances also for human consumption. Notwithstanding a most minute inquiry into all the circumstances and surroundings of this herd, I was unable to arrive at any conclusion as to the channel through which the disease had been introduced. No fresh stock had been brought on to the farm for any purpose whatever, nor had any of the pigs passed off the premises at any time. Whether the malady can arise *de novo* or not is a question most interesting to consider. But the peculiar habits of the pig render it altogether unfitted for such an inquiry.

The symptoms of the malady were very characteristic of diphtheria—so much so, indeed, that Mrs. Peel, who had had some experience of that disease in man, at once recognised it. Illness was invariably ushered in by shivering. This was quickly followed by swelling of the throat. At first the enlargement was soft, and pitted on pressure, but soon became hard and resisting. The breathing was quick at first, and afterwards became embarrassed, and was with difficulty performed. Each act of respiration was accompanied with a wheezing sound, and the voice was thick and harsh. In this condition the mouth was opened and the tongue protruded. The gait was stiff and unsteady, and in the more advanced state of the malady dulness and stupor were more or less intense. The eyes and nostrils discharged mucous or mucopurulent fluid, and the general indications of fever were strongly marked. The lesions observed at the post-mortem were essentially those of diphtheria, and consisted more especially of infiltration and swelling of the tissues of the neck, tumefac-

tion of the tonsils and the presence of a dirty-grey granular-looking false membrane on the internal surface of the throat.

The treatment consisted in the administration of saline aperients, followed by antiseptic agents. A complete change of food was also ordered to be made, and the whole of the sties and their fittings to be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. After my visit the animals all quickly recovered, and no further extension of the malady has since occurred.

J. WORTLEY AXE, Professor.

Dr. GREENFIELD had attended the meeting of the committee, and stated that the investigations on splenic apoplexy and quarter-evil are going on at the Brown Institution. Only four cases of quarter-evil had been reported, and about £13 of the grant last made had been expended, leaving a balance in hand of £122 15s. 3d. Dr. Greenfield specially urged the desirability of members of the Society giving early information of any outbreak of splenic apoplexy or quarter-evil taking place, as frequently notice was received too late to be practically useful. The Secretary had been instructed to make application to owners of stock for professional and other fees, and the expenses incurred in visiting their farms. Professor Simonds had promised some notes on glanders for publication in the *Journal*. The Committee gave notice that at the next Council meeting they would apply for the renewal of the veterinary grant for 1880, which would not be drawn till required.

This report was adopted.

#### SEED AND PLANT-DISEASES.

Colonel PICTON TURBERVILL reported that six specimens of wheat had been forwarded for competition for the prizes offered by the Society for the best new variety. These had each been divided into four lots, and forwarded to four gentlemen, who had agreed to grow the samples in accordance with the conditions laid down. A sample of each variety had been retained at the offices of the Society, in order to compare it with the new growth. Samples of the straw were also retained for the same purpose.

This report was adopted.

The SECRETARY having made a communication in reference to his appointment as an Assistant-Commissioner to the Royal Commission on the Depression in Agriculture to report on European Agriculture in conjunction with one or more colleagues,

Lord VERNON moved, "That the appointment of Mr. Jenkins as an Assistant-Commissioner to the Royal Agricultural Commission be agreed to by the Council." His lordship added, that if it was a compliment to Mr. Jenkins to be asked to act in that capacity, it was a far greater compliment to the Society that their Secretary should have been selected to fill so important an appointment; and, inasmuch as Mr. Jenkins was already possessed of so large a portion of the information required at his hands, and was so well acquainted with men of science and men of practice abroad, there could be no doubt that he would be of the greatest possible service to the Commission. He (Lord Vernon) could perhaps testify better to the manner in which Mr. Jenkins could bring his powers and knowledge to a useful end in the Commission, by having been intimately connected with him in a great foreign work in which the largest measure of success was due to his ability.

Colonel KINGSCOTE seconded the motion, remarking that after what Lord Vernon had said, and with which he cordially agreed, he need only say that he trusted the Council would unanimously pass the resolution.

Mr. JACOB WILSON said he had been requested by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon to say that His Grace had fully intended to be present at the Council to move the resolution personally, so great importance did he place upon the appointment of Mr. Jenkins; but he had been

prevented by business of an urgent nature.

Mr. RANDELL said that the Council represented the members of the Society, the farmers of the country; and he was sure they would all feel that to no man could the interests of the farmers be better entrusted than to Mr. Jenkins.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

A letter from the Leicestershire Agricultural Society was read, and referred to the Stock Prizes Committee, with instructions to report to the Council meeting in February, as were also other letters relating to the stock prize sheet.

A letter was read from Sir Brandreth Gibbs, informing the Council that he had transferred his interest in the firm of Thomas Gibbs and Co. to his cousin, Mr. Thomas Gibbs, and asking that the position of seedsmen to the Royal Agricultural Society should still be retained by the firm. Letters having also been read from Mr. Thomas Gibbs and other seedsmen, it was moved by Mr. DENT, "That it be referred to the Seeds and Plants Diseases Committee to consider and report to the Council whether in future it is desirable to appoint any firm as special seedsmen to the Royal Agricultural Society." This motion having been withdrawn, it was then moved by Mr. RANDELL, seconded by Mr. CHARLES HOWARD, and carried unanimously, "That the request contained in Sir Brandreth Gibbs' letter be acceded to."

The General Meeting was fixed for Thursday, December 11th, at noon; and the Council then adjourned till Wednesday, December 10th, at the same hour.

### BRITISH DAIRY FARMERS.

The monthly Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 4th, at the offices, 446, Strand. Present—Mr. E. C. Tisdall in the chair, Professor Simonds, Dr. Voelcker, Messrs. W. Tait, Garrett Taylor, T. Nuttall, C. Bland, R. Dale, A. Tisdall, H. S. Holmes-Pegler (hon. sec.), and F. Morrison (assist. sec.).

The following new members were elected:—

Blaser, Theodor, 276, Waterloo Road, S.E.  
 Bagot, Rev. Canon, Tonstown, Kildare.  
 Crosher, J. T., of Messrs. Tuxford and Nephew, Melton Mowbray.  
 Hore, E., 4, Bishopsgate Street Within.  
 Gates, J. S., 115, Cannon Street, E.C.  
 Jenkins, Eli George, Marksbury, near Bristol.  
 Jones, H. P., Portway House, Warminster.  
 Mylius, Henry John, Italian Condensed Milk Company, Milan.  
 Ridgeway, T., Bourton Grounds, Pabury, Bucks.  
 Robison, A. A., 60, Leadehall Street, E.C.  
 Troughton, Agnes Charlotta, Garthmyl Hall, Montgomeryshire.  
 Tufton, Sir Henry J., Bart., Hopfield Place, Ashford, Kent.  
 Welch, Christopher, The United University Club, S.W.  
 Whitcombe, George, 3, Bayshill Villas, Cheltenham.

A resolution was passed that all firms, companies, or societies elected members of the Association should supply the name of a director, chairman, secretary, or other person appointed by such body to represent it, and that the name in question should be published after the name of the firm or society in the list of members.

The HON. SEC. read the reports of the Show Committee and General Finance Committee, which stated that the Dairy Show had been, as far as the Association was concerned, a financial success, that over eighty new members had been elected, chiefly from amongst exhibitors, and that, after paying all expenses, there would be a profit of nearly £100.

The report recommended that a certificate of merit and a bronze medal be presented to Mr. John Bennett, of Wanstraw Frome, in testimony of the superior quality of the loaf cheese exhibited by him, which had been awarded first prize by the

judges, but subsequently disqualified through an error in his entry; the first prize in question subsequently going to Mr. T. Walden, the second to Mr. C. Crees, and the third to Mr. J. Hoddinott. A similar case was reported with reference to three exhibits of Irish butter, exhibited by Mr. D. H. Leahy, of Cork, which had been erroneously entered by him in the English class, and taken prizes. The Committee had decided that the prizes in this case must be withheld, but recommended that a similar recognition of merit to the one previously proposed should be given as an encouragement to the farmers who sent the butter, it being through no fault of theirs that the prizes awarded were lost.

A recommendation from the judges in the class for Models and Drawings, that a supplemental first prize be awarded to Mr. Richard Waite, of Dulfield, Derby, for his plans and drawings, No. 850, was also included. The recommendations were unanimously agreed to, and the reports adopted.

A letter was read from Professor J. P. Sheldon, proposing that Professor Alvord, of Easthampton, Mass., U.S.A., who had been instrumental in obtaining the collection of dairy utensils which had been presented to the Society by American manufacturers, should, in recognition of his services, be made an honorary member of the Society. After some discussion, an amendment was proposed by Dr. Voelcker, seconded by Professor Simonds, that a vote of thanks, and a silver medal, suitably inscribed, be sent to Professor Alvord.

The amendment was carried.

The question of a Dairy School—which had been brought forward at the general meeting, and referred to a committee to report—was again dealt with, and a committee, comprising the whole Council, elected to consider the schemes to be submitted by Mr. Allender and Mr. Gilbert Murray, as resolved at the annual meeting.

A letter read—from Mr. James Howard, of Clapham Park, and bearing on the subject—was referred to the same committee for consideration.

The remainder of the time of the meeting was devoted to a discussion as to the time and place for holding the Dairy Show of 1880. It was reported that an application had come from Birmingham for the Association to hold its next show in that town instead of in London. A member of the Council considered that this question was of too much importance to be decided at any but a general meeting. It was resolved that the subject be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Council meeting, with a view to report to the adjourned annual meeting in December.

The HON. SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. Raffety, managing director of the Agricultural Auction Agency Company, requesting that the Dairy Show of 1880 be held in May, and that the cheese which could not be shown at that time of year should be exhibited in October, as usual, with other produce, as a cheese fair and produce market.

Mr. TAIT considered it would be unwise to split up the show into two sections, each to be held at a different season of the year.

Mr. NUTTALL strongly protested against such a proposition, and moved that it be not entertained.

Mr. W. FREEMAN moved as an amendment that a committee be formed of a few of the members present to meet Mr. Raffety, and carefully consider the question, and report at the next Council meeting.

On a show of hands being taken, the amendment was carried.

It was decided that the adjourned annual meeting of the Society be fixed for Wednesday, December 10th, at two o'clock.

### ENGLISH CART HORSES.

A Council meeting was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, London, November 4th, at 2.30 p.m. The following members were present, viz.:—Mr. Wells (in the chair), Major Dashwood, Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Walter Gilbey, and Mr. Fredk. Street.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Editing Committee reported that they had met at Peterborough, and, at a subsequent meeting held that day, had examined the printed proofs of all entries for the Stud Book, numbering about 3,000, and in conformity with a resolution passed at the last meeting, had added the term "Shiro Horse" to those they thought entitled to it. With respect to several of these entries, further inquiry will have to be made,

They had instructed the Secretary to communicate with the various owners and breeders at once, to obtain the necessary information, which they hoped would be forthcoming with as little delay as possible, and also to impress upon them the urgent necessity for immediate attention, as one of two things would have to be done—either the publication of the book delayed, or the pedigrees that are incomplete would have to be left out. The latter course it was thought must be adopted if those interested did not respond to the call at once. They hoped to hold another meeting before the Council meet again, and to make a further report.

The following gentlemen were elected members:—

Mr. R. J. Epton, Newball, Lincoln.

Mr. George Slater, Canterbury.

A short discussion arose as to the desirability of illustrating the Stud-book. It was, however, thought best that the subject should appear on the agenda, to be considered at the next Council meeting, to be held during the week of the Smithfield Club Show.

### HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL.

The first monthly meeting of the directors of this society for the season was held on Nov. 5th in their chambers, No. 3, George IV. Bridge. Mr. Ferguson, Kinnochry, in the chair.

The premiums awarded for mares in foal at the last show at Dumfries (payment of which had been suspended till birth of foals was certified) were reported to have been finally awarded as follows:—1, Laurence Drew, Merryton, Hamilton, for "Regina"; 2, Alexander Galbraith, Croy-Cunningham, Kilmarnock, for "Topsy"; 3, David Buchanan, Garscadden Mains, New Kilpatrick, for "Maggie"; 4, no award, none of the other animals having produced foals in terms of the regulations.

The board confirmed the awards at the late show at Perth, and the chairman was authorised to sign orders for the money premiums, which the secretary was instructed to issue, along with the medals, as early as convenient.

The SECRETARY stated that the show tickets of every kind were marked "not transferable," but that two members and two exhibitors had at the late Perth show transferred their tickets, and had at once been detected. The directors resolved not to report the names, but that an example would be made in the event of similar cases occurring in future.

It was remitted to the Committee on General Shows to suggest amount of prizes and adjust the regulations for the show to be held at Kelso next year.

Requisitions for a show to be held at Stirling in 1880 were reported, and it was remitted to the Committee on General Shows to prepare the classes for which premiums should be offered.

The minute of the special committee appointed to consider the rotation of the general shows was submitted, from which it appeared that the committee met on the 15th of October, and that by a majority it was resolved to recommend that the existing arrangements regarding districts be adhered to.

The resolution at the general meeting held at Perth, "that the society subsidise their chemist, so that he would be able to give the members analyses at the same rates as local associations do," was referred to the following committee:—Mr. Mackenzie, of Portmore, convener; Professor MacLagan, Balfour, and Wilson; Messrs. Melvin, Bonnington; Swinton, Holywell Bank; Hutchinson of Carlowie, Monteith, Tower Mains; Munro, Fairnington; Smith, Stevenson Mains; Ferguson, Kinnochry; Cochrane, Waterside Lodge; Mylne, Niddrie Mains; Ritcliffe of Middleton, Smith, Whittinghame; Murray of Dolerie, Walker of Bowland, C.B.; Sir Graham Montgomery, Bart. M.P.; Messrs. Ilew Crichton, S.S.C.; Hog of Newliston, Graham Binny, W.S.; Stewart of Inglisston, George Auldjo Jamieson, C.A.; and T.G. Murray, W.S.; Mr. Hope, the mover of the motion, to be called to the meeting.

The resolution at the same meeting—"That a committee be appointed to revise the society's charter and consider any changes which the altered state of matters now existing may render necessary"—was referred to the Law and Finance Committees, and Mr. Mollison, Dochgarroch Lodge, the mover of the resolution.

On the recommendation of the committee in charge of the Argyll Naval Fund, of which Admiral Maitland Dougall, of

Scotsburg, is chairman, the following naval cadets were nominated to the benefit of the fund, viz:—Mr. Edward W. Elphinstone Wemyss and Mr. Edward Walrond de Wells Bruce.

Dr. AITKEN reported that the crops on the experimental stations had been safely got in, but that owing to the lateness of the season thrashing was not yet completed; so that he could give no definite details regarding the experiments for a few weeks. He believed, however, that the results of the barley crop would be found very satisfactory, and form an important contribution to the general investigation that was going on.

The SECRETARY laid on the table a report by Dr. Aitken on a visit to Rothamstead, and stated that a report on the Kilburn Show was in progress. The Secretary intimated that Dr. Aitken proposed to give a course of six lectures on the subject of "Fodder and the Laws of Nutrition," in the Society's Hall, No. 3, George IV. Bridge, on Wednesday, at two o'clock, beginning Wednesday, 12th November. Members of the Society and their friends are invited to attend. The Secretary reported that the examination for the Society's bursaries took place on the 29th October, when Andrew Chapman, Breckonhill, Lockerbie; William Craig, Moncktonhill, Ayr; William Martin, Dardarroch, Dunscore; James Sutherland, Wick; Wm. R. Tait, Wick; and David Wallace, Balgrunna, Leven, passed for bursaries of £20 each; and William Brown, Watten, Wick, and Alexander Reid, Watten, for bursaries of £10 each. The examinations, which were conducted by Professors Balfour and Wilson, embraced the elements of botany, chemistry, physical geography, and geology.

### SHORT HORN.

A meeting of the Council of this Society was held at the Society's rooms, 12, Hanover Square, W., on Tuesday, the 4th ult. Present:—Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P., (president), in the chair, the Earl of Bective, M.P., Mr. B. St. John Ackers, Mr. Hugh Aylmer, Mr. W. H. Beauford, Mr. John B. Booth, Mr. H. Chandos-Pole-Gell, Mr. S. P. Foster, Mr. Charles Howard, Mr. D. M'Intosh, Mr. E. W. Meade-Waldo, Mr. H. J. Sheldon, Rev. T. Stanforth, Mr. R. Stratton, Mr. G. Murlon Tracy, and Mr. Jacob Wilson.

The following new members were elected:—

Beauchamp, Edward Beauchamp, Trevince, Scorrier, Cornwall.

Davidson, James, Bank House, Acklington, Northumberland.

Dundas, Charles Henry, Gerriehrew, Dunria, Crieff, N.B.

M'Elderry, John, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

Mallock, Richard, Cockington Court, Torquay.

Mytton, Captain D. H., Garth, Welshpool.

Nicho's, John, Iron Acton, Bristol.

Rankin, James, Bryngwyn, Hereford.

Scott, Arthur J., Rotherfield Park, Alton, Hants.

Seaton, Mrs. F. M., Black Park, Dunamanagh, Co. Tyrone.

Vivian, Henry Hussey, M. P., Park Wern, Swansea.

### EDITING COMMITTEE.

Mr. H. W. BEAUFORD reported that the 25th volume of the Herd-book was in a very advanced state, and that the Committee hoped its issue to the members would commence before the next Council meeting. The Committee, therefore recommended, that as soon as practicable, advertisements be inserted in the agricultural papers, stating that entries for Volume 26 could be sent in, and that the latest date for receiving entries for that volume would be Saturday, January 31st, 1880.

That the Committee had considered the proof of the entry forms for Volume 26, and that the new rule relating to pedigrees, never before entered in the Herd book, had been added to the regulations, and that the Committee recommended that a letter with reference to duplicate names be prepared by the Secretary, and sent out with the forms of entry.

That the Committee further recommended that in those cases where the dam, grand-dam, great grand-dam, or

gr. gr. grand-dam of an animal sent for entry had not been recorded in the Herd-book, a certificate of the date of birth, &c., of each of the said dams should be required from the breeder thereof.

That the Committee also recommend that the charge for the entry in the Herd-book of a cow, with two calves as produce, be 2s. 6d. to a member, and 5s. to a non-member; and for every additional calf above two, a fee of 2s. 6d. to be charged for each calf.

That the Committee had considered several pedigrees sent for insertion in the Herd-book, and had instructed the Secretary to write to the parties who had made the entries, informing them that the pedigrees required further confirmation and corroboration.

This report was adopted.

#### GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Mr. D. M'INTOSH reported that the Committee recommended that for the ensuing year the General Purposes Committee consist of Lord Skelmersdale, Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P., Mr. Hugh Aylmer, Mr. H. W. Beauford, Mr. Charles Howard, Mr. D. M'Intosh, Mr. G. Murton Tracy, and Mr. Jacob Wilson.

That the accounts for the months of July, August, September, and October, had been examined by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., and the Committee, and were found to be correct; that the secretary's petty-cash account had been examined and passed, and showed an expenditure of £30 4s. 9d. during the past four months; that the receipts for the same period had been £106 17s., the balance of the Society's current account at the banker's being £235 12s. 3d.; and that the Committee recommended that cheques be drawn for various accounts, amounting to £69 7s.

That the Secretary having laid before the Committee an application from Mr. H. Craggs—who had been employed for considerable periods during the past four years in copying pedigrees for the printer, and other work incidental to the preparation of the Herd-book—asking whether his engagement could be made a permanent one, and that the Committee having heard the Secretary's statement as to the necessity for an additional clerk, recommended that Mr. H. Craggs be appointed junior clerk to the Society at a salary of £65 per annum; this engagement to cease by three months' notice being given on either side.

That the Committee recommended that the names of three members whose subscriptions were in arrear, and whose addresses were not known, should be removed from the list of members of the Society.

In accordance with the resolution of the Council of June 3rd last, the committee recommended the following additions to the Bye-laws:—

#### *New Bye Law.*

The wives and husbands of members, widows and widowers of deceased members upon being themselves elected members, shall be exempted from the payment of the entrance fee.

#### *Addition to Bye Law 7.*

The privileges given to members under this bye law are limited to volumes which are purchased by them for purposes connected with their herds. No member shall be entitled to purchase more than one copy of any volume under this bye law, unless he satisfies the Council that the additional volumes are required for the above purposes.

This report was adopted.

In consequence of the alteration in the Articles of the Association, increasing the number of members of the Council to 33, it was necessary to re-arrange the lists of members of Council who retire, but are eligible for re-election, at the annual general meetings. The following order for the years 1880-82 was agreed to:—

LIST A.—MEMBERS OF COUNCIL WHO RETIRE, BUT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS IN 1880.

Beauford, H. W., Sudborough House, Thrapstone, Northamptonshire.

Bilton, William, The Island, Oulart, Ireland.

Booth, John B., Kilerby Hall, Catterick, Yorkshire.

Dunmore, Earl of, Dunmore, Stirling, N.B.

Faversham, Earl of, Duncombe Park, Helmsley, Yorkshire.

Fitzhardinge, Lord, Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire.

Gunter, Colonel, Wetherby Grange, Wetherby, Yorkshire.

Manchester, Duke of, Kimbolton Castle, St. Neot's, Huntingdonshire.

Polwarth, Lord, Mertoun House, St. Boswells, N.B.

Stanforth, Rev. T., Storrs, Windermere, Westmoreland.

Stratton, R., The Duffryn, Newport, Monmouthshire.

LIST B.—MEMBERS OF COUNCIL WHO RETIRE, BUT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION, AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS IN 1881.

Aylmer, Hugh, West Dereham Abbey, Stoke Ferry, Norfolk.

Beetive, Earl of, M.P., Underly Hall, Carnforth.

Crosbie, W. Talbot, Ardert Abbey, Ardert, Ireland.

Foljambe, F. J. S., M.P., Osberton Hall, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

Foster, S. Porter, Killhow, Mealsgate, Carlisle.

Kingscote, Colonel, C.B., M.P., Kingscote, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

Lawson, Sir Wilfrid, Bart., M.P., Brayton, Carlisle, Cumberland.

Lindsay, Colonel Lloyd, M.P., Lockinge Park, Wantage, Berkshire.

McIntosh, David, Havering Park, Romford, Essex.

Mitchell, A., Alloa, N.B.

Wilson, Jacob, Woodhorn Manor, Morpeth, Northumberland.

LIST C.—MEMBERS OF COUNCIL WHO RETIRE, BUT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS IN 1882.

Ackers, B. St. John, Prinknash Park, Painswick, Gloucestershire.

Bowley, E., Siddington House, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Chaloner, R., King's Fort, Moyalty, Ireland.

Chandos-Pole-Gell, H. Hop on Hall, Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

Cruickshank, J. W., Letheby, Inverurie, N.B.

Howard, Charles, Biddenham, Bedford.

Meade-Waldo, E. W., Stonewall Park, Edenbridge, Kent.

Pearlyn, Lord, Pearlyn Castle, Bangor, N. Wales.

Sheldon, H. J., Brailes House, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

Skelmersdale, Lord., Lathom House, Ormskirk, Lancashire.

Tracy, G. Murton, Redlands, Edenbridge, Kent.

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt of a further letter, with reference to the probable attempt to sell, in Belgium, Shorthorns with fabricated pedigrees.

The PRESIDENT further reported that he had received a communication from Monsieur F. Germeau, President of the Société des Eleveurs Belges, announcing the formation of that Society, with aims analogous to those of the Shorthorn Society, and asking for information on various points connected with its constitution, publication of the Herd-book, &c., and he stated that he had sent a suitable reply to M. Germeau, congratulating him upon the formation of the Society, giving information upon the various questions mentioned in the letter, and assuring him that the Shorthorn Society would at all times be glad to render the new Society every assistance in its power.

A letter of thanks from the Royal Agricultural Society of England for the grant of £100 towards the expenses for adjudicating the prizes for Foreign Shorthorns at Kilburn was read.

A letter from Mr. James Howard, of Clapham Park, Bedford, was read, asking if it was within the scope of the Society to offer a prize for the best Essay upon the Management of a Shorthorn Herd.

The Secretary was directed to write and thank Mr. Howard for his communication.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Tuesday the 9th of December, at 3.30 p.m.

## Farmers' Clubs.

### CENTRAL.

#### THE FUTURE AIMS OF THE FARMING INTEREST.

A meeting of the Central Farmers' Club was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, on November 3, Mr. P. Phipps, M.P., in the chair. Mr. J. G. Edwards, of Broughton, Stockbridge, read the following paper on "The Future Aims of the Farming Interest."

If I had foreseen, when I submitted this subject last winter, the ceaseless scratching of pens and wagging of tongues bearing upon it, I should have hesitated once, twice, and thrice in paying this small tribute to what I conceive to be the great cause of the tenant farmer. Repetitions are inevitable in such a case. These, however, though tedious, are not necessarily idle, but like the endless clouds which thrown into the quagmire form at last a permanent way. Indeed, when Messrs. James Howard, Bear, Caird, and others have preceded me, I may be excused for offering you little that is new; at best, I can only hope for my paper that, proverbial-like, it may unite the wisdom of many with the wit of one.

The course of events has carried us on some way since I had the honour of addressing you in November last. It is no longer needful to prove that the farmers are disunited, for it is acknowledged that they are a rope of sand; or that they are in a bad way, for empty farms, falling rents, and Christmas boxes of 10 or 15 per cent. reduction speak for themselves; or that they are a power, for both parties have been bidding for them; or that their welfare only concerns themselves, for the public has at last discovered that they are not only of their flesh and blood, but, what is more to the purpose of their purse also.

But before adventuring upon the solution of our difficulties, so far as a solution exists, there is a certain amount of rubbish to be carted away in the shape of advice tendered to us by outsiders. Any man who has ever seen a tarquin deems himself qualified to advise the farmer; and though each man sings to a different tune, the burden of the song always is the same—that the farmer is in fault and needs setting right. Now, to my mind, theorists on farming are like a child pretending to read, and holding the book upside down. I cannot forget John Stuart Mill, the best of them, talking about the "unearned increment" of land. What has become of it by this time? But let us see what the present generation of advisers puts before us benighted folks. One man says, make Gorgonzola cheese, as if the four syllables had some magical power; another says, plant trees, forgetting the expense and the capital lying idle; a third, pay with your poultry, trying to galvanise the delusion of poultry farms. A fourth suggests market-gardening, a fifth more milk, disregarding the fact that in both cases you must first mop up the middle man. Then we are threatened with the landlords taking up their own farms, as if the sleeping partner were likely to sacrifice his beauty-sleep, even if he had the capital and the knowledge required. Or that we must lay down our land to grass, though Mr. Read has squeezed this bantering rather hard. Or that we should take refuge in scientific education (yet I believe Cirencester could not make its farm pay). This last suggestion does not take into account that the leading results of science, as it stands, are already the common property of the best farmers, and that as to our present ills, scientific education, which dates from to-day, will be of more use to our sons than to ourselves. I will also quote a high authority on this point—"With the exception of the reaping-machine and steam-plough, and the more general use of steam power and implements and machines, there is really little that is new in the practice of the last quarter of a century." In fact, an income derived from science in farming is very apt to appear in the shape of "deferred annuities." Then, again, some bold spirits would shift our wives and daughters from the parlour and their bread and honey to hanging out the clothes. Yet even the niggardly mercies of the Agricultural Holdings Act were supposed to admit the farmer's moral right of doing what he will with his own. These imbecilities are the fruits of common minds. But what shall we say when so distinguished a man as Lord Derby commits himself to statements nearly as bad, and, coming from him, infinitely more mischievous?

—for instance, that land could be made to double its produce which is true enough to be absolutely misleading; that "no one wishes to confiscate the tenant's outlay;" and that farmers had better emigrate—whereas, if his former statement as to doubling their produce were correct, they could very well hold their own at home. The noble lord has not got his lesson perfect. He reminds me of some clever schoolboy, who has caught up some words from his master, and goes about the world talking of an *à la*. I say to these gentlemen, do leave us alone. Become anti-vaccinators, shakers, teetotalers—anything you like; preach peace to the clergy, reform to the lawyers, law to the Home rulers, but "do let us alone." There are two points more upon which I would dwell for a moment. Leases are still prescribed. But seeing how many good men have at the present time a lease hanging round their necks, like the old man of the sea, I cannot think leases safe yet. For who can estimate the rent of the future? Lastly, there is Protection. Mr. Read very wisely bids you wait. So long as the millions of Englishmen are fed, or think they are fed cheaper, thanks to Free Trade, so long the few thousands of farmers will stem the tide in vain. If a wish for Protection should spread to other classes, then, if ever, will be our chance. I may remark that the patriarchs of Free Trade refuse to argue the matter. But they forget that two of their leading prophecies have turned out dismal failures—one that agriculture would not suffer, the other that Free Trade must become universal; so that this reopens the whole question to any one who cares to renew the argument. I am afraid that this is a long preface, but at last I come to my subject.

What should be our future aims? I think it will be wise to see first the several points at which the shoe pinches. These are bad seasons, low prices, restrictive covenants, want of security as regards tenure and unexhausted improvements, dear and bad labour, undue preservation of game, oppressive taxation and highness of title rentcharge—these being all open and above board. To these we must add the more insidious drawbacks of the law of distraint, and of various legal presumptions against the tenant. I will take them in turn.

BAD SEASONS AND LOW PRICES I will join together. They are both of them beyond our control, and it is their concurrence which has been so sharp a trial. But this very concurrence has had one advantage, in that it has brought to a head many evils which otherwise slowly, though surely, would have worn us out, and it has insured us that common sympathy which arises from common misfortunes. On both points we are in search of information. Whoever can give us any trustworthy facts respecting the present ruinous competition from America, its probable duration, and the margin of price at which it can live, will be doing us a valuable service. Mr. Read on his return may do it. So we ourselves can furnish what is wanted as to the effect of the late seasons, if we will condescend to be articulate. The public is too apt, remembering the old lines—

Full casks are ever found  
To give, if any, yet but little sound

to draw erroneous conclusions from the absence of sufficient data. What we want is, chapter and verse, and farmers are very shy to give them. Yet a few duly authenticated balance sheets from each county, made up in a business-like way, would open the eyes of many who are only too glad to be blind. I say, in a business-like way; for it is no good making up balance sheets with the cost of the household thrown into the working expenses, as is so often done. It is worth noting, that there are persons who lay the present depression wholly to the seasons, meaning thereby to damage our case. But do they not prove too much? For bad seasons will always recur; and if they alone can bring our agricultural industry to its present pass, what prudent capitalist, looking at the small returns even in prosperous times, will embark his savings in such a rickety concern?

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS.—This is an acknowledged abuse, which, having originated in a different order of things, has remained as it was, partly to save trouble, and partly to keep a tighter hold upon bad tenants. Here we see the cloven hoof of artificial competition. However hard the covenants might be, if a substantial man refused to be tied, the man of straw was ready to step in. The freedom of tenants to take or to leave alone has constituted the defence of this system from time immemorial, but they were only free much in the sense in which a man with a broken leg is free not to have it

set, and that does not go for much. These restrictions, however, are dying, if not actually dead—drowned by the late rains, and it will be our own fault if they are brought to life again.

**SECURITY OF TENURE AND COMPENSATION FOR UNEXHAUSTED IMPROVEMENTS.**—The former has hitherto taken the form of a lease; but this security, such as it is, appears to have broken down. We must therefore fall back on that trailiest of all supports—the Agricultural Holdings Act. This gracious statute also suggests the kindred question of compensation for unexhausted improvements, which it was supposed to meet. How far it has done so we know pretty well by this time. But our agricultural charter has been so successfully mauled by others, that I should not care to add my humble pebble, if the Prime Minister had not thought fit to take it under his wing. What does Lord Beaconsfield say—"That Act, in the first place, for the first time in English legislation, gave the presumption of all improvements in the land to the credit of the farmer, and not the landlord." Now, does the noble lord mean to say that the Act removes all legal presumptions against the tenant—that, for instance, if he puts up a shed, he is free to take it away, making good any damage done? Of course he does not. We must suppose, then, that a moral presumption is meant; and what, pray, is a moral presumption worth against statutes and precedents? You may as well ask a naked man to get through a holly hedge. Besides, I fancy the moral presumption that a man has a right to his own is older than the Agricultural Holdings Act. Again, if Lord Beaconsfield thinks so highly of it, why did he not give Mr. Sarnelson his committee? The truth is that the Premier, in common with the vast majority of landlords, cannot or will not see that the new face which has been put on the country, and the great rise in the value of rents, is owing to the purse and brains of the tenant farmer. If greater security is not granted him, both of these will be withdrawn. As to what this security should be, there is some difference of opinion, but on the question of compensation for unexhausted improvements most of us are clear. We must agitate for a compulsory measure. Of course we shall be called Trades Unionists, but that will not hurt us—indeed, it is a compliment, for it implies that we are dangerous. When a man begins to call names, the chances are that he is afraid. Equally, of course, all the old platitudes about freedom of contract, vested interests—even the liberty of the subject—will be brought out of their rusty cupboards to do duty in the fight; but if you are stout and steadfast, you will soon reassign them to their friendly cobwebs. So, if you need allies, they, too, will be forthcoming. Use them if you will, but, above all, trust yourselves.

**DEAR AND BAD LABOUR.**—Most of us find the shoe pinches here, though the labourer has suffered least of all classes in the present distress, his wages having been high and his food cheap. Yet I do not suppose that we should grudge him his money, if he did not grudge us the sweat of his brow. The most provoking part of it is that this unwillingness is a non-natural growth. Till of late, Socialism was little known in England. It suited, however, the purposes of a political party to import the plant, and it has so flourished that our mechanics have long sat under its shade, and the peasant is preparing to do the same. There is no wonder, then, that labour is dear and bad. Hitherto the landowners have kept aloof under the selfish notion that the farmers were a feather-bed between themselves and the labourer. But the bed is wearing thin, and sooner or later the landlords will be drawn into the fight. Still, though we cannot cure, we may modify the mischief. Economy of labour is not enough studied, and machinery is not substituted so far as it might be. And if we cannot insure good work, some of its badness is due to ourselves. It often happens that a man takes a job, strikes into it, finds it not so good as he thought, and off he goes. How many farmers will make him come back? Is it their duty to others to do so? Or a man may throw up in the harvest field, and get work next door without any questions being asked. So long as, individually, we are negligent and, collectively, we are selfish, so long we shall be to a great degree in the hands of our men.

**OPPRESSIVE TAXATION.**—As the chambers of agriculture seem to have devoted their energies to this subject, I should be sorry to appropriate their ewe lamb. I will only remark that we may whimper as long as we like, but until we send an influential section of members to the House of Commons we

shall get no redress. The land is a mule which bears many burdens, and it will continue to do so till it kicks. This branch of my paper illustrates as well as any the penalty which men have to pay who ignore their political rights. The manufacturers have made the laws, whilst we have slumbered and slept. Quite apart, however, from the question of remodelling taxation, landlords should, I consider, under the present system, pay some of the rates direct. This would enable them to test the truth of their theory that they actually pay them now. They will find an awkward gap between the theory and the practice. Mr. James Howard has suggested, and it sounds fair enough, that the sanitary and educational rates should be placed on the footing of the property tax. Does not, by-the-by, the incidence of this very property tax trench upon the sacred rights of freedom of contract?

**UNDUE PRESERVATION OF GAME.**—This has been worn rather threadbare. For myself I would not allow the tenant to contract himself out of the privileges which the law gives him with regard to ground game. I may further express a hope that the future historian may have materials for the following short chapter:—"There are no rabbits in England."

**THE TITHE RENT-CHARGE.**—According to Mr. Caird, owners have gained immensely from the Tithe Commutation Act, yet the tenant has had to pay at the rate of three per cent. above par ever since the Act was passed. This anomaly is not made more palatable by ignorant persons turning round on us, and saying, "Your agricultural depression is all fudge: look at the tithe!" It is certainly odd that in these wretched times the tithe rent-charge should be about eleven above par, but it only shows that those who watched over the clerical interests when the measure was framed were very adroit. I would draw a hard and fast line at par once for all.

**THE MALT TAX.**—The late Mr. Corbet put this in a nutshell:—"Instead of getting up at farmers' clubs and other meetings, and making fine speeches on the subject, farmers will have to make straightforward speeches to their representatives. . . . When a county member comes before you and asks you for his vote, you ought to say to him—"Will you vote for the repeal of the malt tax?" I saw some years ago, as I see now, that the agitation in favour of its repeal has failed hitherto because the farmers have had no representative in the House of Commons." The malt tax is a valuable test of what we have to expect from either side. The principle of its repeal was allowed by the early free traders; and the hope of its repeal has continually fallen from the Conservatives—on the eve of an election. There it rests, and there it will rest, till you take Mr. Corbet's advice.

**DISTRAINT FOR RENT.**—We have been weighted enough by the simpletons with more money than wits, who must have farms, and whom we are not likely to get rid of, recruited as the regiment is from the great bulk of the population. But when, on the top of this, a law exists which enables a landlord to accept without risk the highest bidder, whatever may have been his antecedents and however small his capital, the tenant and the public must suffer accordingly. Such is the Law of Distraint for rent, and such is its twin, the Law of Hypothec. In both cases alike we find of the landowners that theirs is—

"The fault of the Dutch

Of giving too little and asking too much."

Yet these laws have their advocates. One contends that land is of so special a nature that it needs special guarantees; its speciality really being a guarantee of itself—namely, that no one can run away with it. A landowner may lose his income where other creditors lose all. Another says that a landlord can thereby give poor men a chance—but at whose expense? I confess that I never rated highly the charity which gives a servant another chance in a neighbour's house. And Lord Airlie, in a very fair and clear essay, contributed to the *Fortnightly* of July last, states that, though no county in Scotland contains more small holdings than Aberdeenshire, yet its members were uniformly pledged to the abolition of hypothec. It is further alleged, that abolition will make owners press more heavily on their tenants; but this has no terrors for solvent farmers. As for the statement that rich men are agitating to oust their poorer brethren, you may as well decry a man who buttons his coat tight in a crowd for trying to defraud the poor pickpocket. These arguments are quite worthy of a class privilege which injures men of capital and tempts men of straw to their ruin; which, further, from having artificially raised rents, will damage the landlords them-

selves, when, as at the present, many causes unite to send covenants with a run. It is a mere rent insurance, of which the public, including the farmer, pays the premium. If, as I contend, this law is so mischievous, do not let us play with it, but strive to get rid of it altogether. Mr. Read, I think, asked who nowadays would dream of passing such an enactment? This argument holds equally good against the gear which he is for retaining.

**LEGAL PRESUMPTIONS.**—I have already glanced at one or two of these under another head. Though people are apt to talk vaguely about feudalism in connection with land tenures, yet I believe that we can detect traces of it here. Most of the land was originally so held, and the judges, long after the essence of feudalism had evaporated, continued to decide all questions between landlord and tenant from an historical point of view. Precedents having been once established, they were naturally adhered to, and they have coloured the whole of the relations between the parties, so that, though the integrity of the Bench is indisputable, yet its ruling has been that the earth is the landlord's. Yet it is a favourite paradox that landlord and tenant are partners. How is it, then that the sleeping partner has all the privileges? In a sense, no doubt, they have a common interest, and so has a co-terminor and his donkey. I leave the solution of such problems to those who propound them. It is more to my purpose to show that we might have rid ourselves of these legal ties. I will give you a case in point. Trade and agricultural fixtures were once on the same footing, but the traders were keen enough to see the mischief, and strong enough to cure it. Their fixtures are their own, ours still the landlord's. Such is the difference between claiming and abjuring political rights.

There are a few other considerations which strike me as germane to this discussion. We must jealously watch over the working of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and we may as well remember who are for and who are against us in the matter. We must bear in mind that it will be futile to tempt men to put capital into land under present conditions. In any case, after the late panic, it would only come in in dribblets, but, as we stand, it will not come in at all. I would also produce another point in which we are behind the times. If we are to be a real power we must have such a centre to work from as are the Carlton and the Reform to their respective parties. To this end we must have a house (for lodgers are only respectable by courtesy), and this means money when money is scarce. I would suggest that a Farmer's Co-operative Society should be affiliated to the clubhouse, and one would float the other. The field is clear, and we have so many practical men in our ranks that success would be certain. I am aware that co-operation is not a grateful sound to all ears; but we are needy, and the middlemen have fleeced us numerically. By this means we should be rid of them, and that we have not resorted to this simple means of reducing our expenditure is only another proof, if proofs were wanted, of the fatal absence of energy and enterprise which we show at every turn. If the present depression lasts—and that, in the main, depends upon foreign competition—some alteration in the Land Laws must come. As tenants cannot hold out, landlords will be driven to vastly lower rents, to greatly subdivide, or to cultivate themselves. The first would entail a great reduction of income, tantamount in many cases to bankruptcy; the two others are risky and dear experiments. There is, indeed, another course—that of letting land under a strict tenant right; but selling would be more palatable to many. What, then, is the limited owner to do? His choice is limited. He must seek the company of fellow paupers abroad, or he must sue the Legislature for an Encumbered Estates Act. Even this will not suffice. But the Land Laws, excepting in a minor point, are too big for the present occasion; such subjects require plenty of field-room. But, when we have a chance, we should make a push for the easier transfer of land. Registration of unentailed and unburdened freeholds might be made a simple process, and their transfer, *pace* the lawyers, as simple. This would conciliate the labourer, who is, at present, on the ground of legal cost, virtually excluded from the possession of land; and it might create a band of natural allies to the farmer. At all events, such an alteration would have nothing to do with peasant proprietorship, though it has been purposely complicated with it. Even if it had, peasant owners, *spontaneously* produced, might be of use to us in buying up some of the worst, and, therefore,

the cheapest land; and they could in no wise injure us, though they are held up as a bugbear by party pamphleteers.

Wishing to keep as clear as I can of controversial questions, I will say but a word about the Farmers' Alliance. My belief is that the Society is an honest one, and likely to advance the cause which we all have at heart. Having joined it myself on non-political grounds, so long as it remains politically neutral I shall continue to be a member, and no longer. But it would be well for those who keep aloof to start something better.

Any force in the foregoing remarks rests upon the assumption that we must have a section of tenant farmers, or of their genuine representatives, in the House of Commons. If agriculture is a practical pursuit, if it is an important interest, why are its spokesmen smatterers or nonentities? If capital, intelligence, and numbers entitle a class to be duly represented, why are we virtually disfranchised? Where railway directors, brewers, and licensed victuallers have their full complement, why are we conspicuous by our absence? If this chain required strength, our friends the Government have supplied us during the last session with the material. What have they done for us? They began with an imbecile County Government Bill; they tampered with the Bill on hypothec; played with the motion on the law of distraint, and extinguished Mr. Samuelson. The Royal Commission is a very sorry cloak for such sins. It begins work by adjourning for six months, and holds out no hopes of a report for at least two years, when the pressure will be over, or we ourselves shall be gone. And here is a fitting place for reply to a taunt which has been levelled at us by idle or venal pens. "Why do you farmers alone," it is said, "weary us with your calls for special legislation?" Because other classes have already been heard, whilst those in whom we have trusted have been unfaithful stewards. It is not true that we ask for special favours. We ask not for a monopoly, but, in the name of the public, for our rights.

I have finished. Speaking, as I have done, without authority, I must throw myself upon your kind consideration. I feel that I have only been able to suggest palliatives, and that, after a certain stage, the physician must give way to the undertaker. This I regret, but I cannot help. I am no miracle monger, and, if anyone challenges me as to what it all comes to, I can only record my belief that my suggestions, if carried out, would enable the farmer of the future to start fair.

Mr. T. BOWICK (Bedford) said it was usually considered that, when there were many doctors round a patient, the case must be very serious, and if they might judge from the number of doctors who were prescribing for agriculturists their position was a very serious one indeed. Ever since 1874 the agricultural patient had been in a chronic condition of disorder, and some of the remedies suggested were not such as were likely to benefit him. His friend, Mr. Edwards, though he had promised not to touch on controversial topics, had, in fact, introduced several. He (Mr. Bowick) hoped the day was far distant when all the land of England would be laid down to grass and the country population depleted. They were told that the class to which he himself belonged—the class of middlemen—were to be swept off the face of the land. He had no desire to be swept off. He meant to live as long as he could, and to work as well as he could; he did not intend to be emigrated off or any such thing. Speaking as an outsider, he did not believe that farmers as a class needed direct legislation so much as many of them seemed to suppose. What had legislation to do with arrangements between farmer and landlord? Many of the matters involved were matters for direct contract, matters which without an Act of Parliament would very speedily settle themselves. He was old enough to remember the time when Cobden and Bright succeeded in getting the Corn Laws repealed; but it was *famine* that forced Peel's hand after all, and there were agencies at work at the present day that would settle the questions at issue more effectually than compulsory legislation. It did not matter two straws to him whether Lord Beaconsfield or Mr. Gladstone was at the head of affairs; but he hoped old England's sun had not set, and they would soon see a brighter and better condition of things than they had seen lately. In order to secure this end farmers should not be so much isolated as they had been hitherto, but should meet other classes for the purpose of discussion. If one member of the social body suffered the others must suffer with it. Let the national condition be better and the farming

interest would share in the general prosperity. The subject under discussion might be considered under three points of view—home, colonial, and foreign. As regarded home, he would be very untrue to his principles if he did not say they might depend upon it that the question of the malt tax was dead and buried (No, no). He thought he could justify his saying that. Those who went to the Brewers' Show which was lately held at the Agricultural Hall might have learnt how brewers could make beer without hops, and he might almost say without malt (laughter). He now turned to the colonial point of view. Emigration had been put forward again and again as a great panacea for agricultural depression. He had no desire to see ship-loads of his fellow-countrymen sent to the colonies, whether those ship-loads consisted of Kentish labourers or of farmers belonging to different counties. The conditions of the colonial question were practically settled by the late Lord Durham in 1840 on what was then a fair basis; but he did not foresee that the Atlantic would in time be bridged over, that it would cost little more to bring wheat from New York to London than it costs to bring it from Bedford. The farmers should make it a test question that the colonies should be federated into one, with the mother country, and should not pursue the course they were doing. As regarded protection why should he and others be treated as they were by the Canadians? Last August he found that in sending seed wheat to Canada his firm had to pay a duty of 5s. a quarter. England too had to cherish the colonies in their infancy, to guide them in their youth, to protect them in their manhood, and she ought to be dealt with on fair and equitable terms. Each Australian was worth to our Trade sixteen Yankées, and each Canadian worth five-and-thirty Russians; and if this country was treated fairly she need not fear the rivalry of competitors. The question had been raised whether it was the dog that wagged the tail or the tail that wagged the dog. He thought that in their own case the tail process was the proper one. They should speak out their mind to their representatives and tell them what were their views and feelings. He felt that the farming interest was at present not properly represented in Parliament. Three centuries ago England had a maiden queen who was the last absolute monarch of this country. A successor of hers tried to make herself absolute, but his head was cut off in consequence. When the Government of the day said they must have war what was that queen's reply? She said "No war, my lords, no war;" and when they promised to give her money to carry on war she said it would be better for the money to remain in the pockets of her subjects. In like manner, he protested against the expense to which the nation had been put to bring an elephant's tusk from Zululand (laughter).

Mr. MECHT (Tiptree Hall, Essex) said he understood that the real question raised by the paper was how might the British farmer improve his condition? He would say to agriculturists, as he would say to manufacturers, "Look rather to yourselves for improvement than down to any legislative protection or legislative action. There could be no doubt that agriculture had not progressed in the same ratio as manufactures. But why was that? It was because agriculture had adhered to old and bad practices, and had been enthralled and restricted by feudal conditions, while manufactures had been set free—as free as the air. If landlords and tenants were to act conjointly to remove such evils, they might look forward to a better state of things. Of course bad seasons might still occur, but there could be no doubt that prosperity of agriculture depended upon such improvements as he was advocating. The practical business of agriculture was in a very imperfect state at present, and if it was to be improved there must be improvement in the system. Leases should not be drawn up for farmers as if such persons were not able to take care of themselves, but must be kept in leading strings. If the same principle had been applied to manufactures, if a man who had a manufactory had been bound to act in a particular manner, told how he was to conduct his business, and compelled to follow old rules which were not adapted to the times, manufacturers would not be in the position that they were now. Having been recently a good deal among farmers, he believed they were being taught a great lesson by adverse seasons. Such seasons had at all events done good to agriculture by giving them an opportunity of making better terms for themselves than they could have obtained through any Act of Parliament. He had remarked

that agriculture was yet very imperfect. Would anybody deny that? If they went into certain districts of this country, where intelligence was free to act as it pleased, and where landlord and tenant worked well together—he might especially allude to Norfolk and Lincolnshire—they would find very different results as regarded practical agriculture from those which were to be seen in districts which were without such advantages. It was, in fact, chiefly to the internal improvement of agriculture that they must look for better results. He would not enter into details, but observation had led him to the conclusion that in many counties farming was in a very backward state, and that there was an immense amount of room for improvement. Farmers must give up protection; that was dead and gone; and it only was by union of capital with intelligence, and by freedom of action in cultivation, that this country could be improved agriculturally. There was abundance of capital that might be employed in the cultivation of the land. This country received from foreign nations something like fifty or sixty millions a year in the shape of interest, and English capital was flowing over to foreign countries, and being used in making gas works, water works, and railways all over the world. All the capital that was required for the development of agriculture was therefore sure to be available.

Mr. GEORGE STREET (Malden, Amphyll) said there had been a time, and that not very far distant, when British agriculture was said to be pre-eminent, when an eloquent writer in the *Times* said if you wanted to find a man of skill, energy, and enterprise you must look for him among the farmers of this country. And, perhaps, if that writer had heard the paper read that night he might have added, if you want an eloquent speaker and writer, you will find him in the Farmers' Club (Hear, hear). Since that time, however, a change had come over British agriculture, and its progress, if he might be allowed to use an Irishism, had been of a retrogressive character. They all knew that during the last 4 or 5 years instead of making progress, and being the admiration of the world, as it was at the time to which he referred, its position was one to be deeply regretted by all who were directly acquainted with or interested in it. The aim of the agriculturist during the last four or five years, as far as he could gather, had been to get a living and pay his way. How far he had been successful it was not for him to say. They came here that evening anxious to look forward to the future, and to learn how their prospects were to be brightened and bettered. But the conclusion he feared most of them must come to was, that their difficulties seemed as great as ever. For his own part he did not see how they could do more than they had been doing or trying to do during the past, viz., getting a living and paying their way honestly. It was true there were some difficulties that required to be moved out of their path, some difficulties they had had to contend with up to the present, but even when these minor difficulties were removed he did not see how they were to recoup themselves for the losses they had sustained, how they were to get back that capital to which Mr. Mecht had referred, when they could not make the land yield a profit. And if they could not get back the capital they had been losing for the last four or five years, how was money to be found for investment in the land. If capital were invested with courage and discretion it might make things better, but when the best of them found that the difficulty of their business was so great that it was hard even to make a living, it was not likely that outsiders would come forward with their capital. And this especially when they found that no sooner did farming show signs of prosperity than the land agents were sent round to notify an increase of rent. (Hear, hear.) Men naturally under these circumstances buttoned up their pockets and spent as little as possible. He wished to allude to the malt tax. It had been said by some persons that that had no very direct bearing on this question, and they were told it would be of no benefit to the farmer to have it repealed. But it was not merely a question of whether he should be benefited by its repeal or not. He looked on it simply as a matter of justice and principle. (Hear, hear.) When protection was taken away from the British agriculturist it was a most unjust thing to put a tax on the second best crop, in a short time it may be the best crop, he could grow. If they were to have free trade let them have it all round. Free trade in land and farms, freedom of cultivation, and sale of produce. Let them have lower rents and freedom of cultivation, and let them get rid of some of those taxes that pressed so unfairly

and so unjustly on the land. They were imposed on land, when there was no other kind of property, and it was clearly unfair to impose them now. Only let land be freed and have a fair chance and have a fair field, and he was not disposed to think they were going to bow to the Yankees or to any other nation. They were not, after being the best farmers in the world, going to emigrate, but if the time came when they would have to go, they would go in very good company, and he had no doubt the Americans would be very glad to have them. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. Wood (Oakley, Sussex) said he did not often express an opinion on these matters, but he had heard Mr. Mechi say so much about putting capital in the land that he could not help remarking that his impression had always been that capital would flow in whatever direction it was likely to find profitable employment. He had invested some capital in land himself more for pleasure than profit, and the pleasure was the only thing he had received for the last few years, for there certainly had been no profit. But unfortunately people generally were not given to investing capital merely for amusement, and this was the reason capital would not flow into the land. It was said that one great reason capital did not flow into the land was that there were so many restrictions on cultivation, and that was specially put forward by Mr. Mechi. As far as he could judge if there were leases with such covenants the reason was that farmers did not apply for an alteration, and he had no doubt that farmers would be allowed to do as they liked when it was seen that they intended to farm the land in a proper manner. He believed there were very few instances in which liberty would not be granted by agents representing landlords to enable farmers to work the land to the best advantage. He had been brought up a Tory in his youth and had always voted for the Tories, and he had been a member of a Protection Society. He did not think, however they were entitled to protection beyond the amount of taxation put upon them. But when the Free Trade steamer ran them down, he thought it was time to look out for himself, and he jumped on board the steamer, and became a free trader. He ceased to be a protectionist, and seceded from his party to become one of the other side. But then he did so on the understanding that there should be, as Mr. Street had said, free trade all round. He did not suppose that there would be free trade in imports, while native produce was taxed. He understood that all those imposts that had been put on the land would be repealed. He could not help feeling that the malt tax was no more just than if they put a tax on cotton or woollen yarns. He did not think one raw material should be taxed more than another. No doubt Cardinal Manning and our bishops and the Quakers who united with them, were right in preaching against drunkenness, but they were on the wrong tack. One of the very best ways to check drunkenness was to repeal the malt tax. (Laughter.) His impression was that men who were working in the hayfield required a certain portion of beer—not a great deal—but a fair share, and they should have it of good quality, not like what they got from the brewers, but like what they made at home. He believed that beer was improved when made with a proportion of unmalted barley, and if farmers could malt their inferior grain and use it for this purpose, the refuse would afterwards prove very useful for cattle. That being the case, it was a very serious tax on them. It was a serious tax in the sense that it prevented the labourers getting pure beer, a thing so necessary to men who worked in the open air. It was very unjust that taxation to the amount of £6,000,000 should be levied on them on the principle merely that it was a tax very easily collected. It was said that taxation should be put on those who could best afford to pay, but this was put on the labourer or farmer who could not afford to pay it. He did not see why a monopoly that demoralises the people generally should be carried on to the extent it was, although he did not complain of those gentlemen who were engaged in brewing, as was their excellent chairman, as long as this was the law. (Laughter.) Although he never grew barley for malting himself, he thought the malt-tax a very unfair and unequitable tax—a tax that took six millions out of their pockets in this way. The gentleman who opened had spoken of tithes. He did not believe tithes were an injury to the farmer; they were a first charge on the land, and were the same as a first charge on railways or anything else. He was old enough to recollect when they

were taken in kind, and he had stuck a bough in every tenth shock, when they bargained with the farmer; and if they could not agree as to payment, they took a cart and carried them off. A relative of his, a rector, said to him that now the tithes were commuted they had lost their influence, and they had not got the people in their hands as they had previously.

Mr. CALDECOTT (Halsbrook Grange, Rugby) said he had not the opportunity of hearing the paper read, as he had been attending the local taxation committee, but he wished to say a few words as to tithes. He had never had the slightest doubt that they should not be paid by the tenant. Tithes ought to be paid by the landlord, and he had always paid them himself. It was a variable charge. On the average of the past 20 years of commutation it had been 100, but now it was 112, and this variation ought not to be chargeable to the tenant. He agreed with Mr. Mechi that there was one benefit which would follow from the bad seasons, and that was that persons intending to occupy land had an opportunity of making their own terms. Five years ago, when thirty men wanted to occupy every vacant farm, covenants were never looked at. The country was protected forty years ago, and the leases in use at that period had been copied as a matter of course, as they had been in land agents' and solicitors' offices for centuries, and it was hardly to be expected that the landlords, unless where they were particularly anxious to benefit their tenants, should ask to have those agreements altered. Five years ago there was not one tenant in a hundred who looked at the agreement, so anxious were they to take the farms, but now that there were five land agents after every tenant, the latter could make his own covenants, and see that they were not too restrictive.

Mr. W. BROWN (Tring) said there were one or two points in Mr. Edwards's paper to which he should like to refer. With regard to tithes, he happened to be himself a tithe owner, and he had found from experience that the averages of the last few years had paid the rates on the tithes, so that he had received the amount actually apportioned free and clear of all deductions. He might ask the question, whose fault was it that the averages had amounted to what they had done. It was the fault of the farmer in not returning the in erior corn, which was sold at a low price. It was his firm conviction that if the corn had been properly returned the averages up to the present time would not have been above the amount originally fixed. He did not think any farmer could deny that the doing away of taking tithes in kind had been beneficial to the landed interest generally. That question was a landlord's question, and as an agent he had done all in his power to induce landlords to pay tithes, and many did pay it. He thought it was certainly an advantage that by the present system the tithe-payer was not brought into contact with the clergyman. He did not hold the Agricultural Holdings Act at so cheap a rate as Mr. Edwards, and for this reason, that he believed great benefit had followed in the adoption of covenants which materially affected the interests of tenants. He could cite several instances in which great benefit had thus arisen from the Act, not to farmers alone, but to the public. He was rather disposed to caution those who thought that the Act should be made compulsory to mind what they were about. It should be remembered that, at present, there was no clause in the Act which bound a tenant to pay anything to the landlord on leaving for what might be considered bad cultivation. (Expressions of dissent.) He believed it would be found he was right. He thought that unless the tenant made a claim, there was no clause to compel him to pay anything to the landlord. [Mr. C. HOWARD: The law of dilapidations has not been repealed.] He still thought that he was right. He believed that if the outgoing tenant made no claim on the landlord, the landlord could make none upon him, and he called that rather a one-sided affair. With regard to farming covenants, his experience led him to think that they were seldom insisted on so long as a man farmed properly. He did not suppose that anybody would insist on a man's working a farm without being under any agreement, because, if that were the case, he might, by his system of cropping for the last three or four years, leave the land in a most dreadful state. With regard to the landlords paying the rates, that would come to the same thing in the end as it had been in cases where they paid the tithes. With regard to the law of distress, he believed the landlord ought to have the power to distrain for one year's rent only, and he thought the sooner that Act of Parliament was altered in that

whose the better. If a landlord chose to allow a tenant to get into arrear for two or three years, he should only be able to claim one year's rent, being, as regarded the remainder, in the position of other creditors.

Mr. JAMES HOWARD (Bedford): Will Mr. Brown give a reason why the landlord should have a claim for one year in preference to other creditors? I have never heard one yet.

Mr. BROWN said a man might be placed in such circumstances that he could walk off with everything. He now remembered a strong case—one of a kind which might happen any day. Within the last month a landlord distrained for so much rent. A person came forward and said to him, How much money do you want? and he replied, so much. The inquirer then said, Well, there is the money; and the result was that before the day was over everything was sold to be taken away.

Mr. AVELING (Rochester) said a few days ago at a meeting of land agents was held in the county of Kent, and they were unanimously of opinion that it was absolutely necessary that the Agricultural Holdings Act should be made compulsory. Those gentlemen were of different politics, and were thoroughly versed in the question discussed. If farmers wanted to have justice in reference to that matter, they might be reminded that they had the power in their own hands. What other body of men was there in England who could return nearly 200 members of Parliament? They possessed enormous power, and all that was wanted was a determination to use it. If they had another three or four years in succession like the last three or four, it would be impossible for agriculture to go on. Unless the grain crops were better, both in quantity and quality, farming could not possibly pay. He did hope that the sun would soon shine out again, and that there would be better times for the British farmer; but in his opinion agriculture could not be put on the footing that it ought to be unless there was some legislation. The Conservative leaders had promised them a great deal and done nothing, while the Liberal leaders had promised nothing and fulfilled their promise—(laughter)—and the farmers must now use, as a body, all the power they possessed to secure justice.

Mr. JAMES HOWARD (Bedford) said he had not intended to take any part in that discussion, because he had not had an opportunity of listening to Mr. Edwards's paper, nor seen it before he came into the room; but one or two observations had fallen from Mr. Brown and other gentlemen, to which he could not refrain from alluding. He asked Mr. Brown when that gentleman took exception to the repeal of the law of distress, to give one reason why the landowner should occupy a position superior to that of any other creditor. He had never heard any intelligible reason for that distinction. He had, however, heard many reasons why landlords should not possess that privilege. One reason was that, owing to the preference which they enjoyed landlords obtained higher rents than they would if the law of distress were swept away. He remembered remarking in that room a few months ago that landlords were often induced to accept a tenant with insufficient means to farm the land solely because through the operation of the law of distress they would be safe as regarded rent. Another reason why he objected to the law was that it destroyed to a certain extent the credit of farmers. On his left there was sitting one of the leading bankers of his own county, and he was quite sure that however pleasantly his friend Mr. Harris might look at his farming clients when they came into the bank, to ask for accommodation to tide them over harvest or rent day the law of distress was never absent from his mind for one moment. For these reasons he (Mr. James Howard) advocated the total repeal of the law of distress. Mr. Brown, in alluding to the Agricultural Holdings Act—he was not then going to discuss the provisions of that Act in detail, having availed himself of opportunities of doing so on other occasions and in other places—Mr. Brown said that that Act had produced considerable advantage, because since it was passed landlords had been induced to grant more liberal covenants and had abolished many restrictions. He took exception to that statement entirely (Hear, hear). He maintained that the more liberal covenants assented to by landlords had resulted not from the working of the Agricultural Holdings Act, but from the pressure of circumstances (Hear, hear). One gentleman in that room had truly remarked that owing

to that pressure instead of there being five farmers running after one farm, there were now five land agents running after one farmer. It was, in fact, rather through the force of circumstances than through the passing of the Act in question that changes in conditions had come about. Mr. Brown had pointed out what he considered one of the shortcomings of the Agricultural Holdings Act. He (Mr. James Howard) wished Mr. Brown had pointed out other of its shortcomings, because it was quite susceptible of such criticism. In dealing with the question of dilapidations Mr. Brown forgot that the Agricultural Holdings Act repealed nothing. There were no repealing clauses in it; all the old Acts still remained in existence. Landowners could still bring an action for dilapidations. He (Mr. J. Howard) had taken some trouble to inquire into the operation of that Act, and so far as he was able to judge, and so far as the inquiries of Mr. Samuelson and others had extended, the only conclusion he could arrive at was that hitherto the Act had been a dead letter ("No"). At all events he had all along contended that no possible advantage could ensue from the passing of a law providing that the landlords of England might give twelve months' notice to quit might give compensation for unexhausted improvements. That was all that the Agricultural Holdings Act did; it simply said that landlords might give so and so or might do so and so. They had this power before, and it was not necessary to pass a new law to declare that they should have it. Mr. Brown and other gentlemen had touched on the question of tithes. Up to the previous week he (Mr. J. Howard) was under the impression that that was entirely a landlord's question; but while staying in Kent he learned that in that county at all events it was to a great extent a tenant's question. They had in that county what were called "extraordinary tithes." If a man planted a garden or added to his hop grounds, he had to pay an extraordinary tithe of something like a pound an acre. In the present year a great many people had lost a great deal through the failure of the fruit crops and had a large quantity of hops which were not worth picking, and yet the tenant had to pay one pound an acre under the name of "extraordinary tithes." Therefore until the circumstances of the whole country were known to him no man had a right to say that the question of tithes was entirely a landlord's question. Mr. Brown had touched upon the question of rates, and seemed to think it was a matter of indifference whether the owner or the tenant paid them. He (Mr. J. Howard) thought that it made a very considerable difference. He quite believed in the doctrine that rates fell ultimately upon the owner, and thought there could be no question that in the long run whatever amount of rates was levied on the land reduced to a corresponding extent the amount of rent; but in the case of new rates it was proverbial that rates placed upon the shoulders of a particular class, had a tendency to remain upon those shoulders, for a greater or less period. For his own part he should like to see all rates paid by the owner, for in principle rates were a tax upon property and not a tax upon income, and therefore if the whole of the rates were payable by the landlord a great deal of difficulty and a great deal of misrepresentation with regard to local taxation would pass away.

Mr. R. LAKE (Oakley, Rochester) said he should not have risen but for Mr. Howard's remarks about extraordinary tithes. This charge, which varied from 8s. or 10s. to 20s. an acre in different localities and parishes, was made on the average growth. If a tenant happened to have a bad season the worse for him, but if a good one he paid no more on that account. The charge was known when the tenant took his farm, like rates or other charges on the land, but unlike them could be got rid of by discontinuing the cultivation of hops or fruit if it was not profitable.

Mr. J. DAWSON (Bearstead, Maidstone) said Mr. Lake said in effect that the question of tithes was not a tenant's question, whereas in reality it was nothing else. Mr. Mechi spoke of the want of more capital in the land. He believed that the putting more capital on the land meant the raising of rents, the doubling of rates, and the increase of the field for taxation. As regarded tithes the extraordinary charge which had been referred to caused very great pressure. The man who laid out capital freely as Mr. Mechi had suggested reaped nothing but loss. He believed that the hop farmers of Kent had paid tithes out of their capital for the last three years.

Mr. T. ROSE (Melton Magna, Norfolk) said he gathered

from Mr. Brown's speech that he considered on the whole tenant farmers were well and landlords badly treated, whereas the representative farmers then present would bear him out in saying that their class, as a body, employed a large amount of capital in their farms, and yet could not make a profit. He was astonished to hear his friend Mr. Mechi say that one cause of the depression was a lack of capital employed in agriculture. Farming as a business was not at this time sufficiently good to attract capital, and unless times improved, he for one, instead of employing more capital, should be inclined to withdraw his altogether from the land. As regarded the tithe average, he was astonished to hear Mr. Brown say it was the fault of the farmer that he had not made a return of his tail corn. He, for one, had never thought of doing so, and he believed the remark was simply ridiculous. With respect to the law of distress—as a tenant farmer he was not at this time deriving any income from his hire, but as a landowner, although a small one, he would be glad to see that law abolished. It was a most iniquitous law, giving the landlord precedence and privileges to the disadvantage of all other creditors, and very injurious to the tenant farmers in their calling, because it indisposed bankers and manufacturers to trust them. He was very much surprised to hear Mr. Bowick say so much about protection. They did not want protection; they wanted real free trade, and not a one-sided free trade. He did not see why the colonists should be allowed to charge heavy duty on their imports, taking the oyster and giving them the shell. He should like to see foreign barley taxed as well as their own.

Mr. W. BROWN (Tring) said he believed it was taxed.

The CHAIRMAN: Not unless it is used in malting.

Mr. ROSE maintained that the admission of such a raw material free of duty was a great injustice to English farmers. Mr. Brown said farmers did not want legislation. That was the very thing they did want. Until they had more direct representation in the House of Commons their class would never be fairly treated in Parliament. If they had fifty men there like Mr. Clare Sewell Read, their cause would be successful. Neither Tories nor Liberals had done them any good, and in future they should vote not for the politician, but for the man.

Mr. W. BOYER (Cottesbrooke, Northampton) agreed with those who thought that the question of tithes was not a tenant's question; tithes, being a rent-charge on the land, ought in all cases to be paid by the landlord, and in his opinion it would be much better if it was made a fixed rent-charge at the sun it was originally commuted at. On an estate for which he was agent, in nearly every case the tithe was paid by the landlord, and many of the tenants did not even know that their farms were subject to a tithe rent-charge.

Mr. EDWARDS, in replying, said that during the debate but very little exception had been taken to his paper, and he had therefore but little to say in reply. Some of the speakers appeared to have got a notion that he said something against tithes. He did nothing of the kind. He agreed with those who thought that it was the landlord who paid tithes. It had been his intention to have concluded by moving a resolution under the new regulation of the Club; but the Committee had not thought it well that the resolution which he had submitted to them for approval, should be submitted to the meeting, and he had therefore been unable to propose his intended resolution.

Mr. H. CHEFFINS (Easton Manor, Dunmow), in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Edwards for his paper, said that having had some experience with respect to tithe averages, he thought the justice of the case would be met by having the average taken from one year, instead of being taken as it is at present from seven years.

Mr. VOELCKER having seconded the motion,

The CHAIRMAN said he agreed with Mr. Cheffins, that it would be better if the tithe averages ran for only one year. As the matter stood at a time when the farmer was making very little money, and perhaps losing money, he was called upon to pay a large amount for tithes.

The motion having been adopted, Mr. EDWARDS returned thanks.

Mr. J. HOWARD in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said he wished to make one remark upon what fell from Mr. Wood with reference to the malt tax. He was very

desirous that it should not go forth to the world that it was the opinion of that club that the malt tax was a duty on the raw material. That was not the case. He (Mr. J. Howard) was an advocate for the repeal of the malt tax, but if they went for repeal, it must be on sound ground, and not on false reasoning. The malt tax was a tax on a manufactured article and paid by the consumer; but as he believed that the tax acted in the direction of checking the consumption of barley, and led to the substitution of sugar for barley, upon those grounds he advocated its abolition. The question of repeal was purely a fiscal question—a matter very much for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. A few years ago it would be remembered there was a surplus of about £6,000,000, but the advocates for the repeal of the malt tax forsook their post, and left their supporters in the lurch, and he feared that such a surplus and such an opportunity were not likely to recur very soon.

The motion, having been seconded, was adopted by acclamation, and this terminated the proceedings.

## Chambers of Agriculture.

### CENTRAL.

The first meeting of the Council for the Session of 1879-80 took place on November 4th, at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, Colonel Ruggles-Brise M.P., in the chair; the President, the Marquis of Huntly, being unavoidably absent.

At the commencement of the proceedings,

Mr. T. WILSON said he was sure the members of the Council must all feel very deep regret at the loss it had sustained by the death of Mr. Henry Neild, who had for so many years represented the Manchester Chamber. He proposed, therefore, that by way of expressing their sympathy with Mr. Neild's widow a letter of condolence should be written to her on their behalf.

Mr. ADKINS seconded the motion, which was adopted without discussion; and the vacancy in the Council was filled up by the appointment of Mr. Lipscombe, of Beech Lawn, Wakefield.

Mr. A. SPARTIN, in the absence of the Chairman of the Local Taxation Committee, Mr. Pell, M.P., who in company with Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., is engaged in America in collecting information for the Royal Commission on Agriculture, presented the annual Report of the Committee. It commenced as follows:—

“In presenting their annual report, the Local Taxation Committee note the increasing interest with which recent circumstances have invested the question of rural burdens. The Session of 1879 has not indeed produced any further instalment of relief or any comprehensive administrative reform. Although various measures have demanded attentive consideration, no Bill of the first importance to ratepayers was passed into law. The Committee have seen with regret another Session pass without a settlement of the question of county government. On the other hand, ratepayers will observe with satisfaction the appointment of a Royal Commission, and the prospect thus secured that, as one branch of a very extensive inquiry, we may at last have a systematic examination of the unfair and impolitic pressure of local taxation in county districts. This Commission will take evidence on the effect of ‘rates’ as a factor in increasing the cost of food production in England, and special reference is directed to the position of the farmer with respect to local as well as imperial taxation. Ten years ago local taxation reformers asked for an impartial investigation, by a qualified Commission, into the whole question alike in town and country. Had this course been adopted by the Government of the day, the Committee believed greater and more rapid progress would have been made towards finding a satisfactory remedy. Certain relief has been since then obtained in the direction indicated by the resolution of Sir Massey Lopes in 1872. Public attention has been secured to the complaint of the ratepayers to an extent previously unknown. Successful resistance has been

ferred to a large number of additional charges which, from time to time, it was proposed to place on local rates. Before, however, the Committee were able to offer this effective opposition, several new imposts were laid on the real property of the country. The burden of the Education Rate, the charge for distruptiked roads, and certain other matters (referred to in more detail elsewhere in this report) have thus obscured the direct relief obtained in other directions."

After referring to the withdrawal of the Boundary Bill in the last session, the Committee turned to the increase of rates. On this subject they remarked:—

"It will be seen that the sums now levied as local rates have reached £24,575,000, the highest figure yet accounted for. The largest part of this increase is no doubt due to the rapid growth of rates which are more correctly to be regarded as voluntary local investments of capital in the urban sanitary districts. The following figures, grouped as in the tables appended to the successive annual reports of the committee, exhibit the rise of rates occurring in five years since 1872-3:—

Authorities.	1872-3.	1877-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Poor Law .....	8,245,000	7,502,000	—	743,000
School Board ...	163,000	1,327,000	1,164,000	—
Town .....	6,531,000	11,784,000	5,253,000	—
County .....	3,149,000	3,499,030	350,000	—
Exceptional.....	387,000	463,000	76,000	—
Total .....	18,475,000	24,575,000	6,843,000	743,000

The net growth of rates is therefore, £6,100,000 in this period. With reference to the rapid development of the returns coming from purely urban districts it is sufficient to note that in round numbers £3,500,000 of the existing town rates are acknowledged to be levied for the improvement of specific private property or are payments by the citizens for gas and water." . . . "It is, therefore, very desirable that every effort should now be made to place clearly before the present Commission the exceptional position which agriculture still occupies in respect of local taxation, the extreme inequality of the charges now levied as rates, and the effect of the exceptional and unbalanced taxation of land in deterring the application of capital to agricultural improvement and the production of food. While the Committee venture, therefore, to ask their supporters to help them in the task of preparing and arranging evidence for the Royal Commission, they would at the same time suggest that a definite endeavour might now again be made to secure further relief from charges imposed on one description of property for the benefit of the community at large. The circumstances of the present day are in every way appropriate for action of this sort; and both political parties in the State have acknowledged the pressing importance of more thorough local taxation reform than has yet been attempted. The Committee recommend, therefore, that the opportunity afforded by what may be the last Session of the present Parliament should be utilised by once more directing attention to the more urgent features of the general question, and pressing for direct fiscal relief, accompanied by such administrative reforms as experience has shown to be most emphatically called for. They hope that the establishment of representative county boards may be finally secured in the coming year; and they desire, as a means of facilitating the readjustment of those conflicting local areas which have so much retarded this reform, that a favourable consideration should be accorded to the proposal to form, with as little delay as possible, an Executive Boundary Commission. The absence in America of two such prominent members of the Committee as Mr. Pell and Mr. Read—who are now undertaking inquiries in that country on behalf of the Royal Commission—prevents the definite enunciation in the present report of a complete Parliamentary programme on which local taxation reformers might unite, but they believe their best future policy to be in the direction they now venture to indicate." Alluding to the paragraph in the report relating to the Valuation Bill, Mr. Startin observed that "the Chamber had often sanctioned the idea of Mr. Read that rent should be taken at the basis of valuation, and in the last Session that gentleman succeeded

in inducing the Government to accept the proposition. Four years ago the Committee appealed to Chambers of Agriculture and their supporters generally for funds to enable them to continue their work; and this appeal was satisfactorily responded to. The results of their labours are recorded in the reports they have issued annually. Their endeavours to advance the cause of local taxation reform have been rewarded by seeing the questions of local finance and local government occupy a prominence as political questions which had been previously denied to them. Their resistance to new charges has been recognised as saving the ratepayers from many proposed additions to their heavy burdens. Relief to a certain extent has been secured, while the new imposts counterbalancing the transfers of national duties to national taxation all owe their origin to the period before the Committee received the support and assistance granted to it of late. The statement of accounts appended to the present report will, however, remind the supporters of the Committee that the time has again arrived when they must renew their periodic appeal for help. This is now essential if the organisation is to be carried on, and the campaign for further relief once more energetically pressed. It is proposed, therefore, at an early date to invite a renewal of the assistance forthcoming on former occasions, and the Committee confidently trust that this will again be rendered, and that they will be placed in a position effectively to fight the battle of the ratepayers."

Mr. STARTIN having moved that the report be received and be discussed at the meeting of the Council in December,

Mr. D. LONG in seconding the motion said he was disappointed at the labours of the Local Taxation Committee not having been more recognised; for, whilst many measures had been passed through Parliament which placed increased burdens on local rates, the readjustment of taxation, as between real and personal property, had not been carried as far as was desirable. Referring, then, to the Boundary Commission Bill, Mr. Long said he hoped that every member of the Chamber would bring his influence to bear on his representatives in support of that measure, as it was a most useful one. The overlapping of parishes and unions was a great evil, and if there could be such a uniform rectification of areas as to do away with the conflicting jurisdiction of poor-rates and sanitary authorities it would be an excellent thing.

Mr. CALDECOTT, alluding to the decrease in the Poor Law charges, and the small reduction in respect of police and lunatics, remarked that the diminution in the former case arose chiefly from the payment of 4s. per head for pauper lunatics, while on the other hand, the county rate received very little benefit from that because there were poor lunatics. In Warwickshire the county authorities received about £550 a year only for lunatics chargeable to the county, and the 4s. per head for pauper lunatics who had settlements in counties came from that decrease in the poor-rate.

The motion for the reception of the Report was then agreed to.

The next item on the agenda paper being that of corn returns,

Mr. P. PHIPPS, M.P., first read, and afterwards proposed the reception of, the following Report of the Weights and Measures Committee:—

"Your Committee have to report that, acting on the instructions of the Council, they issued on the 20th May last a circular inviting the several Associated Chambers to furnish them with information as to the local opinion entertained of the accuracy of the present system of corn returns, and particularly with reference to the following points:—

- (1) The increased prices returned owing to the use of weighed measures, which are in excess of the natural weight of the grain, and the failure of the local collectors to convert the quantities sold into true imperial measures before making the returns.
- (2) The enhanced price of the *Gazette* averages resulting from more corn than was formerly used being now consumed on the farm in the feeding of stock and not brought to market.
- (3) The increased values returned due to the additional price following on repeated sales—the prices quoted often including the cost of carriage and the profits of corn dealers.
- (4) The towns, if any, in their districts which they would recommend to be made returning markets.

The Committee have received a very considerable number of replies bearing on the general question, and statements on the four points above named have been received from the Lincoln, Leicester, Northampton, Bucks, York, Shropshire, West Suffolk, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Newbury, Devon and Cornwall, and Warwickshire Chambers. Many useful suggestions have also been received from individual correspondents. Many of the replies have, however, only come to hand in the course of the last few days, and the Committee do not feel themselves justified in presenting on this occasion a comprehensive report without further deliberation. They propose to defer making a final report until the December meeting of the Council, and in the meantime would urge on all Chambers which have not yet considered the matter to favour them with practical suggestions as to the best method of insuring accuracy in the official averages. On this occasion your Committee will only state that the answers so far as received express dissatisfaction with the present mode of making corn returns, and that the Chambers generally are of opinion that such returns should be made by growers only, and not by dealers in corn. They may perhaps be allowed to direct attention to the fact that the basis of the present returns does not appear to have been originally constructed with a view to the payment of tithes, but was intended for the purpose of the sliding scale duty on corn, showing rather the prices ultimately paid by the consumer than those obtained by the grower for his produce in the first instance. Another point which perhaps has not received the attention it deserves is the effect on the present figures of equal values being given to wheat, barley, and oats in fixing the tithe averages.

(Signed)

S. B. RUGGLES BRISE, Chairman."

Mr. HEANLY having seconded Mr. Phipps's motion,

Mr. CALDECOTT asked for an explanation of the sentence—"another point which perhaps has not received the attention it deserves is the effect on the present figures of equal values being given to wheat, barley, and oats in fixing the tithe averages?"—

Mr. PHIPPS, M.P., said at the time of settling the matter a certain price was put on wheat, barley, and oats, and the proportion in which those different grains were grown was taken into consideration. Since that time the growth of wheat and oats had greatly decreased, whilst the growth of barley had increased, and there was great increase also in the value of barley over what it was when the arrangement was made in the year 1835. This affected very materially the tithe average of each year. There were many things connected with the proper taking of the average corn returns which had been discussed by the Committee, and one matter which they had taken into consideration was the fact that, owing to the average of the returns being made for seven years, this anomaly resulted, that whilst the farmer was selling his produce at comparatively low prices, he was paying a high tithe; and, on the other hand, when he was realising comparatively high prices he would be paying a low tithe. Although the Committee had not finally decided as to the course which should be adopted, it seemed to be the prevalent opinion that, even if the present mode of ascertaining the corn returns were continued, the tithe ought to be calculated upon the individual year, and not upon the basis of seven years. He said this in order to give the members of the Council an opportunity, before the matter was definitely settled at the discussion in December, of considering it among themselves, and they might then express their approval or disapproval of that suggestion.

After some conversation, the motion was agreed to, and it was further resolved, on the proposal of Mr. DUCKHAM, seconded by Mr. St. JOHN ACKERS, that copies of the two official papers issued by the Board of Trade on corn returns should be sent to each associated chamber, with a request that the same should be examined and considered with reference to the accuracy of the figures, so far as they related to their several markets.

Preparatory to the discussion of a resolution of which Mr. T. Bell had given notice, relating to the Royal Commission on Agricultural Depression, the Chairman read the following letter from the Marquis of Huntly, the President of the Chamber, to the Secretary:—

"Dear Captain Craigie,—I regret extremely that I cannot be present at the meeting of the Central Chamber to-morrow, but I am unavoidably detained here. I hope the Council will endorse the action we took in sending the circular round to all

the local Chambers of Agriculture, urging them to assist, in every possible way, the work of the Commission inquiring into the agricultural depression. Perhaps the best course to pursue would be to appoint a special committee to communicate with the local Chambers to compile and prepare evidence, and to bring forward competent witnesses to give evidence before the Royal Commission. This Committee should watch the proceedings and evidence laid before the Commission as it goes on. I believe that agriculture has nothing to fear, but everything to gain from the most searching and complete inquiry into all matters influencing its system and progress. Our object should be to assist and complete the inquiry in the shortest and best possible way. I shall be very glad to be of any use to the Council that lies within my power if they desire my services.

I see that there is a notice on the agenda paper about the resolution of the House of Commons for the establishment of a Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce. Lord Salisbury said at Manchester that the subject was occupying the attention of the Government, and at present I think we may wait to learn their intentions.—Yours very sincerely,

HUNTLY.

Aboyne Castle, Aberdeenshire, N.B., Nov. 3, 1879."

Mr. BELL then moved his resolution, viz:—

"That this Council thanks her Majesty's Government for acceding to the request of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture by appointing a Royal Commission of inquiry into the existing depression in agriculture; and has seen with satisfaction the readiness of the Provincial Chambers to facilitate the work of the Assistant Commissioners by forming local committees to procure information regarding the special features of their respective localities. That a Committee of this Council be appointed to submit evidence to the Royal Commission on Agricultural Depression."

He believed that the Local Chambers would be ready to do whatever was in their power to help the Assistant Commissioners in procuring any information they might require as to the special features of the respective localities in which those Chambers were placed. But now that this Commission had been appointed, and an opportunity was offered to the Council for submitting evidence, he hoped that evidence would be given in a clear and concise manner on the several subjects which had so long occupied their attention. They had an apt illustration in the passing through the House of Commons of the Cattle Diseases Act of the kind of results which might accrue from organisation and determination. Had it not been for the Committee, who watched every step of the inquiry and every step in the passage of the Cattle Diseases Bill through Parliament, he had no hesitation in saying that the Bill would not have been an Act this day; at any rate, not the Act that it is. He urged upon the Council, therefore, the necessity of appointing a Committee to procure and submit to the Royal Commission evidence upon the various points upon which they had been for so long engaged.

Mr. T. DUCKHAM having seconded the motion,

The CHAIRMAN (no one having risen to continue the discussion, said he had no doubt that the Central Chamber of Agriculture was in a certain sense responsible for this Commission of inquiry, and therefore that it was its bounden duty to give all the assistance it could to the Commissioners. It was difficult to say how they, as the Central Chamber, could assist them; but, at any rate, the first step would be the appointment of a committee to confer with those gentlemen. What that committee should be Mr. Bell had not mentioned; but probably he would wish it to be the Business Committee. (Mr. Bell: "Yes.") He thought that that committee would be a fit and proper body to take the matter in hand. It would be easy for the Local Chambers, however, to assist the Commissioners, much easier, indeed, than for the Central Chamber to do so; and they ought to impress upon the Local Chambers the importance of collecting evidence and assisting as far as they could by selecting the very best men in their respective districts to give that evidence, in order to facilitate the working of the Commission. To all practical men in the Central and Local Chambers, the subject matter to be inquired into appeared simple enough; and naturally, on first looking at the long list of queries they were invited to answer, they might say, "We know all about this, and have heard quite enough about that." Well, they did know all about it; but the public outside did not, and they were the persons to whom

the information was to be given, and that could only be done by supplying the Assistant Commissioners with good and straightforward evidence which would be the means of percolating information throughout the country. It was those very matters which seemed to be so simple to agriculturists that were misunderstood and misinterpreted by agricultural reformers and others who, like those reformers, put a wrong interpretation upon them, and, not understanding the question, adopted very erroneous views on the points at issue. It was their bounden duty, therefore, to assist the Commissioners to the utmost of their ability as a Central Chamber, and to impress strongly upon the Local Chambers how vital a matter this was for their interests and for the interests of agriculture generally (Hear, hear).

Mr. LIPSCOMBE thought that one of the subjects respecting which information might be supplied to the Commissioners was that of waste unenclosed lands. Every one knew what rubbish was spoken by persons who were not well-wishers of the agriculturists as to the way in which moorlands and wastes were kept from being enclosed and cultivated by stalwart agricultural labourers, who might there obtain their milk and honey (laughter). That was an important question on which the public required information, and in some particular districts it would give rise to a large inquiry. There were some counties, such as Devonshire, for example, where considerable waste existed, and where special information could be collected; and in such counties there must be many gentlemen well informed with regard to the adaptability or otherwise for cultivation of the waste spaces to which attention has been directed in so exaggerated a form.

Mr. S. B. L. DRUCE (Assistant Commissioner for the Home Counties, and Secretary to the Farmers' Club) said the assistance required by the Commissioners could, no doubt, be best supplied by the Local Chambers; but the resolution before the Council would materially help them by bringing the subject freshly before the minds of the Local Chambers, to whom it would be an inducement and incentive to go further in aiding the Commissioners in their labours. The work which the Assistant Commissioners had to do was to gather information as to certain facts, and the instructions for the collection of those facts had been issued to them. He would state, however, that the work of the Royal Commission was not entrusted entirely to the Assistant Commissioners. During the last few months he had been asked on several occasions what the subjects were concerning which the latter were instructed to inquire, and there was then present in the room a gentleman who had written to a public journal rather blaming him for not having specified certain subjects as those which ought to come within the scope of the inquiry. He was glad to have that opportunity of answering that writer. One subject to which allusion was particularly made was the Game Laws; but that was a question which the Royal Commission had specially reserved for their own consideration.

Mr. DUCKHAM: Then that ought not to be.

Mr. DRUCE said it would be the duty of the Assistant Commissioners, however, to inquire into facts connected with the management of farms and different systems of rural management, and in connection with the management of farms would come the question, how far game affected the produce of the farm. It would be observed that there was a distinction between this last question and the one which the Commissioners reserved for themselves. There were many other subjects to which his attention had been called, but all of them would be included in the inquiry of the Commission. In conclusion, he returned his personal thanks to the Chamber, its president, its indefatigable secretary, and the council for so readily and promptly issuing the circular which had enabled the Local Chambers to aid the Assistant Commissioners in conducting their inquiries.

Mr. W. C. LITTLE (Assistant Commissioner for the Lincolnshire district) also thanked the Council for the steps they had taken to facilitate the task upon which the Assistant Commissioners had entered. They had not done as many gentlemen had done, who went about the country and decried the Commission, declaring that it could teach nothing that they did not already know, nor recommend anything that was likely to do good. If the Commission was to have any beneficial effect, it must have the confidence of the farmers. By that he did not mean that they were to sit still in patient expectation of some good that was to happen to them but that

they must confide in the Assistant Commissioners, and open their hearts, minds, and books to them, if any good was to ensue (laughter). Mr. Druce had told them that the Assistant Commissioners wanted facts. These facts might be difficult to obtain, but once obtained they would be most useful, and they should include distinct and particular evidence as to the depression which at present existed in agriculture. He had been told that that depression might be assumed to be a fact, and that they might therefore pass on to consider remedies. But, although those who were familiar with agriculture might be perfectly convinced of the depression, it should be remembered that the great bulk of the public were profoundly ignorant on the subject. Their knowledge of it was derived from the newspapers, and when the newspapers took up a fresh subject of public interest the interest in such a question as agricultural depression ceased altogether. If the Royal Commission was to do any good it would be partly by the record of facts which were indisputable as regarded the great depression prevailing in agriculture, and the members of the Chamber could, individually and collectively, render a great service to the Assistant Commissioners by putting on record such facts as bore upon the question. Among the facts they wanted proofs that for the last few years they had obtained a lower rate of profit than previously, and that that resulted either from a diminished production or the increased cost of production. An immense number of facts bearing on these points might be gathered together from gentlemen who were in the habit of keeping accurate accounts. They could show whether during the past two years, for example, they had made a profit or incurred loss in farming. They could show whether the produce of the last two years compared favourably or unfavourably with the previous years, and whether the cost of production had in several items so greatly increased as to have become much higher than it was two or three years ago. These were facts which he and his brother Commissioners were desirous of obtaining, and the way in which the members of the Central and Local Chambers of Agriculture might help them was by selecting men in their several districts who could supply the information required. With regard to the point alluded to by Mr. Lipscombe, he could only reply that he must act under the instructions of the Commission on the subject of waste or unenclosed lands. In those parts of the country where such spaces existed the Local Chamber and other agricultural societies would, no doubt, consider the subject and mature an opinion upon it; but, as to the exact means by which information was to be obtained, he could not express an opinion.

Mr. COLEMAN (Assistant Commissioner for the northern district) concurred in the views enunciated by his colleagues Mr. Druce and Mr. Little, and added that the York Chamber of Agriculture had decided upon taking a somewhat similar course to that pursued by the Central Chamber, and that deputations from all the Chambers and farmers' clubs in Yorkshire having been invited to meet at York, the invitation had been heartily responded to. Committees were being formed throughout Yorkshire, and he was confident that he should receive from impartial and trustworthy men information which would be most valuable to the Commissioners. What he and what the public wanted was not one-sided opinions and views, but that the whole question at issue should be gone into thoroughly without prejudice or bias; and he felt assured that from other portions of the country committed to their charge the Commissioners would receive the same ready assistance as from Yorkshire.

Mr. MANFIELD alluding to the statement of Mr. Druce, suggested that it would be wiser and more satisfactory if there were no limit or restriction on the inquiry into the Game Laws, and that it should embrace their operation generally.

Mr. DUCKHAM said that as the writer of the letter to which Mr. Druce had alluded, he participated in the regret of Mr. Manfield that the Assistant Commissioners should be at all troubled in their inquiries respecting the Game Laws. In his opinion those inquiries on that subject should be as full and complete as possible. Happily for himself he was not placed on a game-preserving farm; and he was prompted to write the letter in question because, as a practical farmer, he sympathized deeply with those of his brother farmers who were less favourably situated. The existing game-preserving system extended over so large an area in his county (Hereford) that

it materially increased the rates which fell upon the shoulders of those who did not occupy game-preserving farms, inasmuch as those farms were necessarily let for less rent in consequence of the destruction of the crops through the ravages of game. The effect of the preservation of game upon the practical farmer throughout the country ought to be inquired into. About two years ago he resolved to keep a portion of his crop of swedes for seed. They were in the middle of a large field, and it was quite impossible to get within gunshot of the wood pigeons which had greatly increased, and stripped the leaves of the plants, so that he got neither quantity nor quality, and his loss was considerable. Year by year his young crows, as well as other crops, were seriously damaged by these birds, and no one could estimate the amount of loss. In fact, wood pigeons had increased so much within the last few years as to have become a pest in the whole country. Into such matters as that, in connection with the rating of woods and plantations, he thought inquiry should be made by the Assistant Commissioners.

In reply from a question from Mr. Trask,

Mr. LITTLE explained that the Assistant Commissioners were not empowered to take evidence on oath. What they were to gather was information; it could not be called evidence. The Royal Commissioners themselves would receive evidence.

Mr. TRASK observed that, although the Business Committee was a good one, it could hardly be regarded as a representation of the Agricultural Chambers throughout the kingdom. He suggested, therefore, that if that body were appointed, it should have power to add to its numbers, so that the whole country might be fairly represented upon it.

Mr. BELL observed that, in moving his resolution, it was not his intention that the Committee should give evidence before the Royal Commission, or rather that its office should be confined to giving evidence. Its more immediate duty would be to watch over the evidence that might be tendered, and to select witnesses who would be able to give concise and clear information on the subjects which had so long occupied the attention of the Chamber. The committees of the local chambers would represent their several districts, and for that reason there seemed to be no advantage in spreading the Committee over the entire country. The Committee would, he imagined, charge itself with preparing the evidence to be given directly from the Central Chamber.

Mr. JABEZ TURNER said it appeared to him that all the Committee would do was to state what gentlemen they considered qualified to give evidence before the Royal Commission, and that they would have no power to say that certain gentlemen should give evidence. There was much in Mr. Trask's suggestion with regard to the distribution of the Committee. It should, if possible, consist of gentlemen from different parts of the country, who were acquainted with the representative men of their respective localities. Such a body would be better able than the Business Committee, as now constituted, to recommend the gentlemen who should give evidence before the Commissioners.

The resolutions were then adopted unanimously.

Mr. GLENNY proposed that, in order to give practical effect to the resolutions that the matter should be placed in the hands of the Business Committee, with power to add to their number. Some members of the Committee were themselves engaged in the work of the Commission, and would probably be unable to assist in the work of the Committee; but, at any rate, they had in their Business Committee a most active, energetic, and representative body to start with. It might therefore, he thought, be left in their hands to add to their number. Thus they would make it a strong Committee that would be competent to select gentlemen qualified to represent different parts of the country, to appear and give evidence before the Royal Commissioners or help with their information the Assistant Commissioners.

Mr. MUNTZ seconded the motion.

The SECRETARY remarked that it was necessary that the Business Committee should know definitely what was to be the nature of their functions.

Mr. PHIPPS considered that the Committee, when appointed would be a Committee specially appointed for this particular duty, just as much so as if it consisted not of members of the Business Committee, but of totally different persons. His impression in supporting Mr. Bell's resolution was that the

Committee should have power to add to their number in the event of their finding persons well suited for the position, and that their duty would be to keep an open eye upon the whole question to which the inquiry would be directed, and, if necessary, to submit evidence to the Royal Commission through persons whom they might select as qualified for that purpose.

Mr. MUNTZ said he had seconded the motion of Mr. Glenny under the impression that the Business Committee, if appointed, would have power to add to their number and be a Committee of observation.

Mr. ARKELL thought that the Business Committee were sufficient for the Central Chamber, and that any person with a particularly strong case who resided in a district not represented on the Committee might make his statement to the Assistant Commissioner, or even come up and give his evidence before the Royal Commission.

The Chairman said he had come to the conclusion that the best course was to leave the matter in the hands of the Business Committee if the Chamber had confidence in them, adding that they could always lay their fingers on that body at No. 21, Arundel Street.

The motion was then adopted.

The Secretary stated that the question of the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture and Commerce which stood next on the agenda, had been frequently before the various Chambers of Agriculture, and that recently he had received a communication from the Associated Chambers of Commerce asking what help that Chamber could give in the matter. They would remember that in the last Session of Parliament, Mr. Sampson Lloyd carried a motion in the House of Commons to the effect that a Minister of Commerce should be appointed, with a seat in the Cabinet. The Chamber of Commerce had requested him (Capt. Craigie) in his individual capacity to put in writing what the Central Chamber of Agriculture would require in the Agricultural Department of such a Ministry, but he had not felt justified in doing that until he had consulted the Council. If he had done so, however, he should have stated that they proceeded on the lines laid down in the report of their Committee "on Government Department for Agriculture," presented to and adopted by the Council and Associated Chambers of Agriculture on the 3rd of November, 1874. That report stated that the Committee had come to the following conclusion:—

1. Your committee are of opinion that the duties of a separate and consolidated Agricultural Department of the Government should embrace all matters specially affecting agriculture, now dealt with by various Government offices, and that they should specially include— (a) All supervision connected with the importation, transit, traffic, and diseases of live stock. (b) All supervision necessary for arterial land drainage and in connection with commissions of sewers and embankments. (c) The duties now discharged by the Copyhold, Tithe, and Enclosure Commission. (d) The collection, tabulation, and publication of agricultural statistics and corn returns. 2. Your committee consider that a separate department charged with these duties should be presided over by a Parliamentary Secretary. 3. Your committee having proceeded to confer with the Association of Chambers of Commerce on their proposals, arranged a meeting on the 4th June, 1874. 4. Your committee, as the result of this conference, are of opinion that the combined interest of agriculture and commerce would be materially advanced by the creation of a new Ministry embracing two separate and distinct departments, each presided over by a Parliamentary secretary, and each possessing separate and permanent official staff, the one department dealing exclusively with agricultural and the other with commercial matters. In such a case the duties now belonging to the Board of Trade might conveniently evolve on the new commercial department.

After some remarks from Mr. ADKINS, Mr. CALDECOTT and Mr. ST. JOHN ACKERS, turning mainly on the position to be occupied by the proposed Minister,

The CHAIRMAN said he did not deem it necessary to interfere with the prerogative of the Crown by proposing that the minister should have a seat in the Cabinet. He was, therefore satisfied with the resolutions arrived at in 1874, and believed that the interests of agriculture would not be neglected if they had a Minister such as was proposed in those resolutions.

Mr. MUNTZ was of opinion that the report contemplated that the Minister should have a seat in the Cabinet.

Ultimately the report of the Committee of 1874 was adopted.

Mr. ARKELL afterwards gave notice of his intention to introduce the question of the malt tax at the December meeting, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

### COL. BRISE AND THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

Mr. John Moss, of Messing, writes to the *Chelmsford Chronicle* :—

I did not intend noticing any letter or remarks made upon the recent meeting of the Farmers' Alliance at Colchester, but the remarks of Colonel Brise at the Conservative meeting at Castle Hedingham, as reported in your paper of last Friday, make it impossible for me to remain any longer silent. Not content with pouring out the vials of his wrath upon the Farmers' Alliance, Col. Brise descended to what appears to me a wilful misrepresentation of what I said at Colchester in moving the first resolution.

My words, as fairly reported, were these: "He did not agree for one moment that the movement was not a political one; it was a political movement. They were bound together in this Alliance, unless he mistook their principles, to ask the legislature of the land for that which they believe to be just and right, and therefore it was a political movement, but it was in no sense of the word a party movement." Now the Colonel, who so grossly misrepresents the farmers of East Essex, says, "I was glad to see, but not surprised to see, that at the meeting of the Alliance at Colchester last week, the mover of the first resolution openly admitted that he for one was quite prepared that the association should be looked upon as a Liberal association."

Will you allow me, in flatly contradicting this unmanly act of Colonel Brise, to repeat my assertion that the Farmers' Alliance is in no sense a party political association, inasmuch as it asks (and secures) tenant farmers, and their friends of all shades of politics, to join its ranks.

I venture to predict that, notwithstanding the opposition of Colonel Brise and of my professional friend Mr. Beaumont, whose opposition to the movement (in common with many, if not most, of his best friends) I sincerely regret, the Farmers' Alliance will grow and flourish until its aims are fully realized in freeing the tenant farmers from all unjust restrictions and burdens, and securing their fair representation in the Parliament of our country. To this end, I hope and expect to see Mr. Charles Page Wood, who is a *bona fide* tenant farmer, returned at the next election for East Essex, which, at the latest, must soon be here.

### THE CROPS OF 1879.

Farmers have harvested in the South and are still cutting and carrying in the later districts, including large portions of the Northern counties and of Scotland, probably the worst wheat crop on record since the year 1816. The inference drawn two months ago from a consideration of the backward and sodden condition of the plant in spring, the exceptionally low mean temperature of the summer, the absence of sunshine even on otherwise mild days, the undue prevalence of excessive moisture in the air, the extraordinary series of deluging downfalls of rain, the incessant repetition of storms throughout the summer, and the late cold and wet period for ripening, has been strictly verified in a most deficient yield of wheat. The favourable harvest-time then hoped for as the remaining chance for mitigating by good, dry condition the inevitable shortness in yield came not; but, in place of the hot, bright season of ingathering so earnestly desired, a late, wet, wintery time has further damaged the crops, almost to the point of destruction in many cases; and farmers in all parts of the kingdom have had to struggle against the delays and disappointments of a most difficult time for reaping and carting. Early esti-

mates of the probable total production of grain were published by various authorities, all announcing a very great deficiency in wheat and barley. But now the reports from all parts of the country, confirmed by personal observation in many corn-growing centres, intensify the darkness of the picture which those early estimates drew; and the public do not yet seem awake to the full magnitude of the calamity which has fallen upon agriculturists, and, through them, upon the whole community.

In endeavouring to value roughly the wheat produce of the United Kingdom for 1879, subject to correction to some extent when thrashing has been further proceeded with, we can fairly judge of the whole from the character of the crop in a large number of sample or test localities distributed through the principal wheat-growing districts, and from the proportion which the yield is considered to bear to an average in the numerous situations furnishing the *data*. And here the areas referred to are of importance; the average or normal yield per acre being very different in one region from what it is in another, varying according to diversities of soil, climate, altitude, aspect, shelter or exposure, the style of farm-management, and other circumstances which govern the quantity and quality of the produce. If areas of great normal yield per acre have this year the most serious deficiency, while areas of light normal yield are less affected, the result is worse than if the contrary had been the case. Hence it is important to connect yield with acreage; and, in the absence of any measurements of clays and light lands respectively, we have to take the only surveyed areas we possess for the kingdom generally, and these are the areas of land sown with wheat in each county as ascertained by the Agricultural Returns.

According to statistics collected in the year 1871 from as many as 40 to 50 growers in each county, and those scattered through the different Poor Law Unions so as to embrace every district of each county under as many separate estimates, the normal or average yield of wheat for each English county may be taken as in the following table. Or rather, these quantities represent what were judged, nine years ago, to be average crops, a run of years in which deficient seasons predominated having modified and reduced these averages since that time. It will be seen that the normal yield per acre is greatest in Kent, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire, and Lancashire, in all these counties equalling or exceeding 32 bushels per acre, Kent attaining the *maximum* county average—33½ bushels per acre. The yield is under 32 but up to 30 bushels in Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Bedfordshire, and Sussex. The standard average is 28 and under 30 bushels per acre in Cumberland, Westmoreland, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Herefordshire, Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Hampshire, and Surrey. And in Northumberland, Durham, Shropshire, North Wales, South Wales, Devonshire, and Cornwall it is below 28 bushels per acre. In Cornwall the normal crop is 25, and in Devonshire only 21½ bushels per acre. The standard average wheat yield, as arrived at from the inquiry referred to, is, for England, 29 9-10 bushels per acre; for Wales, 27 bushels; for Scotland, 29 bushels; making for Great Britain, 29 7-10 bushels. The average for Ireland is taken at 25 bushels; for Islands in the British seas at 28 bushels; bringing the standard average for the United Kingdom to 29½ bushels per acre. This general average, as already said, applies to a lengthy period preceding 1871, and held good for the five years 1866 to 1870; but, as will appear presently an excess of inferior harvests in the series of subsequent years down to 1879 is estimated to have lowered the

mean yield by three bushels per acre, the last five years having averaged only 24 bushels, or 5½ below the standard.

In the following table the counties are arranged in the order of greatest acreage sown with wheat, and the fourth column gives the estimated amount of produce in imperial quarters which the present harvest would have realized had it been a normal or standard average crop:—

County.	Standard average yield of Wheat in Bushels, per Acre.	Acres of Wheat grown in 1879.	Produce of 1879 had the Crop been an average in Imperial Quarters.
Lincolnshire ...	32½	247,100	1,011,600
Yorkshire... ..	30	217,100	814,100
Norfolk ... ..	31	178,700	692,500
Essex ... ..	33	162,100	668,700
Suffolk ... ..	28½	134,600	483,700
Cambridgeshire ...	33	117,500	484,700
Devonshire ... ..	21½	107,400	288,600
Hampshire ... ..	29½	100,100	369,100
Sussex ... ..	30	89,100	334,100
Kent ... ..	33½	89,000	369,700
Wiltshire... ..	29	87,000	315,400
Gloucestershire ...	28	80,800	282,800
Shropshire ... ..	26	87,100	218,000
Northamptonshire	32½	68,200	274,900
Somersetshire ...	29	61,400	222,600
Warwickshire ...	30	60,800	226,100
Nottinghamshire ...	30	60,000	225,000
Hertfordshire ...	28½	59,400	201,600
Worcestershire ...	30	55,100	179,100
Berkshire... ..	31½	55,000	216,600
Oxfordshire ... ..	31	54,400	210,800
Buckinghamshire	29	51,100	185,200
Herefordshire ...	29½	49,500	181,800
Bedfordshire ...	30	47,400	177,800
Staffordshire ...	29½	43,800	161,500
Corwall ... ..	25	43,200	135,000
Huntingdonshire ...	32½	43,100	175,100
Dorsetshire ... ..	29	39,400	142,800
Surrey ... ..	28	38,800	134,000
Leicestershire ...	31	34,100	132,100
Durham ... ..	26	30,500	99,100
Lancashire ... ..	32	27,600	110,400
Cheshire ... ..	30	25,800	94,900
Derbyshire ... ..	29	23,000	83,400
Northumberland ...	27	22,800	76,900
Monmouthshire ...	29	16,400	59,200
Cumberland ... ..	29	16,800	59,100
Rutland ... ..	31½	8,500	33,200
Middlesex... ..	31	6,800	26,800
Westmoreland ...	28	1,200	4,200
Total for England	29 9-10	2,719,500	10,161,700
Wales ... ..	27	94,600	316,700
Scotland ... ..	29	76,600	277,700
Total for Great Britain	29 7-10	2,890,700	10,756,100
Ireland ... ..	25	157,500	492,200
Islands ... ..	28	8,600	30,100
Total for the United Kingdom	29½	3,056,800	11,278,400

It will be observed that the order of greatest area and the order of greatest production are not coincident. For example, Cambridgeshire, with 17,000 acres less wheat area than Suffolk, yields quite as much grain; Hampshire 7,000 acres below Devonshire, produces 80,000 quarters more; Berkshire, with about the same number of acres as Worcestershire under wheat, yields 37,000 quarters more; and Huntingdonshire, with about the same wheat area as Cornwall, produces 40,000 quarters more. Taking the average yields and the distribution of the wheat area

together, it appears that nearly half the total wheat produce of the United Kingdom is, on an average, grown in 10 English counties—namely, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Devonshire, Hampshire, Sussex, and Kent. Nearly one-fourth of our wheat crop is grown in three counties—namely, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, and Norfolk, and considerable more than a fourth in four counties, including Essex. Lincolnshire, which heads the list of wheat-bearing provinces with a *maximum* crop of over 1,000,000 quarters, reaps and thrashes over a fourth more wheat than all Scotland and Ireland together. Each one of 12 English counties exceeds Scotland in the amount of its wheat produce; Suffolk grows nearly as much wheat as Ireland does; and Wiltshire and the whose of the Principality send about equal quantities of wheat to market. Thus, it is of higher importance to ascertain how the crop turns out in the few principal wheat counties than in whole divisions of the United Kingdom. To form a just idea of the total wheat crop of any year, as compared with the standard, it is necessary to take into consideration all the counties, of little as well as great production; but the result depends upon allowing to each its due share in contributing to the total.

Now, in gauging the deficiency of the present harvest in any county several considerations must have weight. The figures in the estimates given in tabular form below refer to corn saleable to the merchant or miller or fit for seed, without including "tail" or chicken corn. In a superb season like that of 1868 the wheats give a very trifling proportion of lean or tail corn, either for pigs or poultry; but in years of inferior growth and imperfect ripening, like the present, a large proportion of the total quantity of grain thrashed is taken out by blowing and screening, either in the finishing apparatus of the thrashing-machine or in a separate winnower. In perhaps every market in the kingdom may now be seen samples which it is a compliment to call "dressed corn," the thin, husky grains being of far worse quality than the tail wheat of a fairly good harvest. Some are so bad that only a few really good and plump kernels are distinguishable among a whole handful of the poor light stuff. So that, from quantities thrashed, an unusually large deduction has to be made to get the quantity available for sale or seed. Then, the figures in the table also make allowance for weight per bushel. That is, the aggregate crop is valued according to quantity and weight combined, and this value represented as so many imperial quarters. The same number of measured quarters will be a tenth more or less in total weight, according as the grain weighs 62lb. per bushel (as in a good year) or only 56lb. (as in a bad year). And, further, it is to be remembered that, while wheat of good quality may grind 75 per cent. of its weight in flour and 25 per cent. of bran, other products, and waste, wheat of poor quality may give 65 per cent., or less than that proportion, of flour. And the weight of flour obtained, which is the ultimate test of the value of a wheat crop, is taken into consideration in fixing upon the number of bushels assigned as the yield of the crop in any year. The principle borne in mind in determining the valuation is that in good years the actual produce available for food and for seed is greater than it appears; while, on the contrary, in deficient years the actual produce is less than it appears—in a year of unexampled deficiency like the present, much less than the measured quantities thrashed per acre seem to denote. In a deficient year, the total quantity of wheat available for consumption also comes out proportionately less, in consequence of the quantity required for seed remaining the same. For example, had the 3,056,000 acres of wheat grown in the United King-

dom this year yielded 34 bushels per acre, as in 1868 the total produce would have been 12,958,000 quarters and, for seed at 2½ bushels per acre (supposing an equal area to be sown for 1880) would have been deducted 855,750 quarters, or 6½ per cent. Had it been an average crop of 29½ bushels per acre, the total produce; would have been 11,278,400 quarters; and the same deduction for seed, 855,750 quarters, would have been 7 per cent. And, taking the yield of 1879 at 18 bushels per acre, the total produce is only 6,846,000 quarters; and the seed—namely, 855,750 quarters, is a deduction of no less than 12½ per cent.

Among the general considerations affecting the estimate of the present year's harvest is the almost unprecedented fact of at least some crops in many widely-separated parts of the country being almost worthless, sometimes offered by the growers for £1 per acre, or for nothing, to anybody who would be at the expense of cutting and carting the crop off the land. Cases are very numerous in which the result from thrashing is more wretched than has been reported before in the memory of man. One farmer, after three days' thrashing by a steam machine, weighed up only 21 stones weight per acre, or six bushels per acre weighing but 49lb. per bushel. In the Cambridgeshire Fens there are scores of farms on which considerable sections of the wheat crop have turned out little better. A farmer lately showed in Peterborough market a sample of stuff leaner than any rye—mere shrivelled grains, comparable with some species of grass seed—which represented the crop on 37 acres. Yields of one to an imperial quarter and a half are common, and the natural weight is so light that, where it is customary to deliver the wheat in sacks of 18 imperial stones each, there is frequently a difficulty in making the so-called four-bushel bag hold enough for that weight. Apparently good crops are thrashing out two or two quarters and a half per acre. Another feature which tells terribly against the aggregate result is that, so far as the season has shown any favour, this is not a heavy land, but a light land year. The proper wheat soils, yielding generally by far the greatest proportion of our total wheat produce, have suffered most; and, still further, it is a fact that the most bulky, long-strawed, and promising crops have been smitten most heavily with blight and mildew. Many thousands of acres of the finest wheat land in every county have completely disappointed the growers even of the poor promise which appeared just before harvest; and, if returns from many hundreds of farms were to be collected now, they would present a much more grievous picture than did those of the *Agricultural Gazette* printed in September. Yet those were very much worse than any other of the annual statements made by that journal during the whole term of its existence—only one per cent. of the farmers venturing to report their wheat as "over average," while 24 per cent. reckoned it as "average," and no fewer than 75 per cent. said "under average." Universally, the testimony now is that the crop was never before found so deceptive, the early thrashings revealing a degree of deficiency not apprehended at the beginning of harvest.

To review in some detail the condition of the various crops in different counties will require another article. Meanwhile, the resulting general estimate arrived at as the probable out-turn of wheat in the United Kingdom for 1879 may be stated at not more than 18 bushels per acre for market and for seed, this being the net valuation after making allowances for the several considerations above named. The following table gives the figures for 14 years:—

ESTIMATED WHEAT PRODUCTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Year.	Acres.	Assumed Yield per Acre	Bushels.	Available for Consumption after deducting Seed. Quarters.
1866 ...	3,661,000 ...	Under average	27 ...	11,440,000
1867 ...	3,640,000 ...	Much under average	25 ...	10,390,000
1868 ...	3,951,000 ...	Much over average	34 ...	15,790,000
1869 ...	3,982,000 ...	Under average	27 ...	12,490,000
1870 ...	3,775,000 ...	Over average	32 ...	14,100,000
1871 ...	3,831,000 ...	Under average	27 ...	11,970,000
1872 ...	3,840,000 ...	Much under average	23 ...	10,110,000
1873 ...	3,670,000 ...	Much under average	25 ...	10,550,000
1874 ...	3,833,000 ...	Over average	31 ...	13,700,000
1875 ...	3,514,000 ...	Much under average	23 ...	9,124,000
1876 ...	3,124,000 ...	Under average	27 ...	9,665,000
1877 ...	3,321,000 ...	Much under average	22 ...	9,432,000
1878 ...	3,382,000 ...	Over average	30 ...	11,825,000
1879 ...	3,056,000 ...	Much under average	18 ...	5,990,000
Average of 14 years.	3,612,000 ...	Mean of 14 years	26½ ...	11,184,000
Standard produce	3,612,000 ...	29½ bushels per acre	.....	12,053,000

It appears that while the first five years averaged 29 bushels per acre, which is taken as about the standard or normal yield, the last five years averaged only 24 bushels; the mean yield for the 14 years being thus lowered to 26½ instead of 29½ bushels. The over-average yields were 34 bushels in 1868, 32 in 1870, 31 bushels in 1874, and 30 bushels (barely exceeding an average) in 1878. The lightest yield in the series until the present year was 22 bushels in 1877, while 1875 gave only a bushel more. For 1879 our inquiries lead us to the unprecedented and pitiful yield of only 18 bushels net, which may be looked upon as two-thirds of an average in quantity, reduced by corrections for inferior quality, &c., to little over three-fifths of a normal or standard yield.

Taking area and yield together, the progressive falling-off in production is remarkable. For the first five years of the series of 14, the average number of acres of wheat in the United Kingdom was 3,801,400; in the last five years the average has been only 3,279,400 acres, a decrease of nearly 14 per cent. We produced, on an average of the first five years, 12,842,000 quarters, but on an average of the last five years only 9,207,000 quarters available for consumption after deducting seed, being a decrease of 3,635,000 quarters, or no less than 28 per cent. The produce of 1879 is reckoned only 5,990,000 quarters. And though we have taken this as representing, like the other quantities in the comparative series, the net quantity (quality being allowed for) available for consumption, it is necessary to bring in one more consideration which may modify and still further reduce it. This is the circumstance that, when the quality is inferior, a larger proportion than usual is appropriated for the feeding of animals; and there is no doubt that, notwithstanding the counteracting effect of the rise in price, so bad is the wheat of the present year that a much greater proportion than usual will be used on the farm, instead of being sold for making bread-flour. Probably, therefore, the total produce which will be food for the people is less, and not more, than the quantity in the table.

In the next tabular statement are arranged side by side the estimated home production and the imports with exports deducted; the two together making the total amount of wheat available for consumption in each of the 13 years 1866 to 1878:—

## ESTIMATED CONSUMPTION AND HOME AND FOREIGN SUPPLY OF WHEAT FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Harvest year, Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.	Home produce available for consumption, Qrs.	Imports of wheat and flour, deducting exports, Qrs.	Total available for consumption, Qrs.	Average price of British wheat for 12 months, July 1 to June 30.
1866-7	11,440,000	7,600,000	19,040,000	58s. 0d.
1867-8	10,390,000	9,010,000	19,400,000	69s. 3d.
1868-9	15,790,000	7,380,000	23,670,000	51s. 8d.
1869-70	12,490,000	9,580,000	22,070,000	45s. 11d.
1870-1	14,100,000	7,950,000	22,050,000	53s. 5d.
1871-2	11,970,000	9,320,000	21,290,000	55s. 3d.
1872-3	10,110,000	11,720,000	21,830,000	57s. 1d.
1873-4	10,550,000	11,230,000	21,780,000	61s. 3d.
1874-5	13,700,000	11,640,000	25,340,000	46s. 4d.
1875-6	9,124,000	13,940,000	23,064,000	46s. 3d.
1876-7	9,665,000	12,156,000	21,821,000	55s. 3d.
1877-8	9,432,000	14,508,000	21,940,000	54s. 0d.
1878-9	11,825,000	14,417,000	26,242,000	41s. 10d.
1879-80	5,999,000	18,000,000	24,000,000	—
Mean of—				
13 years	11,583,000	10,842,000	22,425,000	53s. 6d.

The mean of 13 years ending 1878-9 shows an annual home production of 11,583,000 qrs. and imports 10,842,000 qrs., making the total mean consumption of wheat 22,425,000 qrs. While our home production has fallen off 25 per cent., comparing the first five with the last five years (in 14 years ending 1879), the imports have hugely increased. In the first five years we imported on an average 8,404,000 qrs., but in the last five years (ending 1878-9) the quantity averaged 13,332,000 qrs. per annum, or an increase of over 58 per cent. In the last two years we imported 14,508,000 and 14,417,000 qrs. respectively.

The quantity for consumption according to this estimate has varied from 19,000,000 qrs. up to more than 26,000,000 qrs., the mean of 13 years being 22,425,000 qrs. For the first five years it averaged 21,246,000 qrs.; for the last five years, 23,681,000 qrs. per annum. Assuming that our population will need 24,000,000 qrs. of wheat in the harvest year September 1, 1879, to August 31, 1880, we must import, according to this calculation, 18,000,000 qrs. in that time, or about 3½ million quarters more than arrived at our ports last year or in the year before. This would be purchasing from abroad double as much wheat as we have grown at home during the present year.

From the prices given in the last column, for periods of 12 months not very different from the harvest years, it may be computed that the average for the first five years ending 1870-1 was 55s. 7d., and for the last five years 48s. 9d. Thus, comparing the two periods, we see that farmers have had 7s. per qr. less for their wheat; and as during the last five years they grew five bushels less of it than in the first five, the diminution in the value of the crop was £2 15s. 5d. per acre. If they make 48s. 9d. per qr. of the present year's crop, it will realise no more than £5 9s. 8d. per acre; and the crops of the last five years preceding 1879 averaged only £7 6s. 1d. per acre. Comparing these miserable results of the last six years with the £10 1s. 6d. per acre made on an average of the five years ending 1870-1, when the wheat yielded no small standard crops and at the same time commanded 7s. per qr. better price, we perceive one great cause of the existing agricultural depression.—*Times*.

Mr. Thos. C. Scott writes in reference to the subject:—  
If any proof were wanted to confirm the correctness of

the able *résumé* of the wheat crop of this country in the *Times* of to-day, it would be the fact that whereas last year the home deliveries of the first 55 days of the cereal year were 1,922,000 quarters, equal to 12,751,000 quarters for the year; this year for the same period—that is, from the 1st ult. to the 25th inst.—they have only been 616,000 quarters, equal to 4,085,000 quarters for the year.

To show how foreign imports adjust themselves to our wants, in the same period in 1878 they amounted to 2,253,000 quarters, equal to 14,953,000 quarters—being, with the home deliveries as stated above, would make 25,867,000 quarters for the whole year, or nearly 2,000,000 quarters more than our computed consumption.

I may also state that there is 2,342,000 quarters on passage, against 1,413,000 quarters last year.

“L. A. C.” writes:—

A slight error occurs in your article this day on “The Crops of 1879.” The required imports of wheat and flour, estimated at 18,000,000 quarters, amount to three times and not merely “double” as much as the 6,000,000 quarters of home-grown wheat which are available for consumption.

## THE ENGLISH LAND SYSTEM.

In previous articles we found that owing to the expenses incident to the transfer of land, the law of primogeniture, and, above all, to the custom of strict settlements, it was almost impossible for the practical agriculturist to secure the freehold of a farm. We also found that the limited owner was naturally averse to spending money on an estate that was not absolutely his own, and that even when he desired to effect improvements he was frequently debarred from doing so by financial difficulties. We now propose to consider whether the position of the occupier before the law is such as enables him to develop the full capacity of the soil, notwithstanding the embarrassment of the limited owner.

Like every other man of business, an agriculturist requires as a first necessity that the capital employed in carrying on his trade shall be secure. Before the position of the tenant-farmer can be such as will call forth all his energies, he also requires to be free from the fear of sudden or arbitrary termination of his tenure, and to be allowed unrestricted freedom of cultivation. The most important of these conditions is security to the capital invested in the soil. In this respect the law is singularly deficient. From the nature of the industry it is impossible for a farmer to begin to develop the resources of the soil without to a considerable extent locking up his capital in improvements. These may be of a temporary nature, like mowers, or more permanent, as drainage and buildings. But of such improvements the law takes no cognisance; all, with perhaps the sole exception of growing crops, are presumed to be done by the landlord. The borough population long ago used their political influence to get “trade fixtures” exempted from this injustice of the law; and if the lessee of a cotton mill or a coal mine puts in a piece of machinery or a steam engine, he is allowed to remove it at the end of his lease. That a similar protection is not afforded to agricultural fixtures, subject, of course, to leaving the property of the owner unimpaired, is a proof of the political impotence of farmers. The Agricultural Holdings Act was professedly passed to give security to the

tenant's capital, but by a special proviso in the Act if a tenant erects a steam-engine, without first obtaining his landlord's consent, it is forfeited on the termination of his tenure. Our agriculturists have lately been urged to turn their attention more to dairy produce; but cows require to be housed warmly, and many landlords are unwilling to incur the expense of erecting the necessary buildings. The tenants are deterred from doing the work themselves by the knowledge that whenever their occupation terminates their improvements will be sacrificed. A Committee of the House of Lords, consisting of the Duke of Richmond, and Lords Salisbury, Derby, and Egerton of Tatton, reported in 1870 that of 20,000,000 acres in the United Kingdom to which drainage could be profitably applied only 3,000,000 had yet been drained. Notwithstanding the weighty names attached to this report, it would appear incredible that agriculture can be in such a backward state until we realise the effect of the law as it now stands. So long as it continues unchanged it is useless to point to the need of investing more capital in the soil. The case of Mr. Foxton, of Welburn, in Yorkshire, affords the latest example of the operation of the law. Mr. Foxton had enclosed and drained a part of his farm. He had erected buildings, and altogether executed improvements of the value of £3,000. Last year the estate came to the hammer, and he has since been evicted by the new owner without any compensation. The wrong lies, not in the eviction, but in the law that declares the improvements made by one man to belong to another. The purchaser paid full value for the estate, but that part of the value produced by Mr. Foxton's capital and enterprise was taken from him and given to the landlord.

The Law of Distress (Hypothec in Scotland) is the other great legal disability under which the occupier is placed. This law gives the landlord a prior claim for rent over all other creditors. Also, in case of non-payment at the proper time, he can at once enter the farm without the delay of an action of law, and seize as much of the stock-in-trade as will pay the arrears. In the event of bankruptcy he will frequently recoup the rent out of the capital of some trader who has sold the tenant cattle, manures, &c., on credit, and to whom the goods still in equity belong. The partiality of the law comes out more strongly when we remember that rent is but the interest on the landlord's capital. The land, which is his capital, is never in jeopardy. An extreme case happened in Kent a short time ago, as we mentioned in the *Economist* of Sept. 13 h. Here, a landlord had allowed several payments of rent to fall behindhand. A neighbouring farmer bought the herbage of the tenant and turned his sheep on to graze, when immediately the landlord seized the flock of the innocent third party to pay his tenant's rent. The case was tried, and the verdict declared that the landlord had acted within his legal right. The effect of this law is to put the landlord in such a position that he can safely accept a needy tenant at a higher rent than a capitalist would venture to offer. Whatever happens the rent is secure. Hundreds of farmers have been ruined by the failure of the crops in the last twelve months. It would be instructive to know in how many cases the landlord has lost his rent. The Scotch farmers, wiser than their brethren South of Tweed, have long been aware of the disadvantage under which their capital is placed by the Law of Hypothec. They justly complain that not only are they pitted against men who have nothing to lose, but that their credit with the outside trader is impaired by the fact that the landlord takes precedence over the common creditor. This law is generally supposed to be a relic of feudalism, but it did not attain its present stringency until after the downfall of the Stuart Monarchy, when the power of the landowning class had become predominant in Parliament.

From the vantage ground of these two presumptions of the law, coupled with the artificial way in which the inheritance of land is regulated, the landowners have been able to insist on their own terms. It is impossible that arbitrary restrictions on cultivation and tenure from year to year could have been forced upon tenants had not the law already placed the landlord in an impregnable position. Any attempt to create Tenant-right by Act of Parliament has hitherto been met by the cry of "freedom of contract." But those who raise this cry seem to have forgotten that the landlords have already protected themselves from being put upon that level. We quite agree that before any artificial protection is given to the occupier it would be well to sweep away those laws that confer exceptional legal privileges on landowners. When both classes—landowners as well as tenants—stand on the same footing of "freedom of contract," it is probable that very little else will need be done.

The Game Laws are considered by some farmers to be their heaviest grievance. They differ, however, in England from the Law of Distress and the question of compensation for improvements, in that where there is no agreement to the contrary the game belongs to the tenant; in Scotland, however, the presumption of the law leans to the landlord. Also, the evil of game preserving is of partial incidence; in some districts it is not felt at all, while in game counties like Norfolk and Suffolk it often rises to an intolerable burden. Where the ground game is strictly preserved it is impossible for the tenant to risk his capital in high farming. He is constantly harrassed by the uncertainty of having to contend against an unknown head of game. Success in his business depends less on his industry and skill than on the caprice of his landlord, or the landlord's eldest son, or head gamekeeper. He will probably hire the land at a few shillings an acre less than it would fetch if the game was included in the lease. This, however, is a poor offset against damage that may exceed the whole amount of the rent. Redress at law is costly, and the compensation obtained is pretty sure to be inadequate. Lord Derby told the Lancashire farmers last summer that no reasonable man could expect to have a food factory and a game warren on the same land; but since battue shooting came into fashion this is precisely the grievance that farmers complain of. Taken by itself, it is not so easy to suggest a remedy. It has been proposed to abolish ground game, to which the damage is mainly due, or to make the game the unalienable property of the occupier. But even if the Game Laws were done away with entirely, it would be impossible to prevent the landlord shooting over the land with the tenant's permission, and unless fair sport was obtained a six months' notice to quit might follow. If, however, the tenant was placed in an independent position by the abolition of the Law of Distress and by compensation for his improvements, he would perhaps be sufficiently protected by the heavy fine that the landlord would have to pay for arbitrary disturbance. Such a law would have the further advantage of allowing the owner to keep as much game as he pleased on the land that he occupied himself.

It is far from our intention to imply that landlords as a class have acted with harshness. In England, at any rate, except in the matter of game, they have generally been more lenient than the law required. If it had been otherwise the position of the occupier would have been intolerable. In the instance to which we have alluded Mr. Foxton was safe enough as long as the estate remained in the old family. All we urge is that the law itself leans unduly towards the landowners.—*Economist*.

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT MAIDSTONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—It occurred to me, and no doubt to many others who were present at the Alliance meeting on Thursday evening, that it was not the time to discuss the various subjects touched upon by those gentlemen who succeeded the seconder of the resolution. It seemed to me the meeting was called to give Messrs. Howard and Fowler an opportunity to explain the origin of the association and the objects desired to be attained, and to induce, or endeavour to induce, the Kent farmers to join; and I think all present will admit that both gentlemen performed their parts well, and that after their full and exhaustive addresses there was little more to do but propose a resolution inviting the meeting to say aye or nay, and in the former case assist the promoters by joining a legitimate combination of tenant farmers for the purpose of redressing grievances. At the same time the important question of tithe, touched upon by the subsequent speakers, is one which requires full and free discussion, but which I venture to think it will be better to discuss at a council meeting of the Association or at the Farmers' Club or Chamber of Agriculture; and my object in addressing this letter to you, Sir, is to offer a suggestion as to making of returns of British corn sold, upon which the tithes are based, and which I think are very erroneous. At the present time, I venture to say, there is not one-third of the corn purchased in the markets in this county returned, and of that third the greater proportion is the best description of corn, and not the inferior. This tends to increase the average prices of corn sold, and consequently the value of the rent-charge. There is this season (as there was in those of 1877-78) a very great difference in the value of corn. For example, barley has been sold in the same market, one parcel for 25s. per qr., and another at 50s. The lower quality was sold to a farmer and never entered in the returns; the other was sold first to a merchant, who paid 1s. 6d. per qr. for railway carriage, and sold it to a brewer in his district, with, I should presume, a profit added to the 1s. 6d., and the barley would be returned by the brewer at the enhanced price, and the tithe-payer would be actually paying tithe upon a merchant's and railway company's profits. This is only one instance out of hundreds. I have advocated for some time that the seller make the return in place of the buyer, and it would soon be found to have a marked effect. Let the millers, merchants, and factors keep return papers in their desks, and the farmer, as soon as he sells his corn, enter it on the return paper and put it into a box, placed in the market for that purpose. The same will apply to corn sold in the town or country not during market hours; and let all corn be returned—inferior as well as the best—at all events during the time the rent-charge continues to be based on the corn returns. As regards the extraordinary tithe on hops, it is quite time some pressure should be brought to bear, in order to remove such an unjust imposition. Let the land be fairly tithed, as I presume it is, and the occupier plant it with anything he feels disposed, without having an additional tax. This subject I must leave to others who have more time and greater ability to discuss it than I have. I wish to make one suggestion to the landlords and lay rectors. They all know how unfruitful the season has been, and the great difficulty many farmers will have to find the money needed to pay rent and tithe. Where they have security to give they can borrow; but ninety per cent. have not such security to offer, and they are compelled to sell stock at a great sacrifice, thrash and sell their corn (the little they have) before it has had time to get dry, and upon a market over-supplied with such

produce. If the landlords feel any interest in the well-being of their tenants, let them issue a circular, without loss of time, and say they will not collect the half-year's rent now due, nor the half-year due in April next, but let it stand over to be repaid by three instalments in three years—the first at the Michaelmas audit, 1880, the second in 1881, and the third in 1882; and let the lay rectors do the same. I say the lay rectors, as many of the clergy who receive only the vicarial tithe cannot afford to wait. They can, however, forego the extraordinary tithe, and thus take some part of the losses sustained. This would enable the farmers to pay a portion of their trade bills; also to employ more labour during the winter, which they actually require, but are unable to have, and to retain their bullocks and sheep, for which they have plenty of keep, instead of forcing the market and selling at a low price. Unless this or something similar is done, many must fall and bring down others with them. There is one class of tradesmen particularly who will suffer, namely, blacksmiths. They, as a rule, send in their accounts yearly, and are the last to be paid. They work hard during the year, and if they cannot get the money of the farmer cannot in their turn pay the iron merchant, and then what is to be done for another year?

Landlords are at all times safe, as there is plenty on a farm to pay a year's rent, and they have yet the Law of Distress in their favour. Those amongst them who have raised the rent so much of late years, will have an opportunity of reducing it, so that those tenants who have paid the higher may continue in the farm at the less and more fair rent, instead of being turned on the world ruined men. I have heard of a case, and there are many still living in the neighbourhood of Maidstone who can vouch for the facts, where an hon. Baronet in a neighbouring parish to this, had a tenant who went to him at a time of severe depression, like the present, and requested that his rent might be lowered. The hon. Baronet replied: "My friend, but you have not paid any for four years; how can you expect me to lower it?" The tenant said he could not go on any longer, even if he had not any rent to pay. The kind-hearted Baronet rejoined, "Perhaps we can manage to farm it together." He sent the tenant seed corn, and found capital to pay for labour, and the result was that the change came, and the tenant prospered, paid the back rent with interest, in after years saved a fair sum for the benefit of his family, and died, with a blessing on the head of his kind and liberal-hearted landlord.

How is it that the landlords are so different now? I have heard of several distrains for rent lately, and in one case, in our own county, the landlord, a member of the House of Commons, applied for the rent of a farm before Michaelmas, and was told by the tenant to wait until it was due.

Surely it is time even for the Kent farmers to move and, by supporting the Alliance, and at the coming election use every fair and legitimate means to return a candidate to represent their interests in the House of Commons, independent of party politics.

I am, Sir, &c.,

THOMAS CLARK.

*Fairbourne, Harrietsham, Nov. 3.*

THE SEED CROP.—The seed crop of 1879 is one of the worst, perhaps the very worst, in the experience of the present generation. A season that fails to ripen wheat, and that equals 1845 in the universality of potato disease, cannot be expected to bring many kinds of seed to perfection. Therefore good seeds will realize prices above the average, and bad seed will be brought into the market to meet ordinary demands, and also to satisfy the craving for apparent cheapness that is the ruling passion of mankind.—*Gardener's Magazine.*

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT EDINBURGH

On November 12 a meeting called to hear an explanation of the objects of the Farmers' Alliance was held at Edinburgh. There was a large attendance. Mr. Goodlet, Bolshau, occupied the chair; and amongst others present were—Sir George Balfour, M.P.; Mr. Barclay, M.P.; Sir David Wedderburn, M.P.; Professor Blackie, Mr. John M'Laren, advocate; Mr. Charles Cowan, Mr. Smith, West Drums; Mr. Bethune of Blebo, Mr. Riddell, Hundalee; Mr. Guild, North Berwick Abbey; Mr. Wilson, Chapelhill; Mr. Nicol, Littleton; Mr. Scott Dudgeon, Longnewton; Mr. M'Cuiloch, Denbie Mains; Mr. Melvin, Bonnington; Mr. Boyd, Stimpin Mains; Mr. Steuhouse, Turnhouse; Mr. A. C. Pagan, Crieff; Mr. Clay, Kerchesters; Mr. Forman, Dunerahill; Mr. Lindsay, Meadowfield; Mr. Gray, Duddingston; Mr. D. Curror, S.S.C.; Mr. Smith, Stone o' Morphie; Mr. Jack, Hemiston; Mr. Jack, Gyle; Mr. Brock, Overton; Mr. Paton, Standingstone; Mr. Belfrage, Samuelston; Mr. Taylor, Setou Mains; Mr. Mark, auctioneer; Mr. Lyall, Caddonlee; Mr. Thomson, Holms; Mr. Elliot, Blackhall; Mr. Russell, Greendykes; Mr. Stewart, Selms; Mr. Alexander, Deuou; Mr. Paterson, Baillienoures; Mr. Stein, Broomhouse; Mr. Proudfoot, Musselburgh; Mr. Glendinning, Hatton Mains; Mr. Andrew Potts; Mr. Harper, Snawdon; Mr. Sellar, Hartfield; Mr. W. E. Bear, Secretary of the Alliance, &c. An apology for absence was received from Mr. James Howard, Chairman of the Alliance.

The CHAIRMAN said—I could have wished, gentlemen, that one better qualified than I am had been appointed to take the chair on this occasion; but the duty has been imposed on me, and I hope you will extend to me your forbearance and assistance in the performance of it. The Farmers' Alliance has been organised in England to promote certain objects calculated to free the business of farming from the trammels of unjust laws, and the cultivation of the soil from the unwise and, in many cases, absurd restrictions which obstruct its improvement. These objects will be fully explained to you by other speakers. In this the English farmers have been more intent on obtaining the redress of what I may call fiscal grievances, such as the Malt Tax, local rates, &c., with which they consider agriculture unduly burdened; and they have not given the same attention to the reform of the land laws as we in Scotland have done. We have long seen the necessity of a reform of these laws (applause). The Scottish Chamber of Agriculture and other clubs throughout Scotland have for many years been exposing the evils inflicted by them on farmers; but although our Scotch M.P.'s a most to a man are for the abolition of Hypothec, their efforts in Parliament have invariably been frustrated by the votes of the English members. But once get the English farmer to realise the fact that the root of the evils affecting agriculture lies in these unjust laws, and a different state of matters will ensue (applause). I say, then, gentlemen, we cannot do better than give to this Alliance, which is doing a noble work in England, our support, so that by combined action the resistance to our just demands, which heretofore has baffled our utmost efforts, will speedily cease to operate against us (applause). The objects which the Alliance has set itself to accomplish are of so much importance to farmers, and are so reasonable in themselves, that it is not easy to see how any one can take exception to them. Even Mr. Chaplin, in his great speech on moving for the appointment of a royal commission, while objecting to the Alliance as representing a class, was constrained to say that he gladly recognised the justice and propriety of most of its objects—(Hear, hear)—but he expressed his belief that even if they were adopted in all their integrity they would fail to remove the present distress. That may be to a certain extent true, but nevertheless their adoption is of vital importance to the successful and efficient cultivation and improvement of the soil. What was wanted, he said, was not a farmers' alliance—the alliance of a class—but one great national league and agricultural alliance. On the

land, he added, they all depended, and any lasting or destructive blow to land would destroy them all; and having traced the distress to bad seasons and low prices owing to the vast importations of food from America, he hinted that a tax on imported food might have to be resorted to rather than that the production in our own country should cease or be greatly diminished. Now, gentlemen, we all know that whatever may become of agriculture, the people employed in the great trading and manufacturing industries of this commercial country will never again allow a tax to be imposed on imported food; and if agriculture can only exist by a return to protection, its doom is inevitable (applause). But, gentlemen, I apprehend this Alliance entertains more hopeful views of the future of agriculture in this country. It may be that no immediate remedy, except in a reduction of rents, which during the inflation of trade a few years ago were unduly raised, can effectually meet the present emergency; and doubtless much distress and suffering among all classes connected with land may have to be endured before the existing depression is removed; and this all the more as the present crop, I fear, will be found to be the worst to many farmers that has yet been experienced. I believe, gentlemen, that agriculture can only be permanently relieved by a thorough reform of our land laws, not merely as they affect owners, but especially as they bear on farmers. So long as the tenants' capital employed in the cultivation and improvement of the soil is insecure, and the Law of Hypothec with other legal preferences in favour of landlords are permitted to exist, the business of farming must be carried on under disadvantages, which in times like the present cannot fail to end in disappointment, and even in the ruin of many families. The royal commission which has been appointed is to gather information from all corners of the land, and even to extend its investigations to the uttermost ends of the earth, that we farmers may be instructed as to the kind of cultivation most profitable to be followed in order to meet and overcome the competition from America to which we are exposed. But there is one subject which to this Alliance seems the most important of all—namely, how best our land laws, as they affect farmers, can be reformed and improved, which is not directly recognised in the commission as needing enquiry, although it cannot fail to occupy the minds of many men who are unwilling nevertheless to admit that there is any necessity for enquiry being made regarding them. I shall not, however, enlarge on this topic, as doubtless it will be fully discussed by the speakers who are to address the meeting. Before sitting down, however, I should like to say a word in vindication of the formation of this Alliance. Mr. Chaplin thinks he has said enough to condemn it when he calls it a class alliance; but, gentlemen, you all know that we have been taught by the head of Her Majesty's Government to believe that three profits must come from the land, and that in this country these profits ought, on constitutional as well as on social grounds, to be enjoyed by three different classes—landlords, farmers, and labourers. To this classification no objection need be taken, provided sufficient profits can be got for all of them; but it is obvious that if this be so, we farmers, as one of the three classes interested in these profits, ought not to be frowned upon, as setting class against class, because we have seen fit to form an alliance, which we hope will see that our interests are not overlooked by the Royal Commission in its investigations, more especially as we find the landowner fully represented in it, the farmer but poorly, and the labourer not at all (applause). Had each of these classes been represented according to their respective interests, surely the two last deserved better treatment than they have got; and when it is considered that of all the three classes interested, that of the farmer is the one which of necessity must first bear the brunt of these bad times, and may even be ruined by them before either landlord or labourer can seriously suffer. Hence it is the height of unreason to complain of our having formed an alliance through which to give expression to our views, and to bring before the country what we believe to be the crying evils of the present land laws, under which the practical farmer at all times suffers, and by which, in times like the present, his sufferings are greatly intensified and prolonged (applause). Mr. Brassey, who seconded Mr. Chaplin's motion, has just published a volume in which he enumerates many subjects, of more or less consequence, requiring the attention of the Royal Commission, but not one of them, in my opinion, is of half the importance of the one which he only notices incidentally at the end of his book. "If," he

says, "we are to depend on the foreign supply of wheat, the cultivation of our soil will require readjustment, and the period of transition may be a severe trial; but by the united action of landowners and tenants, and by relieving agriculture of the trammels of an antiquated system of land laws, we shall triumph in the end;" and he adds in a closing sentence—"The action of economic laws may be impeded by narrow and illiberal legislation, but the only laws by which the value of the land will be enhanced are those which promote the happiness of the people." These are weighty words. Let us hope Mr. Chaplin and his friends in Parliament will ponder them, and profit by them (applause).

Mr. BARCLAY, M.P., said that he had very much pleasure, as vice-president of the association, and being otherwise deeply interested in agricultural reform, in submitting to this numerous and highly representative meeting of Scottish farmers the objects of the Farmers' Alliance, and the purposes for which it had been called into existence (applause). It was unnecessary for him to enlarge on the present calamitous position in which the agriculture of this country had found itself, as they were only too sensible of the severe crisis through which the farming interest was now passing. Indeed, he believed he might say with truth that the late disastrous season was the most disastrous which had been experienced for a century. After referring to the proceedings in the House of Commons in reference to the adoption of Mr. Chaplin's motion, and having taken occasion to remark that he did not think there was in the House of Commons any hon. member possessed of a sounder judgment or a cooler head than the Marquis of Hartington, he went on to say that he should have liked to have expressed his views on the question of "the three profits." The necessity of dealing with the various other subjects to which he had to allude would, however, prevent him from entering on that question. He presumed that the explanation that three profits must come out of the land was very little comfort, and no advantage to the farmers in their present dire distress (applause). But was there any farmer in the belief—and he spoke with deference in the presence of one of the gentlemen who formed the Royal Commission—a gentleman whom they held in the very highest respect (applause)—was there any farmer in Scotland or England who had hope of any benefit arising from the proceedings of the Royal Commission? (Hear, hear). He had had the experience of a former Royal Commission, before which he was examined a good many years ago as to the Law of Hypothec. That commission reported in favour of the maintenance of that law. Indeed, the report of that commission had been one of the principal arguments used in Parliament against the removal of the law. Judging from that, he thought that the result of this commission would be in accordance with the predilections of a majority of its members, just as in the case of the Law of Hypothec. He would suggest to any gentleman who was to be a witness before the commission that he should decline to do so unless the proceedings took place in public, and under the protection of the representatives of the newspaper press (applause). That was one point that he had learned from his experience as a witness giving evidence with closed doors. He thought it was likely that the report of the commission would be carried over next general election, and that it would be a very convenient reply for candidates to say that they would wait for the report of the Royal Commission, and then they would see what would be done (a laugh). Be that as it might, he was afraid that the endurance, the patience, and the purses of the farmers would be exhausted before there would be much advantage to the farmers from the Royal Commission (applause). What had struck him very much was the fact that the chosen representatives of agriculture had declared in the crisis that had arisen that they were altogether powerless, and that they were utterly unable to discover any remedy. In these circumstances it seemed to him that the time had arrived for the farmers to take the matter into their own hands, and to see whether they were able to discern the cause of agricultural distress, and what would be a remedy for that state of matters. Had they not complained for many years that the custom whereby any improvements by the tenant on his holding were appropriated from time to time by the landlord had a highly discouraging effect on agriculture, and that such a system was entirely inimical to, and a great injustice and legal robbery of the tenant farmers? Did not the Tory party get into Parliament by holding out hopes that one of the first things they would do would be the compensation of farmers for unexhausted

improvements? Now, they were all aware how their anticipations had been de-rauded by the Agricultural Holdings Act, which had been of no real value whatever. They had also complained that in consequence of the conditions imposed on leases in regard to the cultivation of land, the farmer was not in a position to make the most of the land. They were tied down by antiquated conditions, very many of which were extremely absurd, and as injurious to the landlord as they were to the tenant and the public. They had had various attempts at modification of the Game Laws. He thought almost every member from Scotland was pledged to reform of these laws, but a most remarkable fact was that while every member was prepared for a reform, he could not get a bill brought into Parliament to suit his views (laughter). He had not the ingenuity to bring in such a bill. There was a presumption of law against a tenant of agricultural subjects assigning his lease without the assent of the landlord. Why should not the same law exist in regard to agricultural as to urban subjects that a tenant should have the right, unless actually prevented by the lease, to sublet his house if it so suited his convenience? There was the further presumption of law that the father could not transmit a valuable lease to any other than the heir-at-law. It might be that many landlords did not exercise the right which was theirs by law of refusing to accept the tenant in the will of the deceased; but he knew a case where a tenant had expended from £2,000 to £3,000 on improvements, and because the heir-at-law was a clergyman, and could not give personal residence, the clergyman was ejected from the farm; he was prevented giving the farm to the second or third son, and the whole of the improvements were assumed by the landlord, who profited by them in the shape of increased rental (cries of "Shame"). Then, again, they had complaints as to additional taxation during the currency of a lease. There were some amateur political economists among the landlords in question which suited themselves, who declared that all taxes ultimately fell upon the land, but none of those gentlemen had ever been able to point out how a tenant was to be relieved from taxation during the currency of his lease. He might refer to what was the practical effect of the Education Act for Scotland. What tenant-farmers complained of in regard to it was, that land was relieved from its fair burden of the maintenance of the schools and schoolmasters, and that the whole expense was divided between the landlord and tenant instead of being borne by the land, as had been the practice under the old law and use and wont of Scotland. The next question was that of local government. Nearly fifty years ago the ratepayers and people of the towns of Scotland obtained the right of self-government; but although the people in the country had since then very greatly, he hoped, improved, and were by this time far more capable of self-government than the people of the towns were fifty years ago, no attempt had been made—or any attempt that had been made was simply in the nature of a fraud similar to the Agricultural Holdings Act—to give the tenant-farmers throughout the country a voice in their own local self-government. That was an objection which was forcing itself more and more upon the country, more particularly with the view of reducing local taxation, because he contended that if the farmers and ratepayers throughout the country had a voice in the expenditure of the money it would do more to reduce local taxation than any subsidy Government could give. There were the objects for which the Farmers' Alliance had been called into existence. He did not say that the redress of all these grievances would remedy the agricultural distress under which farmers laboured at the present moment. There was no doubt whatever that the first step towards the recovery of agriculture, and towards the infusion of new hope and energy into the minds of farmers, was a very large reduction of the present rents (applause). It was not for him to say how much that reduction would be, but it might be of service to them and other farmers if he told them some general conclusion at which he had arrived in the course of visits which he had made to America. He spoke with the greatest confidence in saying that for some years to come at least, with average seasons, they might expect larger supplies of not only grain and beef but all kinds of agricultural produce from the western States of America, he had almost said, whatever the price might be in this country. He was afraid that they had not seen the turning in the lane of agricultural adversity. The question of rent was one with which no outside body could interfere. It was a question to be decided between landlord

and tenant, but what they said was this, that if these class laws were repealed, if this one-sided legislation did not exist in support of the landlord dictating his terms to tenants, the tenant would be sooner on an equality with the landlord, and that would result not only in advantage to the tenant, but ultimately prove as advantageous to the landlord himself, and be a great benefit to the country at large (applause). He had no doubt that the population of the burghs, when they were fully made alive to the circumstances of the case, and how their interests were affected by these laws, would give them help when they found the farmers beginning, as they were by this Alliance, to help themselves (applause). As to the means by which these results were to be accomplished, they had put first the securing of a better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament. That was the cardinal point in the matter. It would not do to declaim against these laws if they were not prepared to give effect to their views and conclusions by returning to Parliament members really impressed with the grievances which farmers complained of. It has been said as an objection to the Farmers' Alliance that they were a political party. He hoped that they would be a political party. The objects which they had been formed to deal with were political objects, and they could only be accomplished by political means. But then some gentlemen he might refer to, some of the Tory members for England, complained of them, that the Farmers' Alliance was composed of gentlemen who belonged to one side of politics, and that there could be no doubt that the Alliance was formed for party and political purposes. As one who assisted in organising the Farmers' Alliance, he was prepared to contradict that statement. He was glad to say that it had sprung entirely from the farmers' views of the question, from the farmers' anxieties to be represented in Parliament, not from any of the two great political parties of the State. He suspected that those who made this objection feared that the members of the Alliance were too much in earnest to suit their views (laughter and applause). They heard at one time a great deal about the Milt Tax, but when the Tory party got into power there was no more heard of it; the time was considered inopportune. He thought that the Alliance should follow the example of Cobden and the early free-traders, decline to ally themselves with either of the great political parties in the State, but be prepared to accept reform from either of the two great parties (applause). As a very decided Liberal himself, he must say that he was not in very much hope of receiving very much reform from the Tory party; but in saying so, history, he must admit, contradicted the assumption. They all knew how Sir Robert Peel sacrificed his party for the good of his country, and gave free trade to the nation; and they also knew how the present Prime Minister sacrificed Tory principles—he did not say his principles—(laughter and applause)—to give household franchise. And it might be possible in the various combinations which might arise, in the necessities which might fall upon the country, that the gentlemen of the Tory Tory party—some patriot, let them say, of the Tory party—would come forward and save the country by granting these reforms—by giving such encouragement and freedom to farmers as would again stimulate the agriculture of the country. He was sorry that he could not say much in favour of the Whig party in the State. They, so far as appeared to him, had been very indifferent on the whole subject (Hear, hear). But he thought there were signs of a change. If it was not presumptuous in him to offer an opinion to a gentleman so infinitely superior in judgment to himself, he should say that, in his opinion, it was the duty of the right hon. gentleman, Mr. Gladstone, at the coming meetings here in Edinburgh, to make a declaration on behalf of the Liberal party of what they proposed to do in regard to these questions (applause). He thought he might further say that if he did make some such general declaration in regard to the questions they had brought before them—he had no doubt the farmers of Mid-Lothian would recognise it to be their duty, not only to themselves but to the country at large, and those who came after them, to return as their representative one whom he did not hesitate to say was one of the noblest men, and unquestionably the greatest statesman of this great generation (cheers and loud hisses). He did not intend to evoke any demonstration of party politics. He would carefully avoid raising questions of party politics, and they would see that he stated as a condition of the electors of Mid-Lothian so acting that the right hon. gentleman

should bring forward statements in regard to the questions of immediate interest to them (cheers). As regarded the question of the better representation, the Alliance did not intend to say by that the farmers only should be elected to represent farmers in Parliament. He would himself prefer a farmers' representative, but on account of expense, not only of election, but afterwards, he feared very much that they could not hope to have any large farmer representation in Parliament. And in regard to the question of landlord representatives, he felt called on to say that, judging from past experience, there was little to be hoped for from them. He did not say that those questions most interesting to them should be made testing questions at elections, but he would say that farmers ought not to be satisfied with a candidate from whom only pledges could be coerced in favour of those views. They should insist on securing a candidate who they believed fully sympathised with their grievances, and would exert himself honestly and zealously for the promotion of those reforms which they believed would not only be of the greatest benefit to themselves, but also to the nation at large (cheers).

SIR GEORGE BALFOUR, M.P., after some introductory remarks referring to the efforts made in Parliament during the last seven years to abolish the Law of Hypothec, expressed his opinion that their non-success was due to the fact of the farming interest not being sufficiently represented in the House of Commons. How could they expect to contend against 300 landowners ranged against the abolition of the Scotch Hypothec and the English Law of Destrainment? He believed that there was not a single landowner in the House of Commons who did not believe, or would hesitate to stand up and say, that he knew much more of farming operations than the farmers themselves (a laugh). He had no doubt that they were sincere in their views, and that they thought they were doing good to the farmers by opposing their demands for freedom from the shackles which restrain and injure the farming operations. But he would appeal to the experienced farmers now present whether the farming interest did not suffer under many and great disadvantages, and that the farming interest was injured, not merely by the state of the weather, but in a far more severe manner by other causes besides, all of which are capable of being removed. He thought that much good would be done by their sending a greater number of men to Parliament to represent the agricultural interest and advocate their cause (applause). Never was there a time more favourable to the promotion of their interests than the present. If they neglected their opportunity, not only were their interests sacrificed, but the welfare of Scotland and the world at large was deeply endangered. Although Mr. Barclay had told them of the great resources of America, still Scotland and England had great resources also, and he hoped that the farmers would not allow these resources to be destroyed for want of due and sufficient representation in Parliament. The key to the whole position depended on the measures which they were now to carry out to secure this representation. He believed that if they had got rid of the Law of Hypothec before this time, all the improvements they asked for in getting rid of the injurious conditions inserted in leases, and in withholding compensation would have followed therefrom. The question of hypothec was therefore a symbolical one. He had good reason for saying that some members of the Government were in favour of the abolition of the Law of Hypothec, and he had been told by one of them that the difficulty was caused by those who sat behind—the 300 landowners who at present held the key of the position, in resisting the friendly wishes of the Ministers. (A disturbance here took place at the back of the hall, and on the Chairman inquiring what was the matter, he was told that some one was being removed for pocket-picking.) Resuming, Sir George Balfour said there were many ways of pocket-picking—(laughter)—one of which had been alluded to by Mr. Barclay—that of taking possession of the improvements effected by farmers without compensation (laughter and applause). After referring to the operation of the Law of Hypothec in France, which resembles the law as declared by the Scotch Court of September, 1756, and is also equally as injurious in France in retarding the progress of agriculture, he said he believed that many landowners were prepared to vote for a change, as many of them were in very distressed circumstances from the fact that a large portion of the land which they held was embarrassed with settlements and mortgages. The present meeting would see that a change

was about to take place in the position of political parties; and at such a time they would always engage the attention of the one political party or the other. The town people and the manufacturing people were fully as much interested in the matter as were the farmers; and they were not merely to look to the question as affecting farmers and landlords, but the country as a whole. The reason why he wished them to bring about the changes that at present were required was to enable the farmers to pay their rents—not to lower the operations of farming but to extend the present insufficient capital by giving greater security for its investment, and so to improve the farming and increase the productions of the soil as to meet the demands made upon the land. He had found that since free trade in grain was established, the value of land had within 80 years advanced to the extent of 22 per cent. in England and 35 per cent. in Scotland. The value of the Scotch land alone was two millions higher than it was thirty years ago through the improvements that had taken place. He was willing to admit that the landowners had aided in extending those improvements, but no doubt can exist that the tenant farmers of Scotland had largely contributed towards this great result. He meant by that that the interests of landlords and farmers were capable of being both joined together; and he would ask them not to separate those interests, but to do away with those obstacles which landholders imposed on the cultivation of the soil and so unite the interests of both parties as to be beneficial to all parties (applause).

Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN, M.P., said he had always taken a great interest in the hypothec question, and supporting every measure for its abolition. But Mr. Agnew, Mr. Carnegie, or any other independent member, would be perfectly powerless so long as in the House of Commons the opinions, the feelings the desires of the tenant-farmers were so poorly represented (applause). In order to carry out the agricultural reforms which this Alliance had in view, it was quite certain that legislation was necessary. They knew what the House was where legislative work was done. They also knew that they, the electors of Great Britain, kept the key of the House, and if they wanted to get work done there they must be careful whom they let do it (applause). If those reforms the Alliance endeavoured to promote were ever to be carried out it would not be owing to the inquiries or report of the Royal Commission, but due to the action of the electors, and more particularly the tenant-farmers, at the polling-booths at the next election (applause). He did not say elect Liberals nor elect Conservatives, but elect gentlemen heartily in earnest in going the full length with them in those agricultural reforms which were necessary, and in once more re-establishing the prosperity of agriculture in this country (applause).

Mr. JOHN McLAREN, who was next called on to address the meeting, said he thought he could best occupy the time for a few minutes by referring to a subject not much touched upon as yet—he meant the reform of the property laws (applause). That important subject had not yet been taken up by the Farmers' Alliance as one of the points upon which they had resolved to educate themselves; but he understood that a large number of the members of the Alliance both in England and Scotland were highly favourable to that subject being dealt with and pressed on candidates for election to Parliament. While he heartily agreed with all that Mr. Barclay and other speakers had said on the question of the abolition of the Law of Hypothec, and in regard to compensation for unexhausted improvements to farmers, he had great faith in the principle of Free Trade in the sale and transfer of land—(applause)—and leaving all natural forces that tended either to the accumulation or dispersion of land to have free play, in the belief that under such a system the land would find its way into the hands of those who were able to make it profitable (applause). He considered that on this question some little assistance might be obtained from looking at the state of the law in other countries. He was not going into the question of peasant proprietorship, but when he found that in this country the agricultural interest was in a state of extreme depression from one end of the kingdom to the other, and that in the older states of America, where land was about as high as it was in England or Scotland, farmers were certainly not suffering so much from competition, it became them to consider whether there might not be something in the tenure of land which prevailed in these countries, as distinguished from tenure of land in this country, which

might account for the difference in the results. What they found in Western Europe and America was that they had the land about equally divided between proprietary and tenant farmers, while in this country such individuals as the former were comparatively unknown. He should infer from that that in countries where there were no restrictions in the sale of land, and no limited interests were allowed in land, the natural operation of the economic forces was to encourage the two systems of tenant farming and proprietary farming as systems which might meet side by side competing with each other, and at the same time mutually assisting each other (applause). When he asked why they did not have both systems in operation, the answer would at once occur to every one that by their laws nearly the whole lands in Scotland, probably one-half of it in England, were so tied up by settlement that it was simply impossible to obtain for purchase a piece of land of the size for a farm, were an agriculturist ever so willing to make the experiment of cultivating his own land. They were often told that the entail laws of this country had been very much modified. No doubt they had been altered in the direction of benefitting the landed proprietors and heirs in possession who were under their restraining power; but while proprietors were enabled to borrow money for various purposes, family provisions, &c., the result was that under this relaxed system of entail law the land did not come into market any more than it did before. And why? Because they could not disentail the smallest portion of land except by giving compensation sometimes to three and sometimes to two nearest heirs of entail. Generally it would be a very bad bargain for a landed proprietor to disentail if he had to pay away half the price he got for his land in the shape of compensation. He was not saying anything against the existing laws of disentail. A great deal of good had been done by them, but he thought a more sweeping measure necessary if land was ever to become a more marketable commodity. What he would suggest was that whoever was in the actual possession of land, whether as heir of entail or life renter, or having any other limited interest, should have the power of selling that land, the price, of course, being subject to the same trust or limitation as the land was. If the land were free, and large quantities fell into the market, they would have along with the tenant-farmers a number of farmers possessed of capital sufficient to enable them to purchase their own farms, and the existence of that class would induce landlords to be more reasonable and less stringent in the conditions which they offer to their tenants. For if a landlord knew that the conditions of lease on his estate were too hard—and it was possible for his tenants to go into the market and buy land of their own, borrowing money on the security of it—he would be likely to modify these conditions, or else be in the position of not being able to find a tenant at all. It was from the competition of persons willing to sell their property, and those offering to lease their property, that he thought the best remedy was to be found for the somewhat severe exactions to which farmers generally were subjected. He believed that the majority of the present proprietors were favourable to the removal of the disabilities to the sale of land. No class could benefit more by the removal than the landed proprietors themselves (applause). He would only venture to make one other observation, and that was on the subject of compensation for improvements. They had been told by many men, whose opinions were well entitled to consideration, that what they proposed was against freedom of contract. They said that no relief the Legislature could offer would be of any use, because it would always be in the power of landlord and tenant to contract together and avoid the operation of the law. He for one would be opposed to any interference with freedom of contract between landlord and tenant, or any other class of the community, but he thought they must give reasonable meaning to the word contract. He could not quite see that a law under which the one party took the whole benefit of the improvements effected by the other, without any consideration deserved to be called a contract (laughter and applause). It was open to question whether the Legislature should lend support and encouragement to that kind of contract. It must be determined by the consideration of the general interest of the public. In that interest a true solution might be found (applause).

Mr. NICOLL (Littleton) then moved: "That this meeting

approves of the objects of the Farmers' Alliance, believing that their accomplishment would remove some of the principal hindrances to the prosperity of agriculture." He expressed the pleasure which he had in giving his adhesion to the Farmers' Alliance, because he found in its programme no revolutionary proposals, but only the demands of right and justice (applause). Indeed, he had heard no objection taken to its programme; and the only objection he had heard urged against it was its title of a Farmers' Alliance. It had been held that that implied antagonism to landlords. Now, he had heard ever since he could remember of the interests of the tenantry being identical with those of the proprietor. If that was so, surely it stood to reason that the interests of the landlord must be the same as the tenant's (applause). He was not a landlord, and therefore he was not qualified to speak of landlords' interests; but he had been a tenant-farmer for over 20 years, and might therefore be presumed to know his own interests, and he presumed he found them expressed in the demands of the Farmers' Alliance (applause). He trusted that the Alliance might receive a large measure of success north of the Tweed; and he was satisfied that the realisation of its objects would bring in the end some degree of peace and true prosperity to the greatest and most important of our national industries (applause).

Mr. McCULLOCH (Denbie Mains) in seconding the resolution, said he would address himself to three topics on which there was considerable indistinctness of opinion, and which were not seemingly well understood; indeed, the first was somewhat repugnant to some ears—trades' unions, the representation in Parliament of agricultural constituencies, and the principle of freedom of contract (applause). The Farmers' Alliance was neither more nor less than a trade's union, and it was only the other day a tenant farmer, who, he believed, was also a landlord in a small way, held land largely from the Duke of Buccleuch, and lived near the ducal mansion in Dumfriesshire, lamented the prospect of the tenant farmers becoming unionists, and attaching themselves to an alliance in London. Shortly after, one of their local M.P.'s implored farmers to unite—not themselves—but with their landlords; not for the purpose of keeping the tenants out of the Bankruptcy Court, but the landlords out of an encumbered estates one (laughter). Unions are good or bad, legitimate or illegitimate, in accordance with the objects they have in view, and the means adopted for securing them. When tenant farmers combine for the purpose of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market, or for the removal of laws which in the words of the Alliance, hinder the prosperity of agriculture, then such a union is a proper and legitimate one; but had fixity of tenure, maximum rents per acre, the superseding of pre-ent landlords for the purpose of establishing a peasant proprietary, or even interference by law with freedom of contract, been any section of the programme of this or any other Alliance, then the objects would have been outside the proper limits, and liable to the condemnation even of every right-thinking individual within the class. So with landowners; when they by every fair means direct individual and united effort to the improvement of their estates, their annual income, or social status, these objects are not only legitimate and proper, but highly laudable; but if they use their influence and their social—it may be their judicial—position for the purpose of tyrannising over an unfortunate wretch who has offended in the slightest tittle the class laws which regulate their pastimes, or in the sphere of representative in the House of Commons used their position for the purpose of misrepresenting the opinion of the constituencies, the perpetuation of their own class privileges, or the establishment of new ones—then such unions, even although not bearing the outward semblance of such, are base and illegitimate (Applause). It might appear harsh language to charge members of Parliament with such conduct; but he thought he could refresh their memory to an extent which would be a convincing proof of their guilt. When the measure introduced by Mr. Carnegie into the House of Commons for the abolition of hypothec was being discussed, the English members voted and spoke openly against the Bill; for with yearly tenure and fairly prosperous times, they had their tenants well in hand. The Scotch members, however, knew that on this question public opinion was matured, and that their constituencies were in earnest; therefore recourse had to be taken to some specious argument which would give an appearance of consistency to their vote. They told the House that it was no preference to the landlord, and that it was a law

wise in conception, sound in principle, and in operation the succour and support of a class of small farmers who, as the lean kine of old, would be eaten up by the fat kine, the large farmers, the bloated capitalists, then evidently a very common species, but now, in accordance with the geological gospel, although not requiring geological epochs, fast becoming extinct (laughter and applause). Another proof was to be had in the Education Bill, and it was not a solitary one, in the sum of some £50,000 or £80,000 which they took to pass a measure which was believed had the approbation of the majority of the people of Scotland, even of that section whose vested interests were forgotten, and who had been saddled with half the rate. Those tenants who were in the middle of leases as happened in Scotland, had in this a far greater grievance than their yearly tenure brethren in England, who could at the end of any year make a new bargain. That brought him to Parliamentary representation, and it behoves them to examine themselves in that direction. He could not well speak of the House of Lords, for they were told that they possessed a hereditary right, and he supposed a hereditary ability to use it in making laws for the guidance of those who do not possess those qualifications, and who are told that they should bless themselves they have in the Upper House such a chamber of appeal (laughter). But he would contrast the self-abnegation and sound judgment which directed Lord Huntley to go so far from the prejudices of his class as to advocate and support reforms in land tenure, with the prostitution of high-class education and training in the affairs of State by the Duke of Argyll, for the purpose—the mean purpose—of denying even an equitable right to a tenant to compensation for unexhausted improvements (applause). In consulting an authority on the composition of the House of Commons, he found tenant-farmers credited with five members; but he could not recall to memory any *bona fide* ones except Mr. Read, the member for South Norfolk, and Mr. Barclay, the member for Forfar (applause). The former had lost his respect—(applause and hisses)—for either his honesty or judgment must be at fault when he would tinker such an iniquity as the Law of Distress, and compromise its total abolition by restricting its vile operation to only two years. Of the member for Forfar he was proud to speak in the highest possible terms (applause). He had proved a good member for the country, in a special degree for his own county and the class which he might be said to represent; but, nevertheless, had the statesmanlike qualification of subordinating every class interest—even that of the tenant farmers—to the general weal (applause). To the now Earl of Eife and some others the thanks of tenant farmers were due for their action in regard to reforms (applause). He wished he could say it of them all. Dealing with the east coast, he by some chance alighted on a county once celebrated for leading the van in agricultural progress. He wished he could compliment the farmers of East Lothian on the choice of their representative (Hear, hear). Of all others he had the most systematically opposed everything which tended in the direction of the removal of class privilege; and he hoped that the time had come when his constituents would say to him, "Not this man, but one who will not betray us" (laughter and applause). Looking westwards, he turned his thoughts to his native county, and bewailed his representative misery. Few constituencies could boast of such a representative as the county of Wigtown had at one time at its command; but such was the state of the farming mind at that time—it was different now—that the claims of the one to whom he referred were set aside; they chose a namby-pamby, because he was supported by the landowners of the one and tacitly acknowledged by those of the other party (laughter). In concluding, Mr. McCulloch said—I hold that under existing circumstances free contract is impossible. It might as well be said that slaves could freely contract for their labour, or that any one signing a document under force and fear with a free contractor, as that a landlord thrilled by entail, expensive transfer, and limited ownership, is a free contractor; much less is a tenant, over whose effects a landlord has a legal priority as against other creditors, whose credit is thus injured, and against whom operate unjust legal presumptions in regard to the disposal of his lease, and the reaping the fruits of his improvements. No; the contractors must first be set free if we are to compete successfully with the foreigner, and for this purpose—a perfectly legitimate one—this Alliance should co-operate with

tenant farmers, their candidates and representatives, for the abolition of existing entails, the prohibition of new ones, the abolition of hypothec, distress, and cognate Court of Session enactments, the alteration of those unjust legal presumptions which hinder assignation and free disposition of leases, which do not hold a repetition of the cost of improvements good against a purchaser or singular successor, and which rather than in the maxim, "As ye sow, so shall ye also reap," drifts away from the old imperial code of Rome in "What is mixed with and fixed to the soil, goes with the soil." When these reforms are carried out, I have no hesitation in predicting that agriculture will attract to it vastly additional capital, and enter on a new era—more prosperous than any by which it has been preceded; and in the benefits of increased production consequent on free growth, and which has not been over-stated by Lord Derby, all classes, but especially those more closely connected, will share. And if the results should not be as I have predicted, even then legislative interference with freedom of contract is not the proper remedy. There yet remains a sound economic one—that advocated by Lord Derby, perhaps unsympathetically, perhaps unpatriotically, but nevertheless the most powerful one—Betake yourselves to other industries! Emigrate to other climes! (applause).

Mr. CROSS (Glasgow) compared the present state of matters with that before the repeal of the Corn Laws. At that time there had been three bad harvests, a potato blight in Ireland, and a depression of trade, and under these circumstances a new light was thrown upon the operation of the corn laws. There was a like state of matters now, as the agricultural depression threw new light on the operation of certain laws under which land was held (applause). These land laws all came down hoary with the mists of centuries. They were laws made at a time when the power of making laws belonged to a very small party (Hear, hear). The heart which beats below the breast of a landowner was very like the heart of everybody else, and he would be very much tempted to look after No. 1 in the first place (Hear). Was it possible that laws made to suit a set of things which were now wholly dead could possibly suit the present day? What security could they have for the safety of a class in legislation passed when that class had not come into existence? (applause). This was no party question. It was a question for the nation. It was a question for their great cities—(Hear, hear)—for the landlords and for the tenants. The landlords ought not to oppose the objects of this Alliance, as they would derive as much good from it as the tenant-farmers. He asked why capital, which was so plentiful, did not reach the land? and he replied because of the Land Laws (applause). They would never obtain reform unless they set about it in a methodic and determined manner. Farmers did not know their power, and he counselled union in all matters connected with land reform.

Mr. BEAR, Secretary of the Alliance, said that the Alliance was doing a good work in England in stirring up the tenants and inducing them to select candidates who would truly represent them in Parliament. The present county members, he said, were the chief opponents of the reforms which Scottish farmers desired to obtain, and the Alliance might fairly ask for support in Scotland if only on the ground that its efforts were likely to have the effect of rendering English farmers dissatisfied with their present representatives. Scottish farmers were very generally in favour of the objects of the Farmers' Alliance and the promoters of the Association had from the first, confidently expected that they would be largely supported in Scotland. He concluded by stating that he was ready to enroll members, on which Professor Blackie said amid loud applause—

"Here's the money then!"

The motion was then carried unanimously.

Mr. SMITH (West Drums) moved:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the Farmers' Alliance deserves the support of the farmers of Scotland, and of all who are in favour of agricultural reform."

He said that the aims of the Alliance very much resembled those of their own Chamber of Agriculture (Hear, hear). They had accomplished a very great work in their Chamber. They had returned to Parliament for a number of years—he might say chiefly from the instructions they had sown broadcast over the land—nineteen-twentieths of their members to support agricultural reform. He urged them to break down the English Toryism, the organised Conservatism which prevailed

to such an extent there, and which had hitherto formed a great barrier to the advance of their cause. He had no great hopes of this agricultural commission, because he learned both from history and from personal experience that the commissions hitherto appointed had not resulted in any good. The present agricultural depression resolved itself very much into this, that the expense of production had really gone beyond the value of the article produced (applause).

The CHAIRMAN stated that Mr. Wilson, Eddington Mains, was to have seconded the resolution, but having caught cold at the meeting of the previous day, he was unable to be present. He had, however, sent a letter in which he expressed his gratification at the action which was being taken in connection with the Alliance, and urged the importance of getting rid of distrait and hypothec.

Mr. RIDDELL (Hundalee) in supporting the resolution, said that nothing could be more natural for farmers than, like other people, to look after their own interest. The Alliance aimed at having tenant-farmers better represented in Parliament. He dared say few would deny that the county representatives of Scotland, as a rule, were not the men whose interests were identical with farmers. Had it been the case that proprietors and farmers were sailing in the same boat, undoubtedly the best arrangement would have been that proprietors who had, or ought to have, a permanent interest in agriculture should be the representatives of counties, having both time and money for the proper discharge of such onerous duties. However, he did not hesitate to say—and the fact was notorious—that the interests of the two parties had not hitherto been identical; hence it was most reasonable, wherever possible, that farmers should be represented by one of their own number. There was no fear that too many would be sent to Parliament, as the expense of contesting counties was so excessive that few were eligible. But if the Scottish farmers only willed it they could send men to Parliament who would thoroughly represent them, selected either from amongst themselves or otherwise. As the darkest hour was just before the dawn, he thought the darkest hour of agriculture was approaching, from which they would emerge into a brighter state of things. On that subject he would quote what had been said by Lord Randolph Churchill. He said "that tremendous foreign competition was beginning to make itself felt and, to meet that competition, they must effect great changes in their agricultural system. If the landlord and tenant were to compete successfully with the foreigner, they must be absolutely free and unshackled. In America, their most dreaded and formidable competitor, agricultural enterprise was free as the air. So long as they willingly, and with the eyes open, allowed themselves to be tied down and weighted and handicapped by old laws and old customs, they would be inevitably beaten in the race. He would like landlords to look upon their estates as a business and upon their tenants as managing partners of the business, and the owner himself might invest capital in the cultivation of the land. He was tied down by regulations unsuited to the times; and a great obstacle to the investment of capital in the cultivation of the land was to be found in the law of entail. The limited owner, as he was called—the man who had only a life interest in his property, which might end to-morrow—could not enter into extended operations for the development of the productive powers of his estates. If landlords and tenants were anxious to effect a transfer of land to each other's advantage, no antique traditions should be suffered to interpose. Such arrangements, on the contrary, should rather be facilitated by the State and encouraged by the law. Lord Beaconsfield had told them to be not "precipitate in anything they did; but, in his opinion, it was the case of the drowning man, and help must come quickly. He should advise the farmers to support those men who are prepared with a definite policy, and with distinct and definite remedies, which should solve the difficulties in the agricultural world, and would repair the disasters sustained in late years." These statements, being uttered by a Conservative Lord, were well worthy of due consideration, and would be endorsed by almost every agriculturist in the country (applause).

Mr. BETHUNE (of Blebo) also supported the resolution. He was glad that England had aroused itself to the matter, as from the small number of members sent to Parliament from Scotland they were apt to be shunted aside. If they had not had the much larger and richer country along with them, he

did not believe that they would have had the programme—the moderate, sensible, and absolutely necessary programme—of the English Alliance. He trusted that they would find the lauded proprietors, farmers, and other interested in true and sound farming joining the Alliance in large numbers. A great deal had been said about landlords and tenants helping each other. He read that in this way, that when a man was doing well he should give all the help he could to good men throughout the country. Tenants ought to take very good care when they did not want help not to ask it, because landlords had a great deal to do in all directions. In the future he had the most perfect confidence that if they endeavoured to carry out those matters in which they were interested as brought before them that day, the matter of rent would set itself right, and a real dawn of agricultural prosperity set in (applause).

Cries here arose for "Professor Blackie."

THE PROFESSOR said it would be premature in him now to speak. He had only come here to learn, but if after thinking over the matter he should be thought to be a useful ally, he would take the opportunity of speaking on a future occasion (applause).

The resolution was thereupon carried.

Mr. SELLAR (Hartfield, Tain) moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Goodlet for presiding, and the meeting separated.

### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AT HITCHIN.

On November 11 a public meeting in connexion with the Farmers' Alliance was held at the Town Hall, Hitchin.

Mr. E. K. Fordham, of Ashwell, occupied the chair; and amongst those present were:—Mr. John Smyth, Mr. J. W. Smith, Mr. Charles Crouch, Mr. James Crouch, Mr. Trethewey, jun., Mr. C. W. Wilshere, Mr. Cranfield, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Whitbread Roberls, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Gresham, Mr. Porter, Mr. A. Ransom, Mr. R. Marsh, Mr. C. Davis, Mr. Davis, jun., Mr. W. Hanscombe, Mr. N. Hine, Mr. G. Moules, Mr. Doggett, Mr. M. H. Foster, Mr. W. Lucas, Mr. S. Lucas, Mr. J. C. Priest, Mr. P. Franklin, Mr. Crouch (Ridgemount), Mr. Aroold, Mr. Sale, Mr. Miller, Mr. R. Peddar, Mr. Simpkins, Mr. Norman Taylor, Mr. J. C. Allen, Mr. Masters, Mr. Edgington, Mr. A. Marsh, Mr. James Wright, Mr. Swain, Mr. Pearman, Mr. Chapman, Mr. John Lewin, Mr. Tuke, Mr. Seeborn, Mr. W. Ransom, Mr. Shillitoe, Mr. Lindsell, Mr. F. A. Wright, Mr. Shilcock, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Steed, Mr. James Lewin, Mr. W. Carliog, Mr. G. F. Baker, Mr. Dowdeswell, Mr. Smith, jun., Mr. T. Cook, Mr. Reed, &c.

The Hall was densely crowded, many of the audience having to content themselves with standing room.

THE CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings said:—Brother farmers and gentlemen,—I am here this evening filling a rather responsible and very honourable position in presiding on the occasion at the request of the Committee of the Farmers' Alliance. I only wish they had selected a better man for the post. The compliment they have paid me I am afraid you will find is one paid to me at your expense. I must throw myself on your mercy; and I am quite sure you will regard me with charitable eyes. This association eschews politics, and I hope any observation having a political character will be left out in the cold. To speak for myself, I think I am, as a farmer, in some measure qualified for this post; for I farm, or endeavour to farm, six hundred acres. I have, moreover, farmed on my own account for more than half a century, and I served an apprenticeship of fourteen years to the business before that. I think I may be recognised as a farmer and a farmers' friend. My sympathies have always been with the agriculturist in his struggles; I have always taken great interest in agriculture and have striven to promote its success in every way (applause). Farmers have indeed had a hard time of it lately; but they have had the advantage, if advantage it be, of plenty of advice from those who know little or nothing about farming (laughter

and applause). Critics who know very little are, I believe, generally found to give more advice than those who know more. You have been advised to produce more poultry. That is one of the things. More geese, I believe (laughter). I am not at all sure that in the giving of this advice there is not a fellow feeling between the geese in broadcloth and the geese in feathers (laughter). You have been advised to convert your pianos into pigsties, and your hunters into plough horses. Some of our advisers have said that the road to success is to double your capital. As some of you have lost half your capital it seems an inopportune moment to give such advice (Hear, hear). There is one evil I would like to bring under your notice, if I might be allowed to give you a little advice in addition to what you have already received. The evil to which I would like to direct your attention is one that affects both landlord and tenant. I refer to the inequality of local taxation (Hear, hear). Local taxes press very heavily on agriculturists, and there is every prospect of their pressing yet more heavily than they do at present. The more I look at the subject the more I am convinced of the inequality and injustice of the present system of local taxation (applause). Some people say the landed interest has no right to complain of burdens put on in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the landed interests, they say, have borne these burdens since then and they shall continue to bear them. They seem to think that because the burdens have been borne so long the landed interests have no right to complain of them now. I am quite content to meet such people on their own ground. In a clause of the Act to which they refer it is stated that everybody should contribute to taxation in proportion to his ability to do so. In the time of Elizabeth the only property, or almost the only property, was land; and therefore it was only land that could be taxed. If they rely on the clause I have mentioned—and a very fair and just clause it is—then all property should contribute now, as it did then. Since that clause was passed cotton-spinning, and many other industries have sprung up. All who derive income, from whatever source, should contribute in proportion to their means and ability to bear the public burdens. Landowners are also told, "You ought not to be relieved from such burdens, because you bought your property subject to these taxes." I say I did not. I bought mine forty or fifty years ago, and then the only tax was the poor-rate proper. Since then charges other than those connected with the relief of the destitute have been put on the poor-rate. Then with regard to roads. It was quite right that at one time the farmers should make roads for each other; they did not make them for other people, for almost everybody was a farmer. Within the last forty years there has been a gradual growth of local taxation. First came the New Poor-law, and orders were given for the spending of I don't know how much in building union workhouses. Then in our own neighbourhood we were ordered to spend a quarter of a million of money in building an asylum for the three counties. The land was not, I suppose, responsible for the lunatics—(laughter)—and ought not more than any other source of income to have been made responsible for the care and support of such lunatics. Then as regards the education of the people. I do not see why farmers should be called upon to pay for that education, and why all other classes of the community should not be required to pay their share (applause). I yield to no one in my regard for the advantages of education in themselves; education adds to the happiness of the individual and to the advantage of society; I do not know on which to lay the greatest stress. On one particular class—one particular interest, representing about a fifth of the property of the country—the cost of educating the people was thrown. That, I think, was entirely wrong (applause). Manufacturing and other philanthropists said, "The education of the people of this country is much behindhand. The labouring classes in England are worse educated than the labouring classes of any other country." And it was said that the manufacturing interest suffered because of this want of knowledge, as English manufacturers had not so well educated workmen as the manufacturers on the continent of Europe had. They made this just complaint to the Government, and the Government passed the Education Bill. But the Government instead of making all classes pay their share, threw the cost on the landed interest alone. It should be borne in mind that in France and Germany the cost of education is paid out of Imperial and not local taxation, and

sequently that cost is not laid on any particular interest. It is not the landed interest that supports education in those countries, but the whole people (applause). Of the way in which the cost of education was defrayed in this country I am able to give an instance. I am assessed at £2,000 in my parish, and when the Education Bill passed I had to pay my proportion of the expense of carrying out the Act in that parish. The rate is now tenpence in the pound; say a shilling for convenience's sake, and it will be found that I have to pay £100 a year; and I have, perhaps, in addition to this, to pay dearer for labour than before. If this charge for education be not opposed by you the tax will, so to speak, become chronic. The longer you leave it unopposed you will find it the harder to get it taken off. That £100 I spoke of just now represents a charge of £3,000; that is, it would take that sum to redeem the property from the tax. I think that is a very unjust thing. I should not, of course, object to pay my share of the cost of education if other property were taxed as well as landed property. I should pay willingly under such circumstances. The tax would then be about a halfpenny in the pound; now, as I have said, it is nearer a shilling. The question is, Is the agricultural interest to pay a shilling in the pound while other property pays nothing? Look at Bass's great brewing establishment at Burton; I am told that the profits are £300,000; and yet the firm pays no appreciable sum towards the education of the people. Why is land to pay and other kinds of property to escape? It seems to me that the agricultural interest do not realise the wrong to which they have been subjected (applause). The Chairman went on to illustrate his argument as to the inequality of local taxation by what he called a fable. Suppose, he said, five persons lived together and four of them said to the fifth, "We want a leg of mutton; you go to the butcher, as you are a good judge of meat and a capital hand at a bargain; but you must pay for it yourself." The farmers were asked to bear the burden of local taxation because, as some people said, they were such good administrators. "Farmers," they said, "spend as little as they can help when dealing with the Poor Law, as the money is raised by local taxation; but if it comes from imperial taxation they will spend it rather carelessly." The agricultural interest reminded him of a camel. The farmers bore their burdens patiently; grumbled a little now and then, but did not say much. People said to them, "you have always been loaded, and we don't see why you should escape." The last part of the load had been put on very recently, and it was but a small part. One of the provisions of the Highway Act was that the Local Government Board appointed auditors to audit the accounts, as they did not think farmers could keep them well, and these auditors were paid out of the local rates. After speaking of the Valuation Bill which had been introduced into Parliament during the last three sessions, and condemning one of its clauses on the ground that it would add still further to the burdens of the local taxpayer, the Chairman went on to say that the object of the Alliance was to get farmers to combine and work together for the redress of the grievances they wished to see removed. He pointed out that "union is strength," and said that if they wished to rid themselves of the burdens of local taxation, which at present pressed unduly on them, they would have to take this for their motto (loud applause).

Mr. JAMES HOWARD, who was received with applause, said:—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen—I would say at the outset that the Farmers' Alliance has not put forth its programme as a complete panacea for all the evils which at present afflict our agriculture. To do so would be an insult to the common sense of this meeting, to have done so would have been an insult to the common sense of the country. As practical men we know full well that there have been forces at work over which human effort could exercise no control. We also know that there are forces in operation which are of that inexorable character which govern markets and prices over which no remedial legislative measures which are practicable can touch. At the same time we believe the country is entering upon, if it has not entered upon, a new era so far as agriculture is concerned. Changes seem to be, so to speak, in the air; the upward tendency in the value and rent of land which has prevailed for generations past has received a very sudden and very unexpected check, a check which I believe it will not recover for many a year to come (Hear, hear). Seeing that we are upon the eve of changes we think

it desirable in starting fresh to start fair (applause); that whatever changes in our customs and in our laws which experience has taught us to be useless, or worse than useless, should be thrown overboard, and that whatever tends to check prosperity in agriculture should be abandoned (Hear, hear). So grave, so important, are the issues at stake affecting the great industrial pursuit of our country that it behoves all concerned in the welfare of agriculture to consider calmly what is best to be done. I say calmly because I apprehend that agriculture is of so much moment that any changes should be looked fairly in the face, and that, as the Chairman has said, without any party or political bias. I say that they should be looked in the face calmly and without any political bias because some of my friends in my neighbourhood have written to me stating that the Alliance is regarded by many as a mere party affair—a political move. In other places we have had to meet the same charges, but when charges of this character are made without any attempt to justify the statement, any attempt to substantiate, perhaps it is scarcely worth while to spend much time in rebutting those charges (applause). On the present occasion I would content myself by simply pointing to the first object on our programme, which is to secure the better representation of the farmers in Parliament (loud applause). I will ask you, as sensible men, is it likely that if the object of the Farmers' Alliance was simply to strengthen the Radical party that we should appeal to the farmers of the United Kingdom to send men of their own class to represent them in Parliament? The thing is so puerile it is idle to spend much time in refuting it. I hold agriculture to be too serious, too important a matter, to be made a shuttlecock of by either of the two great political parties (cheers). Again, be it remembered that the farmers of England have the Alliance entirely in their own hands. It is for them entirely to mould its future, and if the present programme is not all they want, if it goes too far, or if it does not go far enough, it is for them to curtail or enlarge the programme at their pleasure. Again, if the present Committee does not manage the affairs of the Association to their satisfaction, if they do not carry out the objects of the Association, then as I have stated before, their remedy is entirely in their own hands; they have it in their power to appoint a fresh Committee. There are no wire-pullers in this movement, and I say again the farmers of England have the matter entirely in their own hands. They have now the opportunity of forming an association so strong, with a membership so numerous, that no matter what Government may be in power the voice of the farmer must in future be listened to (cheers). We are here tonight to make a plain and straightforward statement as to the objects of the Alliance—to justify its formation and to defend, if necessary, its programme. We simply ask the gentlemen we see before us to dismiss from their minds anything that they have heard to the prejudice of the Alliance, and to depend upon their own judgment alone, whether the objects of this Alliance are worthy of their support or not. It may be asked, and it has been asked, what need there is for another agricultural association seeing that so many already exist. The answer to that question I take to be two-fold. The first is that not one of the existing agricultural associations has obtained, or even sought to obtain, the principal objects set forth in our programme. Further, not one of the existing agricultural associations, numerous as they are, are charged with the special duty of looking after the interests of tenant-farmers. That is a startling fact, and one which I challenge the opponents of the Alliance to deny; if there be such an association let it be named (Hear, hear). The Alliance has been started to supply this want, to look after the interests of tenant farmers both in and out of Parliament, to see that no additional burdens are placed upon their shoulders, at all events without raising the cry of alarm. We have no wish to interfere or decay existing associations—we think most of them are doing useful and good work, but the kind of work which the Alliance proposes to carry out. Now, some having doubted the necessity or the propriety of starting the Farmers' Alliance, I would ask you, are not the interests of the great tenant-farming class, numbering 600,000 in England and Scotland, and employing a capital of something like £300,000,000, of sufficient importance to warrant the establishment of an Association to look after those interests. The wonder to me is, not that such an association has been formed but that a similar association was not formed years ago

(applause). The tenant farmers have complained, and I think justly complained, that no matter what they have demanded, no matter what Government has been in power, their demands have either been rejected or evaded. The Farmers' Alliance believes this will continue to be the case until the farmers of the United Kingdom make up their minds to one or other of two courses. The most obvious course is to send men to represent their interests in Parliament from their own class (cheers). The alternative course is to agree upon a programme and refuse to vote for any candidate who will not pledge himself to support such programme. The programme of the Alliance has been framed with this object in view, and I believe it is a programme which, upon mature consideration and apart from prejudice, will commend itself to the great majority of the tenant farmers of England. I know there are difficulties in the way of sending tenant farmers to Parliament. The difficulty is, not in finding fitting men—I know fit men in almost every county in England, and I know fit men in my own county—(applause)—and I see men before me who are quite fit to be sent to Parliament, but the difficulty is that of expense (Hear, hear). But there is no reason that the expenses of contesting a county should amount to the enormous sums they do. They ought to be reduced, and if the tenant farmers of England determine to do so they very soon will be reduced. We believe that if the affairs of the tenant farmer are to be efficiently and well looked after in Parliament the work will best be done by men of their own class—(cheers)—for independently of the greater practical knowledge which they will bring to bear upon the subjects submitted to Parliament, they will naturally feel a greater interest and a wider sympathy in the views of men of their own class. Not many years ago the farmers of Norfolk set an example to the other counties of England in returning as their representative to Parliament Mr. Clare Sewell Read, and I will ask, with some degree of confidence, has not the wisdom of that course become apparent; has not Mr. Read proved how useful a sagacious tenant farmer may be in Parliament; has he not proved how influential a sagacious tenant farmer member may be out of Parliament? (applause). I very much question whether Mr. Read's views upon public questions would have exercised greater influence outside Parliament than those of some gentlemen I see before me but from the fact of his being a member of Parliament. What we want is a number of such men so that not only opinion inside Parliament may be influenced but public opinion outside the walls of Parliament (applause). The effect of sending a dozen or twenty tenant farmers to Parliament would not be confined to the effect which their statements inside would make, but they would go very far to mould the public opinion upon all agricultural subjects out of doors, and which no tenant farmer, however eminent, however sagacious, or however clever he might be, would have the power of exercising so long as he remains outside the doors of Parliament (applause). The present depression in agriculture has brought more prominently forward the subject of direct representation in Parliament. You are most of you aware that the county of Warwick and the neighbouring county of Essex have each determined to bring forward a candidate of the tenant farmer class, and they have in both instances determined to pay the expenses of those candidates (applause). It so happens that Mr. Lane in Warwickshire is a Conservative and Mr. Page Wood in Essex is a Liberal, but the Alliance, notwithstanding this difference in political sentiment, has determined to use its influence and whatever power it possesses in returning both candidates at the next Parliament (applause). Notwithstanding anything that may be said to the contrary our motto from the first has been "Agriculture first and politics afterwards," and when that ceases to be the case I hope the Alliance will soon become defunct (applause). Can any one deny the right of the great tenant farmer class of England and Scotland to a larger share in the government of the country than they already possess? There are 187 members from English counties and only one out of that great number is a *bona fide* tenant farmer. The tenant farmer class is the only great class in the community which is not directly represented in Parliament. There are the great railway and the shipping interests, there is the banking and the moneyed interest; then again, the great industries connected with iron, coal, cotton, wool, engineering, shipbuilding, and other trades are all represented. I must not forget the brewing trade to which our Chairman belongs—(applause and laughter)—and I am

sure we may congratulate him that he has something besides the 600 acres of land from which he is able to pay the increased taxation of which he complained (applause). There are other classes represented in Parliament. The coal miners—the men who work in the bowels of the earth—thought it necessary to send two of their own order to represent them in Parliament, and not without considerable effect upon their interests. I have sometimes thought during the last few years that the agricultural labourers would be represented in Parliament before the tenant farmers bestirred themselves. However, the signs of the times appear to point in a different direction. If the composition of the House of Commons be analysed it will be seen that there is no single class of any importance in the community that is not very amply and very efficiently represented, and I would ask the tenant farmers of this county if it is not worth while to follow the example set by Essex, Warwick, and Norfolk? The main leading objects of the Alliance are the removal of all existing impediments to the success, the prosperity, and welfare of agriculture, and we believe this can best be secured by sending men to Parliament who are acquainted with the practice and the requirements of that great pursuit (applause). In advocating the direct representation of farmers in Parliament, I would have it distinctly understood that we entertain no hostile feeling towards the great territorial class of the country; we have no wish to set class against class, and we should deprecate any such result. We believe it is quite possible to be opposed to the views and opinions of another class of the community without being inimical to its interests. I have had experience which falls to the lot of few men of becoming acquainted with landowners of other countries as well as my own, and I have always said that our own landlords—and it is not an opinion formed yesterday—will compare most favourably with the same class in any other country with which I am acquainted. But although I entertain so high an opinion of the landlords of England, that is no reason why I should think it desirable to fill the House of Commons with men of this class (Hear, hear). I would remind you that the House of Lords is composed almost exclusively of the great territorial class, and, therefore, there is less reason why the representation of the counties should be monopolised by men of the same order or who belong to those great families (cheers). I would ask, is it reasonable, is it to be expected, that the landowner should look at this great public question from a tenant's standpoint? Further, has that been your experience in the past? Even so candid and so fair a man as Lord Derby is reputed to be, and I believe him to be, in making that great speech of his to the Lancashire farmers, never once descended from the landlord's pinnacle. There can be no question that the three classes of which we heard a good deal from a very high authority not long ago—(cheers)—the landlord, the tenant, and the labourer, have a common interest in the prosperity and welfare of agriculture—(Hear, hear),—but I hold that the tenant, in a certain sense, has a distinct, a separate and well-defined interest apart from his landlord. The interests of landlord and tenant on certain questions are not more identical than are the interests of farmer and labourer. It is no use to blink the question because of its being a delicate one; it had better be looked fairly in the face; it is no use to be satisfied with such platitudes as the identity of interests of landlord and tenant. I need only name just two or three questions to show that I am justified in saying that the tenant has separate and definite interests apart from his landlord. Take the question of rates, on which our Chairman spoke so eloquently, of taxes, of restrictions, of covenants, the Game Laws and the Law of Distress, I will not say anything about rents, because we believe they are better left to the action of supply and demand (cheers). That law will exercise its influence and bring the value of land, as every other commodity, to its natural value. We have not mentioned the subject of rents in our programme, for I will say we have no sympathy with the agitation going on across the Channel by Mr. Parnell and his coadjutors (applause). The popular talk about the identity of interests will not, at all events, bear the scrutiny of Parliamentary history. The Agricultural Holdings Act is too fresh in the memory of you all to need more than a passing allusion. I would ask if the House of Lords, in considering that question, carried out the principle of this identity of interest between landlord and tenant. Did the House of Lords give practical effect to that principle? Did

not the Duke of Richmond assure the House of Lords that the Bill if passed would not interfere with those sacred rights that had always attached to property (cheers). The sacred rights of the landowner were to be secured under the Act, but the sacred rights which should equally attach to the property of the tenant were to be left to the individual caprice of every landlord in England. Before the passing of this Act, some present will remember I was one of the deputation to the Prime Minister upon this very question, and I was asked to place before Lord Beaconsfield the views of the Farmers' Club. I remember that having done so, I concluded by stating that the Farmers' Club, as practical men, could not see the value of troubling Parliament to pass a measure to say to the landlords of England, you may give twelve months' notice to quit, or you may give compensation for unexhausted improvements (applause). I would ask, is the Agricultural Holdings Act the only one in which the views of the tenant farmers of England have been ignored? I would point to the measure briefly alluded to by the Chairman—the County Government Bill. For very many years farmers have maintained that as they paid the county rate they had a clear right to a larger share in expenditure in county government. Well, the Government has recognised that right by bringing in a bill to deal with that question, but I think any sensible man who looks into the provisions of the Bill laid before the House of Commons last Session can arrive at no other conclusion than that it was an insult to the ratepayers of England. Then there is the question of valuation. Session after Session the Government has brought in a Bill to deal with this question—a question of great importance to the rural districts of England, but Session after Session that Bill has been brought in only to be dropped. Is it conceivable that if the farmers had been adequately and fully represented in Parliament two such important measures as these, bearing upon the financial interests of the farming community, would have been allowed to drop in this way? I think not, from what I know of Parliament. Then again, I would ask, were the views of the farmer listened to upon that very important piece of legislation upon cattle diseases? Were not millions of the tenant farmers' capital wasted and the national wealth destroyed before the views of the more intelligent farmers prevailed as to the efficiency of the means to be employed in keeping out foreign disease and for dealing with it when they had it? I think no subject could have been of more vital consequence to the tenant farmers than that (Hear, hear). What was the history of legislation upon this subject? Was it not one long catalogue of blunders? Few of you but remember the timidity of Mr. Forster upon this question, and fewer still but will remember the obstinacy of the Duke of Richmond. Before the Duke of Richmond and the Government would listen to reason upon this question Mr. Read had to resign his office in the Government and it was only then that efficient means were adopted. Has not the wisdom of the views which had been held from the beginning by the more intelligent class of farmers become apparent by the immunity we have since enjoyed from these fatal and dire diseases? I would just for two or three minutes touch upon the question raised by our Chairman, that of local taxation. I will not follow him to the principles of local taxation, which would take a whole evening to discuss, but I will simply raise the question to show that the financial interests of tenant farmers have not been looked after in Parliament, and I will take the Education Act which the Chairman has named. The bill was brought in in the interests of the labouring classes and in the interests of the general community. What may be the effect of the Bill in the future we are not met to discuss, but the provisions of the Education Act, although bearing hardly upon them, have been loyally carried out by the farmers of England. It has been a measure which has not only dealt hardly with the farmers financially but it has withdrawn from them a good deal of juvenile labour, the value of which in certain seasons can scarcely be measured by money. It has always appeared to me that instead of that education rate having been put upon the shoulders of the tenant it ought in fairness to have been put upon the shoulders of the landlord. Then, again, there is the Sanitary Rate. The permanent improvements of a village ought to be paid for by those who have a permanent interest in the place, and not by the tenant who in many cases has but a very temporary or ephemeral interest in the village (cheers). One of the objects of the Alliance will be to watch and see that no such burdens are imposed upon the shoulders of the tenant farmer in future. I know that the political economists and some very

learned landowners maintain that all rates and taxes are eventually paid by the owner. I am not here to dispute that doctrine, but I know full well that when new rates are imposed upon the shoulders of a certain class there they are likely to remain for a longer or shorter period (Hear, hear). The Property Tax is the only tax which can be legally deducted for rent. The authors of the Property Tax saw the danger of passing that measure there would be in putting that tax upon the shoulders of the tenant, and they made it illegal for any landlord to enter into an agreement with a tenant to pay it. This step was a notable instance of interference by Government with freedom of contract. The Alliance has been blamed by some for including too many subjects in its programme, and by others for including too few. The farmers in the eastern counties blame us very considerably for not including in our programme the repeal of the Malt Tax. That was not omitted without full consideration. The tenant farmers upon our Committee were about equally divided as to the policy of repealing the Malt Tax, and from my experience of the farmers of Bedfordshire and the farmers of Hertfordshire I believe if they were polled they would also be found to be about equally divided. Therefore we came to the conclusion that as there was this difference of opinion upon the subject we had better confine our programme to those subjects upon which we could agree. I have always been in favour of the repeal of the Malt Tax simply upon the ground that such an impost checks the demand for home grown produce and leads to the substitution of foreign sugar for barley. I have taken up so much of your time that I must leave Mr. Fowler to deal with the other objects named in our programme. In conclusion, however, I would observe that at no former period in the history of this country has the future of the land of England been looked forward to with so much anxiety and apprehension as at the present time. Not only are the landlords and tenants inquiring what is amiss and what are to be the remedies, but every class in the community is joining in the inquiry. The enormous and ever increasing sums required for the purchase of foreign agricultural produce, coupled with the long depression in trades has caused the general community to recognise the great importance of our own agriculture as well as the importance of removing every impediment which exists to its progress. That important changes are pending must be obvious to the most casual observer. The land law reform is no longer left to philosophers and speculative writers. When such men as Lord Cairington, Earl Cowper, the Marquis of Tavistock, and more lately Lord Holmesdale come forward to attack the present land system from public platforms, it must be obvious that these subjects must occupy the attention of Parliament at no very distant date. No class is more interested than tenant farmers in the passing of laws for relieving impoverished owners from the burdens and obligations imposed upon them by their ancestors, and to enable such owners to sell their estates to men of capital who could make all needful permanent improvements upon the estate without impoverishing the junior members of their families. We believe these great defects in our land system, as well as those in which the farmer is more directly interested—the security of tenure, the security of capital, local rating, the abolition of the Law of Distress, the reformation of the Game Laws, will best be dealt with by a Parliament which shall contain a number of practical and intelligent farmers who will bring to bear their knowledge of the practice and requirements of agriculture upon these great and important subjects (loud cheers).

Mr. FOWLER said if the Alliance was a party organization to deal with the land question he would not be there. The land question was not a party but a national question (applause). It was a question in which all were interested. The question before them was, is it or is it not wise for them to associate themselves in a new alliance to get the law altered so far as the law hinders the progress of agriculture? That was the whole question. Was the law right or wrong? If the law was wrong why should they not meet together and discuss how it should be altered? It had been said by a member for a neighbouring county, Mr. Rodwell, that the Alliance was Radicalism in disguise. He (Mr. Fowler) denied that there was any foundation for that statement. It was not true; and he was quite as ready to say so in Mr. Rodwell's presence as in his absence (Hear, hear). From the very first the Alliance was a combination of men of various parties but with one common object which they placed above party,

No wonder men were associated together to consider the land question at the present time. He could not remember any season so disastrous as this: never since 1816 had there, he was told, been so bad a harvest as the one we had this year. It might be said no Act of Parliament could make good seasons; but what they had to consider was what Parliament could do (Hear, hear). He was very glad to see such a large meeting, for it showed the interest taken in this question by the people of this neighbourhood. If it were true that in the multitude of councillors there is wisdom the farmers must be the happiest people in the world (laughter). A good many people said "You must lower the rents." Well, he dared say there were cases where the rents would have to come down. But he regarded the question of rents as a question of contract between man and man. It was not a question of law but of agreement (Hear, hear). Many landlords had, as they all knew, dealt very liberally with their tenants this year as regards rent. Again, some said "You must repeal the Malt Tax," but as long as we had wars in hand neither the Malt Tax nor any other tax would be repealed (Hear, hear). Some said "All will be right if you get a protective duty on corn." He believed he should never see Protection revived, and moreover, he believed the farmers did not wish to see it either (Hear, hear). But they wanted to be able to fight with their hands untied (applause). Some said "Lower the rates." The Chairman seemed very sensitive on this point. He (Mr. Fowler) did not wonder at it when he had to pay so much on account of schools. Mr. Fordham, he thought, was hardly used, but he was thankful that he was able to pay it so comfortably (laughter). Other people said "It is a question of readjustment of rates." Well that was one of the things on the Alliance programme, so he must say nothing against that. Then farmers were told that they ought to rear more poultry. This, no doubt, would be a very good thing, but it only touched a small part of the question. Some people said if farmers did not spend so much, things would be right; but surely farmers were as much entitled to spend their income in their own way as any other people (applause). It put him out of temper to hear men with large incomes saying farmers spent too much. Another argument used was this: Let us wait till we get the report of the Royal Commission (laughter). He believed this Royal Commission would tell them a great many things they knew already, and a few things they did not know, and would leave things exactly where it found them (applause). No doubt the Commission would give to the world an enormous blue book (laughter), and some people would perhaps read it. Some good might result from the Commission, but it would be a long business if they waited for it. He did not object to the Commission, for the information gained by it might be very useful. But the farmers would have to act for themselves and they could do what they wanted without a Royal or any other Commission (applause). There was no body of men in England so powerful as the farmers if they only knew it. But they were disorganised; they did not act together and they were often afraid of offending somebody or other. The great use of the Alliance was that it enlightened people not only as to the matters mentioned in its programme but also on those questions regarding the ownership of land (Hear, hear). Mr. Fowler went on to speak of the paper read by Mr. Edwards of Broughton, Stockbridge, at the Farmers' Club last week, and with reference to what Mr. Edwards urged concerning security for unexhausted improvements, he said that was the Agricultural Holdings Act without that nasty clause at the end giving the landlord power to contract himself out of it. Having mentioned the other remedies for agricultural illness mentioned in the paper Mr. Fowler said they agreed almost entirely with the programme of the Alliance. He had been very much interested in the paper as it showed what were the opinions of a real farmer, expressed when talking to other farmers. Going on to criticise the speech of Sir Thomas Acland, delivered the other day, in which tenant farmers were advised not to bother their heads about sending men of their own class to Parliament as Parliament could do nothing for the farmers, Mr. Fowler said this was the question: Could Parliament do anything for them? They said it could. Sir Thomas Acland said it could not, and they would have to try whether it could or not (applause). Sir Thomas said every tenant ought to have a two years' holding, after he had a notice to quit. Now this would be a great change for the better (applause). If Parliament did so much as this many

would think it had done a great deal. Parliament could not make good farmers any more than it could make good landlords, but they said the law can and does hinder farmers. The programme of the Alliance was then commented on by Mr. Fowler. Concerning the first item—the better representation of tenant farmers in Parliament—he said he could not see what harm there could be in associating together to consider this question. As regarded the second item—to stimulate the improved cultivation of the land, especially by obtaining security for the capital of the tenants invested in the improvement of their holdings—he said that was the Agricultural Holdings Act without the clause he had before referred to. That Act he maintained was a sham (loud applause), it had done nothing for the farmers (renewed applause). What harm, he said, could there be in the third item of the programme? To encourage greater freedom in the cultivation of the soil and the disposal of its produce. Some people said, and it was true, that this was a question of contract; but it was for the farmers to discuss what contracts are reasonable and what are unreasonable. As for the fourth item—to obtain the abolition of class privileges involved in the Law of Distress and Hypothec—he asked if any man could show what good had been done by the law as it at present stood to anybody except the landlords. There was no reason why the landlord should have priority in the case of claims against the tenant. The law too raised rents very much; for it enabled very poor men to bid for farms—men who would not be accepted as tenants if the law were not what it is. There were cases where farmers did not get the credit they ought to have because it was well known that the landlord had power to take the stock. Was the law reasonable? Was there any reason for the priority given to the landlord? Speaking of the fifth item—to promote the reform of the Game Laws, Mr. Fowler remarked that the chairman of the meeting held recently at Colchester in connexion with the Alliance, though a good old Tory, said he would get rid of the Game Laws altogether. He (Mr. Fowler) would not go so far as that, but he thought something ought to be done to protect the farmers from the ravages of ground game (applause). Having touched on the sixth item—to obtain the alteration of all presumptions which operate unfairly against the tenant farmers—he passed on to speak of the seventh, which has reference to the obtaining for ratepayers their legitimate share in county government. The Government had, he said, brought in two bills to deal with this question, and Mr. C. S. Read had declared that the last was worse than the first. It was only reasonable that those who paid the rates should have something to do with the spending of them (applause). After a few words on the last item in the programme, namely, the fair apportionment of local burdens between landlord and tenant, Mr. Fowler began to speak on a subject which was not included in the programme; that was the laws relating to the settlement of land. When the Alliance was first formed, he said, he did not care to have anything to do with it unless the promoters were prepared to go further. He said the programme was all very well so far as it went, but they would not get the land question settled until the law which almost compelled so many owners to remain in a bad condition was altered. He was anxious to have the great question of the settlement of land form part of the programme, but a farmer [Mr. Howard] the gentleman on your right, Mr. Long said "Let us mind our own business; that is the landlord's business." It was decided not to include this in the programme. How land was settled was a matter of importance to everybody because on the condition of land depended the condition of the community to an extent of which they had no idea. The great mass of land under cultivation in England was held on tenancy for life, and it often happened that the tenant for life could not do full justice to the land. In most cases they could not get rid of the land even if they felt that they could not do justice to it. The law which kept the land in this condition was bad for the landowners, bad for the farmers, and bad for the whole community. They wanted the farmers to be free, and they wanted the owners to be free; until the owners were free as well as the farmers there would not be that true freedom which was necessary for cultivating the soil to the very best advantage (applause). The farmers of England could make the land free if they liked; the landlords would not be hurt if this were done, but on the contrary they and the whole community would be benefited (loud applause).

Mr. LONG (Henlow) was called on to move a resolution. He

admitted that he did not exactly approve of all the objects of the Farmers' Alliance. He was not an extreme person in the views he entertained, still he believed a change in the law was desirable, necessary and just. Some security should be given to the tenant farmer for the capital he puts into the land; but he must confess that as he saw it, the question was not so much between the landlord and tenant as it was a national matter (applause). He did not mean to run down landlords as a class—they were as good, taking them on the whole, as the tenant farmers were as to the qualities of humanity. Many of them were, he believed, placed in a very painful and difficult position. A man who let his land go to rack and ruin might go to his landlord and say, "My land does not pay; you must lower the rent;" but, on the other hand, the tenant who put improvements into the land could not do so, because he knew his landlord would soon find a fresh tenant, who would benefit by the capital put into the farm by the former tenant (Hear, hear). In conclusion, he referred to the Game Laws, remarking that he did not see in what way they could be altered. A man has as much right to keep pheasants and hares on his own property as the tenant had to keep pigs and poultry on what he rented. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—"That this meeting approves of the formation of the Farmers' Alliance, believing that the accomplishment of its objects would remove some of the principal hindrances to the prosperity of agriculture" (applause).

Mr. CROUCH seconded the resolution with much pleasure and without any reservation whatever. He advised farmers not to trouble their heads about settlement and entail, feeling that the landowners would soon do what was necessary in that direction. He said the principal gainers under the present law were the family lawyers, and afterwards spoke of the necessity of direct representation.

The resolution was then put by the Chairman and unanimously carried.

Votes of thanks were then passed to Mr. HOWARD, Mr. FOWLER, and the Chairman, after which Mr. HOWARD explained his views upon the Game Laws, to which reference had been made by Mr. LONG.

The meeting then ended.

### THE STATE OF IRELAND.

Colonel E. R. King - Harman, M.P., writes to the *Times*:—

SIR,—I have read with great interest the letters of Lord Lifford and Mr. Bagwell and your leading article thereon. As a resident Irish landlord and as one who has striven earnestly to arrive at a true estimate of the present state of affairs in Ireland I ask the favour of a space in your columns for a few remarks.

I wish most heartily that I could agree with the gentlemen whose letters appear in *The Times* of to-day or with that portion of the report of the Local Government Board which expresses a belief that the present system of Poor Law relief will be adequate to meet the distress which now hangs over a large portion of the Irish people.

I unhesitatingly say that not only dire distress but absolute famine is impending in many parts of Ireland, and I am reluctantly, but firmly, convinced that this can only be averted by Government assistance.

Lord Lifford and Mr. Bagwell are well known as excellent landlords and good men of business, and their evidence, as far as their knowledge serves them, must carry great weight. They write, however, from parts of the country which are, I hear, exceptionally prosperous, and except so far as Mr. Bagwell refers to the chronic state of poverty in Ennis and Tyrawley, cannot be taken as giving any idea of the state of affairs in the West.

The statement frequently made that the potato crop is one-half the average certainly does not apply to many parts of Ireland, and such potatoes as have escaped the disease are generally small, watery, and wanting in nutriment. The oat crop has generally been good, and has been well sowed, and hay is tolerably plentiful, except in low-lying lands, where it has been destroyed or swept away by the floods, but is of very inferior quality, owing to the wet season, while the root crops are generally miserably poor.

The last few weeks of beautiful weather have done wonders in many parts of the country towards saving the turf, and the fuel famine will not be so general as was to be feared a short

time ago. In many places, however, the turf, especially where the bogs are of inferior quality, had already suffered so much from the continuous wet that the recent fine weather came too late to save it.

All this is bad enough, especially when the stagnation of the cattle trade and the low prices for all descriptions of farm-produce—with the exception during the last few weeks of butter—are taken into account; but the most serious matter, and the one which will bring famine to the doors of thousands, is the sudden collapse of the credit system.

For several years past credit has almost been forced upon the people; the Gombeen man, or village usurer, has woven his webs in every neighbourhood, and shopkeepers have vied with each other in giving long credit for frequently inferior and adulterated articles, but, worst of all, banks have set up their branches in every small town, and have freely advanced money at interest seldom under and often exceeding 10 per cent.

Suddenly the whole of this ceases; the usurer, the shopkeeper, and the banker flood the country with processes; not a shilling will be advanced, not a mouthful of meal nor a bag of manure will be supplied without ready money.

Well, the majority of the small farmers in the west have no ready money; the large farmers have been so hard hit during the last three years that they cannot pay for labour, and the sequel, I fear, is too simple. In the west, speaking generally, the potatoes will not last till Christmas; the people have not a shilling, and credit for a bag of meal will not be procurable.

What can the people do? They must work for wages or starve. Who will give the work? Some landlords will, but many cannot; and many, frightened or disgusted with the present senseless agitation, will not. I will not now discuss the political side of the question, nor will I enter into the question as to whether the people might not now be better off if prudence and economy had prevailed in past years. I can only state a sad and terrible fact. Famine is abroad in the west, and I see no means of averting a terrible catastrophe if the Government does not intervene.

I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not ask for wholesale relief, nor do I believe that the state of matters I have endeavoured to describe is the case all over Ireland, but I give it as my sure belief, founded on the closest examination, that there are several districts in the west of Ireland where famine is impending, where the present system of Poor Law relief will be utterly unable to cope with the disaster, and where, if it be attempted, an additional or supplemental rate will only be the last straw which will swamp many who at present may just weather the storm.

I do not, Sir, wish to be an alarmist. On my own property there will be poverty this winter, but, I trust, no crisis that landlord and tenant working together will not be able to tide over; but it will cost us a sore struggle. What I say, however, of other parts of my neighbourhood and the country further west is of my own personal knowledge, and while I deprecate the conduct of those who would exaggerate the state of affairs in more favoured portions of the country, and while I denounce as heartless traitors those who would set class against class and make political capital out of the sufferings of our fellow-countrymen, I deem it my duty to let the people of England know that starvation threatens—nay, is absolutely in the midst of thousands of their fellow-citizens across the Channel. If you will allow me, in a future letter, to make some suggestions as to the best means of meeting the evil, I may be glad to avail myself of the privilege. At present I must apologize for the extreme length of this communication, and trust that the urgency of the occasion will plead as my excuse.

20, Duke-street, St. James's, Nov. 10.

ADVICE GRATIS.—A man piling wood on the wharf near the foot of Third-street yesterday, fell into the river, and when hauled out one bystander advised him to be more careful in the future. A second one advised him to take a stout drink of whiskey to keep a chill off. A third thought he had better hurry home and change his clothes, and a fourth cautioned him to get the water out of his ears. When all had spoken a bootblack came forward and said, "I ain't got much to say about this 'ere case, but my advice to this feller is to do more kickin' with his heels and less hollerin' with his mouth if he ever falls in again. Shinc ycr butes for five cuts!"—*Detroit Free Press*.

# Chambers of Agriculture.

## SCOTTISH.

A conference was held on Monday Nov. 10, under the auspices of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture for the purpose of considering the best means by which evidence might be laid before the Royal Agricultural Commission recently appointed—Mr. Nicoll, Littleton, president of the Chamber, in the chair. The meeting was private, but we understand that an unanimous desire was expressed that the Royal Commission would see fit to visit Edinburgh and receive the evidence, which, it transpired in the course of the discussion, the Chamber were, through representative men of the various districts and systems of farming, prepared to lay before them. A small committee of directors was appointed to assist the secretary in preparation of the evidence should it be required or accepted by the Royal Commission.

The annual general meeting of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture was held in Edinburgh on Tuesday, Nov. 11, in one of the side rooms of the Corn Exchange. Mr. Nicoll, Littleton, Forfarshire, occupied the chair. There was comparatively a small attendance.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Curror) read the Counties Committees' report, recommending the office-bearers for the coming year, the president being A. McNeel Caird, Garioch; A. Bethune, of Blebo, senior vice-president; and John McCulloch, Denbie Mains, junior vice-president.

### THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

The SECRETARY also read the following short report respecting the conferences held yesterday on the subject of the agricultural depression:—

"The conference resulted in Mr. Melvin, of Bonnington, pointing out the advantages of having the evidence taken before the Commissioners-in-Chief, and moved that the Chamber offer evidence to the Chief Commissioners; and the secretary was directed to correspond with the secretary of the Commission, and ascertain how best this could be gone about; and a remit was made to a committee of five to aid the secretary in adjusting the questions to be issued to proposed witnesses, to receive their answers, and to consider the same.

### THE RETIRING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

MR. NICOLL, before vacating the chair, delivered the usual retiring address. Since the last meeting of the Chamber, he said, questions whose discussion was formerly confined to farmers' clubs and Chambers of Agriculture had received an attention and achieved a prominence which went far to atone for long years of indifference and neglect. After a lapse of five-and-thirty years, the state of agriculture had been revived as a subject of Parliamentary debate. A Commission of Inquiry which, when asked for in the House of Lords by the Marquis of Huntly, was refused at the instigation of the Premier, only, however, to be unanimously granted a few weeks later on by the House of Commons, had now begun its work. He was not forgetful of, and did not depreciate—it would, indeed, be hardly possible to exaggerate—the influence which the past disastrous harvests had had in awakening the community to a sense of its interest in the laws effecting the ownership and tenancy of land. In considering the question, he wished in the first place to dismiss in a word the impertinences which in some quarters had been indulged in towards farmers as a class. All classes had been suffering from the general depression of trade, and all had, he imagined, taken such steps towards its mitigation and removal as seemed most suitable and available. But farmers were in some quarters assumed as incapable of doing so; they must be treated differently from others, and how far that was due to the past attitude of their class he left every man to judge for himself. They were told that they must conduct their affairs more economically; that they must relinquish the gig that conveyed them to market; and that their wives and daughters must betake themselves to the byre and dairy. It would be quite as pertinent to the discussion of the land question and the agricultural situation were he to recommend that proprietors' daughters should gather the fruit in their gardens, or that the wives and daughters of their agents should char their business offices. A cheering sign was the movement among their neighbours south of the Tweed. The recent past would not have been so unproductive after all if it had raised into life the tenantry of

England, and inspired them with personal and political independence. Their former political attitude often reminded him of an anecdote of the poet Rogers, who, when asked about his religion by a lady, replied, "I am, madam, of the religion of all sensible men." "And what is that?" asked the lady. "All sensible men," replied Rogers, "keep that to themselves." The analogy was scarcely complete, for instead of keeping their politics to themselves, the English tenants hitherto had allowed their landlords to "keep" this for them. But there had been a stirring of the dry bones, and their demands as formulated by the Farmers' Alliance proved that the English tenants desired that an end be put to that system of dependence and trust on the honour and good faith of the landlord, which the Duke of Argyll described as "magnificent, but not business." In the Parliamentary session of 1878-9—a session singularly barren of results and of interest to the agricultural community—the matter which must bulk most largely was the appointment of the Royal Commission to inquire into the causes of the present depressed state of agriculture. He did not express an opinion of the utility or otherwise of such an inquiry. Were he a tenant called on to express an opinion, he should say that the present crisis in the farming interest was due to bad seasons, which had seriously diminished tenants' capital; to too high rents; to capital withheld from cultivation by entail on the part of the proprietors, and want of security on the part of the tenants. Should, however, the result of the Commission be barren and worthless, it was hardly possible to over-estimate the importance of the debate in the Commons to which the proposal gave rise. In a remarkable and important speech on Mr. Chaplin's motion—remarkable as the utterance of a representative of a great "revolution family"—important because of the position which the speaker held towards one of the great parties in the State—Lord Hartington said that if Mr. Chaplin had proved his case, had proved that the agricultural distress was such as to call for a Royal Commission of Inquiry, that then it might be held that the land system of this country had broken down; and by an unanimous assent to his motion the House of Commons admitted that Mr. Chaplin had proved his case. He would in a sentence or two recount some of those laws or presumptions of law which handicapped the tenant in making his contract, or interpreted it unequally against him when the lease was silent. First, there was their old friend Hypothec—a law which had its origin in a time when land was occupied by bondmen, who were themselves the property of the landlord, and were not able to hold any property of their own—which the House of Commons had condemned by a majority of 127, and which had been declared indefensible by the law-officers, the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor-General of the present Government, whose views on the subject, he could state on high authority, were shared by the Home Secretary, Mr. Cross. This question might now be regarded as removed from the category of controversial questions, the abrogation of the law only awaiting the convenience of Parliament. But, at the same time, he should like to ask if the commercial classes would not support farmers in their demand for liberty to remove at least the buildings which they had erected if payment was denied? By law a tenant could not transfer his lease, even though he might be willing to continue responsible, in addition to the liability of the new tenant, for the due fulfilment of its conditions, without the landlord's consent. A hundred years ago the village feuars laboured under a like disability. The feu was intransmissible without the superior's consent. The Legislature in their case abolished such a condition as at once impolitic and absurd. By law the lease went to the eldest heir male, or, failing heirs male, to the eldest female. A more just and natural law would be that the lease should go to the widow, to be worked out for the benefit of the family. Why a tenant could not will his lease as he willed his money or his movables was utterly anomalous. Then, again, by law they had a whole host of shields thrown around wild animals, which though not property, were—because their slaughter formed in these days the favourite pursuit of the idle—treated as more sacred than the property of other classes. These laws—fruitful of crime, of ruin to the farmer, of demoralisation to the peasantry—were maintained by and for the land-owning class. But he might occupy the whole time at his disposal in multiplying proofs of the partiality shown to landowners by a Legislature principally composed of

landowners. He asked them now to consider the results of the land system as disclosed in the condition of those classes more directly interested—the owners, occupants, and labourers. In the case of the owners, they had an ever-increasing absenteeism, a lessened interest in their estates, and a gradual cessation of all efforts for the development of their resources, due partly to want of means and partly to want of knowledge. They had properties under a system of management—or, more correctly, of no management—by lawyers and accountants, whose duties were indeed not unfrequently delegated to subordinate clerks. They had many large estates whose rents were uplifted by the agents of mortgagees. And, last of all, they had the astounding statement—though under such circumstances it would indeed be astonishing were it otherwise—that in England the mortgages amounted to 58 per cent. of the value of the land. The position of the tenantry was now, and had been for years past, matter of notoriety. He did not think that, on the whole, the embarrassments of farmers had been over coloured. But he asked if the land system did not receive its own and its strongest condemnation in the heavily mortgaged condition of the proprietors, and in the tenantry of this country being brought to the verge of bankruptcy by the recurrence of a few bad harvests? Mr. Chaplin and Lord Airlie said bad harvests and low prices. Bad harvests were indisputable; but a review of the whole of the valuable tables obtained by Parliament on Mr. Fojjambé's motion suggested that farmers were suffering from bad seasons rather than from low prices, since there was scarcely one of their products, excepting wheat, wool, and cheese, which was not now considerably higher in price than it was in the days when the prosperity of the agricultural interest was as much a subject of national congratulation as its depression was a commiseration at the present time. That there was a reason why the tenantry any more than the commercial and trading classes should through a series of bad years become the objects of charity, of Royal Commissions, and of emigration, he firmly believed. Lord Airlie hit the mark when he spoke of the undue rise in rents fostered and maintained by law; of rents raised by competition stimulated to so high a point as to admit no margin, no surplus to meet a time of temporary disaster and depression; of rents which could only be paid under a continued concurrence of favourable circumstance. All honour to the landlords who, in cases of great and unavoidable misfortunes, came voluntarily forward to assist their tenants. He cared not to inquire whether such assistance was prompted by expediency or generosity; but, as a Scotch tenant-farmer, he was inclined to hang his head at the spectacle of a whole body of tenantry coming forward to crave such assistance. It was not a healthy state of matters when the prosperity, not to speak of the existence, of one class was dependent on the generosity of another. It was a most important question, "Can the extent of the over-renting which Lord Airlie admits be approximately arrived at?" He humbly thought it could. The land rental of the country had during the last twenty years increased by twenty-one per cent. If it had but increased, as by natural causes and fair competition, they were entitled to hold it would only have increased by eleven per cent., here would have been a fund in the tenants' hands to meet a period of depression. Every tenant paying rent to the amount of £500 would at the end of a nineteen years' lease be in possession of £1,000 more than he now was; instead of which they had the applause of the public demanded for the benevolence of the proprietor who granted an abatement of ten per cent. for a year—£50 returned by a man who during a lease had unfairly received £1,000. As to the condition of the labouring classes connected with farming, the fact which most forcibly struck them was that disclosed by the last census, that within ten years more than one third of their farm labourers had been transferred to other employments, had emigrated, or at all events had been lost as cultivators of the soil. But it might not be so generally known that the number of persons in these islands occupied in the tillage of the soil was actually less now than sixty years ago, in the face of a general population nearly doubled. Partly owing to the Law of Entail, and in part due to the law of parish settlement, their ploughmen had been driven to the emigrant ship or to the towers. The law of parish settlement had on the class of farm labourers inflicted a grievous wrong. How long, then, were they to submit to a land system which had proved destructive to the forethought, industry, and providence of their labouring classes; which encouraged the aggregation

of land in few hands, and which threw all manner of obstacles in the way of its transfer and dispersion, when they considered the power wielded by landownership? It belonged not to the Legislature to encourage either the accumulation or the dispersion of land. That should be left to natural causes, and if that were so, there would arise hundreds of happy homes for one there now was, which could not be destroyed and uprooted by the caprice and whim of one man, or, what was still far worse, of an arrogant subordinate. The next best arrangement to what he advocated was a gradation in the size of farms, of holdings increasing in extent, and forming as it were rounds in the ladder by which the careful ploughman might ascend. They asked the withdrawal, he repeated, from the landowning class of all that special legislation which had made land a practical monopoly, and enabled its possessors to impose conditions of tenancy under which no industry could exist and prosper. Some there were who would seek to remedy this by restrictions, by a limitation of freedom of contract; they would, in fact, neutralise one economic heresy by the imposition of another. Freedom of contract there could not be where the subject bargained for was a monopoly; but land would cease to be a monopoly when those exceptional laws were removed. While the existing system was maintained, the tenant could not bargain on equal terms with his landlord. There leases would be, as they almost invariably were, not a stipulation of rights but a surrender of them. There was but one way in which these reforms could be secured. They must prove the earnestness of their purpose and the sincerity of their faith at the polling booth. At present, what was boastfully but truly denominated the greatest of all their interests was wholly unrepresented in Parliament. If their meetings and discussions were to bear fruit, the tenantry of the United Kingdom must return to the House of Commons a number of men thoroughly in earnest—so numerous as to hold the balance between the two great political parties, and who would give or withhold their support from any Government which refused to redress our grievances. They ought not to insist upon, nor wait for, a great striking measure of land reform. Let their debt be paid, if it was preferred, by instalments. Each instalment received would so far reduce the amount of their demands. In concluding, Mr. Nicoll said that in their newly-elected President, Mr. McNeil Caird, who, unfortunately, was unable to be present, the Chamber had at its head the man who, of all Scotchmen, was best acquainted with the land system of the country.

In the absence of Mr. Caird, Mr. Bathune, of Blebo, the senior vice-president, then took the chair, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Nicoll for his conduct in office.

#### THE CAUSES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

The next subject on the programme was "The Agricultural Depression—its Causes and Remedy."

Mr. McCULLOCK, Denbie Mains, read a paper in which he took up the question of tenant-right for unexhausted improvements, and explained how the necessity for such a right arose. The almost universal leaseholding of Scotland had, perhaps, more than any other cause, militated against the inauguration of tenant-right. The fallacy that the lease was a security for unexhausted manures and improvements had been assiduously preached by those interested in their confiscation—with extraordinary zeal by the Duke of Argyll. The lease was only a security for lengthened tenure—in itself a powerful element in production, and on that account met by a correspondingly higher rent—but was in no way a compensation for value left to the successor. On the contrary, it took, when most needed (at the end of the term), a form of an exactly opposite character—a handicap in the keener competition which the added value induced. Thus it was that yearly tenure with tenant-right was advocated in preference to a lease without. In those countries where the principal wealth and occupation of the people were derived from agriculture, or whereas, in France, a revolution had disposed of a landowning aristocracy, the "landlord and tenant" were usually merged in one individual, and thus there was no antagonism of interest. This system, however much general comfort it might give to those employed in the cultivation, never could for large production be compared with the *grande culture*. The increased use of costly implements and farm stocking, as cheaper elements of production, must always place the peasant proprietor at a disadvantage, and no country gave a better proof of this than America. In this country, with only a portion of its population attracted to agriculture, cheap

and consequently large production would certainly, rather than the comforts of the producer, control the minds of the consuming community; and thus it was impossible to discuss this subject soundly from any other standpoint than that of increased production, for which purpose the security of the tenant reaping the full fruits of his industry—one of the oldest and most potent of incentives being self-interest—became sound public policy. The landowner—often for other considerations than direct profit—would continue to furnish land at a low rate of interest; the tenant for his skill and capital would almost certainly be able to reap fair remuneration, and would rather increase his hired acres than become a peasant proprietor. The three incomes of the Premier having a connection with this question, he would show the absurdity, to his mind, of such a division and classification. The owner of the soil who let, and the occupier who hired it, could not be more than two individuals or parties. The labourer, although coming into more direct contact with the cultivation, had no greater interest than those furnishing any other means of production, such as the blacksmith or carpenter, the implement maker or manure vendor; thus it was clear that, on the same principle, the number of incomes could be almost indefinitely extended. If the labourer's wages had a relation to profit or loss, then the connection would become apparent; but as their tenure existed, the produce of the soil was—after all legitimate charges had been liquidated, and labour was just one of them—divided between the landlord and tenant; the former getting his rent, the latter his profit, if any. Landlord and tenant had thus a separate interest in increased production, stimulated on the one hand at a new hiring, on the other during its currency; but the means used by the tenant became so intermixed with and inextricable from the soil, that there was no possible method of dealing with them but valuing them over to the tenant's successor. Here they had a good illustration of the hackneyed phrase of the "interests of landlord and tenant being identical." In the direction of increased production the one was safe to get a higher rent, the other higher profits, and thus arose a common interest. But it was just as apparent that in the matter of rent and compensation for the tenant's improvements, their interests were antagonistic—in the language of political economy, they became natural enemies: thus, while part of each of their individual interests had a common end in view, part had a separate and opposite one. At some length Mr. McCulloch went on to examine the "land creed" of the Duke of Argyll, from which he indicated he disagreed to a considerable extent, and afterwards made some remarks on the practicability of any compensation scheme. As to freedom of contract, he was a firm advocate of this principle—one much misrepresented and misunderstood—but he would not deny the abstract right of the State to define the objects and regulate the scope of its application. But it could not perfectly apply until the contractors themselves were emancipated from the slavery in which at present they were bound by legal interference. They might just as well say that the slaves of the Southern States of America were free to contract for their labour prior to their independence, as maintain that either a landlord bound by the thongs of entail, limited ownership, and expensive transfer, or a tenant battling against the illegitimate competition induced by Hypothec and those legal presumptions which confiscated one portion of his property, prohibited the assignation of another, and put him in the worst possible credit, was in a position of perfect freedom to contract. In order that the contractors might be made free, there must be legislative reform. He hoped he had enough knowledge of economics to keep him from asking that anything of the nature of protection should be afforded, and that a compulsory tenant-right should be a back weight on the balance which was at present unduly weighted to the other side by class legislation. He believed he had the majority of the members with him when he said that they would not

Balance wrong with wrong,  
And physic woe with woe;

but rather leave the balance a perfect power to oscillate freely—only possible by the removal of present legislative interference. Let these existing entails be abolished, the creation of new ones prohibited, and the nature of land transfer be simpler and less expensive; let legal presumptions be altered so that a tenant could assign his lease, and leave it by will to other than the heir-at-law; that he could charge an agreed-

on repetition of cost to the proprietor in possession, and that the old regulator should, in regard to improvements, be altered from "what is mixed with or fixed to the soil goes with the soil" to "the increased value goes to him who added it." Abolish the Law of Hypothec, and its even worse helpmate, the Act of Sederunt, 1756, so that the landlord should cease to have priority over the other creditors of his tenant. But these reforms required, not only at the hands of this Chamber but the tenant farmers of Scotland, a powerful and united effort—one which could not be withstood by any political party. When they took a retrospect of their position in regard to representation, it was enough to humble them. Only one county in Scotland—and that a noble and laudable example—had sent up a tenant-farmer representative, and he thought in this respect they owed a high eulogy to Forfar. Nothing but apathy had prevailed in regard to the objects to be attained, but if they were heard by their own voices—those of tenant-farmer representatives—they could then reckon on justice, long delayed, being at last within their reach.

Mr. GOODLET, Bolshan, said he was sure they were all obliged to Mr. McCulloch for his paper. After what they had got to meditate on, he thought they should go home, think over the matter, and make up their mind on the subject against to-morrow. They should take up no more time in mere talk.

The CHAIRMAN said they had never heard two more excellent papers than those they had heard that day. It was a well-known fact in the history of the world that nations, individuals, and classes were only really moved by necessity, and he was one of those who believed that from this agricultural depression great good would ensue. They were indebted to the Chamber of Agriculture for the position it had taken up in this matter, for if they had been left to themselves they might have remained exactly where they were. Agriculture was one of those subjects that a man could not conceal much about, let him be as reticent, clever, or cunning as he pleased. The land was there, the farmer was known to his neighbours, and agriculture was perhaps one of the only things in the world which it was advantageous there should be no secrets about. As there was to be a discussion to-morrow, they need not go into the subject that day. He was glad to see some of their English friends present. He felt confident that if they could get England enlisted in the cause of proper agricultural reform, there was a reasonable prospect of getting not a few of their grievances taken out of the way.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

## Agricultural Table Talk.

The Earl of MORLEY was present on the 4th inst. at the annual dinner of the Chudleigh District Agricultural Association, which was presided over by Sir J. H. Keenaway, Bart., M.P. In responding to the toast of "The County Magistrates," his Lordship, an agriculturist, admitted that agriculture was not a very pleasant subject to touch upon in the present year; one would like, and was rather inclined, to shirk the question, but they knew there was no use shirking disagreeable facts, and he was afraid that they must all admit that the last year was one which had been unusually disastrous to agriculture in all parts of the country. At the same time, he might say that he had been travelling a good deal about the country in the last few months, and he confessed that coming back to Devonshire it seemed to him to be rather a land of Goshen—at any rate, he believed people in Devonshire had very little idea of the amount of suffering and the amount of losses that had occurred in the Eastern part of the country, where the cultivator depends almost entirely upon his corn crops. It was hardly possible to conceive the condition of some of the most fertile valleys, which many of them had gone through in a railway or other journey, for they could see quite lately hay and corn crops floating about in the water still. The hills of Devonshire might be difficult to till, but they did give the tiller the advantage that the water ran off very quickly. If we were to go into the whole subject of agriculture and the cause of the depression he was afraid he should occupy them till to-morrow morning; but he was not going to do it. They had had a great many doctors prescribing to them lately, and, as very often happened with doctors, a good many of them differed in opinion. Some doctors considered that the agricultural

disease was almost a mortal one, and they were rather inclined to tie up the chain of the patient and wish him good speed. Others told them that it was merely a cold, and that with finer weather they would all recover. Others, again, took a still more hopeful view, and said it was all their own fault, and that with a little more exertion, and a little less grumbling—we should get over this attack. He confessed that he did not take any of these views exactly. He believed that at the present moment, although some parts had suffered more severely than others, that they were suffering from—what should he call it?—agricultural fever. If they went into the causes, they were told by some people that it was the Land Laws, which affected the nourishing of land. That was a very large question, but he confessed he did believe that the depression was in part owing to those laws. He would say he should like to see certain alterations made with regard to our law of entail. He should like very much to see in all cases the power to sell, in order that landlord and tenant should get as much out of the land as they could. Then, again, people said, and he believed rightly, that the weather was the cause of it, and he believed that that was the cause of the depression, for they must remember that only two out of the last six years had not been unsuccessful and very bad years. He believed he was right in saying that the average yield of wheat throughout England, taking the last six years, had been 13 per cent. below the average. But that was not all. The average yield had diminished, but, what had never before occurred, with the shortened yield they had not had higher prices, and the actual value of the gross value on the farm below the average during the last six years had been something like 20 per cent. They had heard a great deal about foreign competition, and he had not the least doubt, without going into a question which would take up considerable time, that they must look forward to the time when they would get enormous supplies of wheat from America. There were various circumstances, lately exceptional in their kind, that had stimulated the production of wheat in America. The extreme stagnation of commerce in that country had diminished the demand in the States themselves, and therefore given them a greater margin to send abroad. Then, again, the same cause had driven people away from the towns where they could not make money to the prairies in the West where they could; whilst the same cause had also reduced the cost of transport very enormously. Now, they could not expect trade and the cost of transport—he was speaking of averages, which it was extremely difficult to judge from without very definite data—would keep down as low as they were at present, so that he did not believe they in this country would get wheat at a lower price than at present. At the same time, there was no doubt that in the West wheat could be grown cheaper than in England, and the whole question of the future would be whether the cost of transport would be such as would make it pay the American producer to export his goods, but that again was subject to so many various changes that it was very difficult to get an opinion upon it. It seemed to him pretty clear that the process which had been going on for some time would continue, and that was that less wheat would be grown, especially upon poor, heavy land, which they all knew produced less than the average, and cost more to cultivate. Then, they would ask—What were they to do? He would answer that they must admit that the present was an exceptional time, when landlords and land occupiers must endeavour to pull themselves through this crisis, and help one another as far as they could. He believed that the true way of helping one another was to endeavour as far as they could to increase the production. That sounded a simple thing. It was very easy for people to say, as it had been said, that the land could produce double as much as it did at present, but the question was, not as to whether they could produce double the amount, but whether the double amount would pay. If they could do that, well and good. The Americans were very go-ahead people; they invented machines for diminishing labour, and had all sorts of ingenious contrivances for lessening the cost of production. He thought they in England must set to work and endeavour as far as they could to do the same, for therein lay the great safeguard of agriculture. They must study the necessities of the case, and in case of poor land cultivate what crops would pay. It rather surprised him, in looking over some statistics the other day, to find that no less than £10,000,000 was spent annually on dairy produce from abroad. He did not wish to cast any imputation on the energy or the ability of the English farmer, but it seemed to him that in this particular

matter they ought not to let the foreigner outstrip them. They heard it sometimes talked about of a return to Protection, or a ghost of it which was called Reciprocity. He did not think it was necessary for him to argue against that. Agriculturists were an important interest, but let them remember this—that they only comprised about one-tenth of the population. Now, did they think it was probable that nine-tenths of the population would buy bread and meat from them when they could get it cheaper from anybody else? They heard a great deal about the relations of landlord and tenant, and two main points were generally raised about this relation. One was security for improvements, and the other was freedom of cultivation. He was strongly in favour of both these principles, with certain limitations. He believed that a good farmer would be allowed to cultivate a good farm exactly as he liked, and it would pay him best; but the landlord, for his own sake and for the sake of the public, imposed restrictions upon individuals for his own protection. They knew that all farmers were not good any more than any other class of men, and the landlord must be protected against a man coming into his farm with the intention of not staying there, rack his land, and then go away and leave it in a condition in which it was impossible for any other tenant to farm after him. He believed that covenants in land were very little good, and the great point was this, that a man should be left to farm much as he liked, provided that at the end of the tenancy he should leave the farm undeteriorated in quality. So, again, about improvements. He felt most strongly himself that the buildings, and, as a rule, drainage, should, with the consent of the tenant, be done by the landlord, which would be generally found to be more satisfactory to both parties. With regard to other improvements, such, for instance, as unexhausted manure, he thought that was a matter, whether there was a lease, or whether there was no agreement, in which the tenant should have perfect security, and that whenever he left that farm he would not have lost money by having farmed it to the end of his tenancy. There was no gentleman in that room but would acknowledge the necessity of clean farming, and it was never more necessary than in the season just passing. He had observed in one or two cases that farmers were rather inclined to take larger farms than their capital would allow them to cultivate properly. He believed firmly that a farmer would make a better thing of it by taking a smaller farm, thoroughly stocking and thoroughly working it, than by taking a larger holding which he had not capital or strength to farm properly. In conclusion, his Lordship again expressed the pleasure he felt at being present, and added that if he had the happiness of seeing his friends again this time next year he hoped their acute attack of illness which he had mentioned would have passed away to make way for a more beautiful summer and a more favourable season.

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SEEING A MAN HOME.—I picked Simmons up pretty near dead drunk, and took him home. When I got to his house, as I thought, I shook him a bit, and said, "Here you are." "Right," said he, and gave a big bang at the knocker. Up went a window. "Wh's there?" screamed a woman. "I have brought the old man home," said I. "All right," she cried, and came to the door. She immediately seized hold of Simmons, and gave him such a shaking that his teeth seemed to rattle in his head. "Who are you shaking of?" says he. "Goodness gracious," cried the woman, "that is not my husband's voice." I struck a match, and she found she had been shaking the wrong man. "There," said the woman furiously, "I've been sitting up here expecting my husband home drunk, and now I've wasted my strength on a stranger." "Don't he live here?" said I. "No," said the woman, "he don't." "What made you knock?" said I to Simmons. "He don't," said he, "you told me to." "I thought you lived here," said I. "Glad I don't," said he. I suppose he was thinking of the shaking he'd had. At last I found where he did live, and got him home. Mrs. Simmons was sitting up for him. As soon as ever we knocked, out she came. "Oh!" says she, "you're the wretch as makes my poor husband drunk, are you?" and she caught me a slap across the face. I've never seen a drunken man home since.

—Cope's Tobacco Plant.

## VEGETABLE AND DAIRY FARMING IN MINNESOTA.

The special correspondent of the *Times* writes:—

Market-gardening flourishes on the light, friable loam around St. Paul, and is pursued chiefly by Germans, who have recently been paying £30 to £10 an acre, and generally cultivate five to ten acres. Some have advances to about half the value of their purchase, accommodation for which they have to pay 10 per cent. Most of the smaller farmers also grow the commoner vegetables for sale in St. Paul and Minneapolis, succeeding particularly well with potatoes, which produce 200 to 300 bushels an acre, and sell at about 25c. per bushel, with cabbages, which bring 4c. or 5c. per head, and with onions, which fetch 35c. per bushel. There is no special to note in the management of these vegetables. The growers as yet are, however, the only farmers who appreciate the value of and find time to apply manure. By others it is regarded as a waste product, to be got out of the way as cheaply as possible. When it accumulates several feet high around the buildings, a stream is sometimes turned on to carry it away, or the hovel itself may be moved. If the manure is carted, it is generally to fill up some hole or make a road. Wheat straw sells for a dollar a ton in St. Paul, but a few miles out it is valueless, and thousands of tons are annually burnt throughout the State. When the paper mills which are in contemplation in various districts are in full operation, straw may become of some value independently of its agricultural uses.

Owing to the abundance of common lands and grazings in the woods or on occupied prairie land, rent free or at nominal rates, many cows are kept in the neighbourhood of St. Paul. They are seen in herds often numbering 100, and are looked after, as the law insists, by a lad. Some are turned out with their calves at foot. Many are decorated with a bell hung round the neck. All are brought in and distributed to their owners at night. Milk sells about 10d. per gallon. Butter is of good quality, usually made rather salt, and worth 1s. to 1s. 4d. per lb.; cheese is rarely made. All the considerable dairy folks have "spring houses," usually built of stone, situated on some stream or lake, sheltered by a few trees, with the water flowing through rrdie clay, stone, or iron tanks, in which the tins of milk are placed so soon as drawn from the cow. All these people are comfortable and well-to-do. Their common history is "10 or 20 years ago they had nothing." Now they own, often without encumbrance, their land and what it carries.

Commissioned to write of corn and cattle, of land, its capabilities and its value, I cannot stay to describe this beautiful and varied country; the woodland drives by the banks of the Mississippi; the crystal bays of Minnetonka Lake, on which four large steamers carry excursionists; the delicate, lace-like tracery of the Minnehaha falls, or the grand commanding position of Fort Snelling, built in 1819, 70ft. above the meeting of the waters of the Minnesota and Mississippi, famous in many an Indian campaign, and now the chief United States fort of the North-West. Beyond this are wonderful upheavals of the displaced sandstone and limestone rocks. At Mandota, hard by, General Sibley 40 years ago built the first private residence in the country, having no white neighbours, excepting in the fort, for 300 miles. No one has been more intimately concerned in the progress of this State than General Sibley, who informs me that his love of wild sports brought him here in 1834. As head of a great fur-trading company, he travelled widely over the north-west, with a faithful white servant; he lived much among the Indians, receiving from them uniform kindness, often supplied with the best their slender resources could furnish. In his hunting expeditions he constantly encountered herds of elk, moose, and buffalo. With Indian troubles looming he was rightly regarded the fittest man to command at Fort Snelling, and more recently he was appointed the first Governor of Minnesota. Although the elk, buffalo, and other big game have retired before the advance of colonisation, there is still abundant sport in the woods and prairies, and during the past ten days, from trains, from carriages, and when on foot, I have raised countless prairie chickens, grouse, quails, golden plovers, wild ducks and geese, great sand-hill cranes, weighing 20lb. and fat as turkeys at Christmas, with rabbits and hares, the latter oddly termed Jackass-rabbits. A

sportsman desirous of striking into new but pleasant quarters for either shooting or fishing might do much worse than come to Minnesota. He can reach St. Paul within 15 days from London, and at a moderate cost of £25. Solicitors to preserve good sport, Minnesota, in common with other States, has enacted game laws. There are no penalties against shooting or trapping on other people's land. The sportsman can shoot or fish where he lists. The small owner or tenant has himself to blame if any damage is sustained from game; but a close time is rigidly prescribed, and infringement of its provisions is punished by fine or imprisonment. It is unlawful to kill or traffic in the subjoined descriptions of game, excepting during the following periods:—Woodcock, July 1 to November 1; prairie chicken, August 15 to October 1; quail or partridge, September 1 to December 1; ruffed grouse or pheasant, September 1 to December 1; aquatic fowl, September 1 to May 15; elk, deer, &c., November 1 to December 15; brook trout, April 1 to October 1.

Subjoined are a few notes of two farms visited in the neighbourhood of St. Paul, and which may afford some idea of the farming of the locality. Mr. Smith, of the Meadows, purchased his 300 acres three miles from town 11 years ago at 20 dols. an acre. The land is undulating, and was chiefly under-wood and scrub, which has been grubbed up at a cost of 20 dollars an acre, with 5 dollars more for clearing off the timber and doing the first ploughing. These items forcibly set forth the expenses of bringing woodland under thorough cultivation. The farm is enclosed and conveniently subdivided. Before it was enclosed 500 cattle occasionally strayed over it, devouring everything almost as closely as the locusts did in some districts in 1874 and 1875. Draining of a few springy, wet places has been effected with 3-in. pipes placed 4 ft. deep. Eighty acres are still in wood, with a lake of ten acres, which it is proposed to drain. A stable with a barn overhead has been built of stone and timber, 40 ft. long and 20 ft. wide, covered with wooden shingles, or thin slips of wood cut and put on like slates. The building, which is 22 ft. to the eaves, is divided into two stories; the lower is partitioned the long way, allowing four rows of cattle to be tied up. Accommodation is said to be provided for 100 animals; but such a number would necessitate close packing. A well 20 ft. deep is sunk in the middle of the shed, and with pump and iron piping the water is conveniently distributed. Ten feet of head room are secured below, and in the barn floor shoots and openings are provided, through which the food, with little labour, is supplied to the cattle beneath. A very nice, well-finished dwelling-house of wood, with ten rooms has been erected at a cost of 2,000 dols. Around the house evergreen shrubs have been planted, and several hundred apple trees, but many of these have perished from frost. Mr. Smith frankly confesses that he would have had a much better return for his labour and capital had he gone to a western prairie, where, without clearing expense and expenditure of time, he might at once have struck in his ploughs; with a liberal education, and anxious to attend science and other lectures at St. Paul, he preferred to remain near the town. The increased value of his estate, which would now sell for 60 dols., would, however, repay outlay. About 100 acres are still under the plough, and 120 are in grass. The crops are good. On the newly-broken land Indian corn is first taken, producing 50 bushels of shelled corn, which is used for the stock. Wheat follows, sown in spring, and leaving 15 to 25 bushels an acre. Potatoes have occupied a variable but considerable breadth, do well on the peaty loam, help to clean the land, get rid of the prairie grasses, and bulk 250 bushels. Portions have been sown with oats, yielding 40 to 50 bushels an acre. No very definite rotation is followed, but Mr. Smith is gradually sowing most of his land with clover and Timothy, intending, for the present at any rate, to let it remain permanently, graze it with cattle, or cut hay and sell it in St. Paul for 5 dols., which can be got for good samples of "tame" grass, as this cultivated variety is aptly termed. The stock of the farm, reduced by recent sales, consists of seven horses, four two-year-old colts, five cows, about 20 cattle of various ages, and some good pigs; but there are no sheep. Four labourers are regularly employed at a cost of 1 dol. a day for each, excepting in harvest, when rates are doubled.

Mr. Sam Deering, of Bluffdale, a mile from St. Paul, is a capital specimen of a Western settler. He came to his present abode as a tenant 12 years ago with a wagon drawn by four

bullocks, followed by seven small cows, and containing a poor stock of goods. By thrift and industry he now owns his 75 acres, has built a good house and premises, and is master of 120 good cattle, of which about 20 are superior pedigreed Shorthorns. He has seven useful Gwynne cows and heifers; the older ones bought at Mr. Gibson's sale—one, Miss Gwynne, roan, of April, 1873, following 2nd Duke of Oneida, from Atlantic Gwynne, purchased by Lord Skelmersdale at the famous New York Mills sale. Besides these are an old Princess cow and her smart roan heifer calf, and several prize-winning sorts of less notable pedigree. Bull calves are sold readily at 25 to 50 guineas. The young stock are from the deep, massive, useful 3rd and 5th Marquis of Oakland, the best of these two from a Gwynne cow sent to an Airdrie Duke. From the grade cows, now three and four times crossed with Shorthorn, the bull calves, no matter how promising, are wisely sent to the butcher whenever they are worth 10 or 12 dols.; a few heifer calves are disposed of to breeders at two or three weeks at 25 to 30 dols. The stock are well kept; none are forced, but all are doing well. Mr. Deering sensibly insists that nothing pays unless done well. Several ten-months heifers the useful steelyard show to weigh already 700lb., and they are steadily gaining 100lb. a month. The cows are expected to produce 24 to 25 quarts per day; several calved six months are still giving 15 to 16 quarts; the milk is chiefly sold new at St. Paul for 5 cents, a quart. The cows, mostly good grades, are milked at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. So steady is the demand for the milk, even of 70 cows, that little butter is made. The annual milk sales reach 7,000 dols.; the sales for stock hitherto have been irregular, owing to the herd being steadily increased, but it has lately averaged 3,000 dols.; and as the pedigree Shorthorns increase and more young bulls are sold at advancing figures, higher averages will be reached. Natural and artificial grasses constitute the chief food in summer, the heavier milkers receiving, however, a few pounds of bran and corn. Besides the farm of 75 acres, some common and woodland afford grass during summer. From November until March the chief food of the cattle is Indian corn—sown after the middle of May, put in thickly on land well manured, and producing the biggest crop of stuff I have yet seen in Minnesota. Reaching 6ft. high, and thickly covering the ground, there seemed to me to be five tons of valuable fodder on every acre. On this corn, given in the straw, the cattle of all ages—the Shorthorns as well as the grades, the milkers as well as the feeders, thrive equally well. A small quantity of clover (which, being also manured, yields fully three tons for the first cutting) and some prairie hay are also used. Eighteen tons extra of hay were purchased last winter, costing 3 dols. delivered; but the chief extraneous food is bran, of which 200 tons are used, costing 3 dols. 75 cents, or 15s., per ton of 2,000lb. I do not anywhere remember 75 acres of land producing such heavy crops of fodder and contributing so largely and profitably to feed 120 cattle and nearly as many hogs. What Mr. Deering has done others surely may do.

**ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—The preliminary arrangements for the show of the Royal Agricultural Society at Carlisle in 1880 are making good progress. Of the local guarantee fund of £6,000 over £5,000 has already been subscribed. The show will be held upon the Sauceries and the Willow Holme, two large meadows close to the city and close to the Caledonian Railway, from which a siding may be made into the showyard. The ground is intersected by the river Caldew, over which two bridges will be thrown, the central bridge being 40ft. wide in line with the main avenue of the show. The main entrance being on the side nearest the city, the first field, the Sauceries, will be devoted to the implement and machinery in motion department, and the second field, the Willow Holme, across the bridges referred to, will be arranged for the display of live stock. The Corporation of Carlisle, to whom the land belongs, have begun to prepare it for the show. As it is 24 years since the Royal Agricultural Society's show was held at Carlisle, much interest is taken in the matter, and the local agricultural societies will not hold their usual shows next year, but will promote the success of that of the Royal Agricultural Society.

## A MILLERS' EXPOSITION.

The most important purely commercial exposition ever attempted in this country, or indeed in any country, has just been undertaken by the National Millers' Association of the United States. The Executive Committee of this Association held a meeting in Milwaukee on Wednesday, Oct. 15th. Messrs. George Bain and Alexander Smith are the St. Louis members of this committee, and both were present at the Milwaukee meeting. Mr. Bain is President of the National Association.

The proposed Millers' Exposition owes its origin to the fertile brain of Mr. Smith, of this city. The proposition is to have a grand international exhibit of mill products, mill machinery and mill furnishing supplies. Bakers of national and foreign repute will also test flours on the spot. Vast ovens will be provided for this purpose. The details of the exhibition have not been fully determined upon as yet. The Secretary of the Association will correspond with the mill-furnishers of Europe and America, and every inducement will be offered for all climes and tongues to be represented. It is not expected that the wheat growers or millers of the Old World will send their samples for exhibition, as they have no market whatever in this country; but to make the display a universal one, samples of flour will be brought from all the four centres of the world and put in with the American exhibits.

A very important matter not yet determined upon is the place of holding this exposition. The parties who have inaugurated the movement are St. Louis men, and they are naturally anxious to have the Exposition take place in St. Louis. But there is no building in this city at all adequate to the demands of the display. To put up such a building would require a very large central lot and a great deal of money. Moreover, there is a very little time yet remaining before the date when the Exposition must take place. The time set is June, 1880. It seems to be the opinion of Messrs. Bain and Smith, and everybody else, that this grand and unique Exposition will have to take place in Chicago, for the reason that that city alone offers a suitable building. Unless St. Louis will put upon a building in all respects suitable, the Chicago Exposition building will be secured. It will be unfortunate if this great international affair cannot take place in St. Louis, for this is without doubt the chief market of the world for fine brands of flour. Hardly a day elapses that some flour dealer of England, Ireland, or France does not appear on the floor of the Exchange in search of information in regard to St. Louis mills and their products. It is expected that the Exposition proposed will attract thousands of European merchants, for at it the foreign dealers will be able to meet every American miller of trade importance. Each American miller will be allowed to exhibit one sample barrel and this will be divided up into pound packages ready for examination or for practical tests.

It is proposed that the Exposition be of two weeks' duration, with a very small admittance fee, just sufficient to defray actual running expenses.

Mr. Bain, as President of the National Association, is empowered to go ahead and make every arrangement for the exhibition. He will appoint a number of sub-committees, so as to lessen the great labour of preparation. Mr. Bain will himself go to New York and Washington City, and endeavour to make arrangements for half-rate transportation for exhibitors and machinery from Europe to this country.

The Secretary of the Association is already at work indicting letters and circulars to the mill furnishers of this country and Europe. There were quite a number of mill furnishers present at the Milwaukee meeting last Wednesday, and they were unanimously in favour of the Exposition. There can be no doubt that it will be an extensive affair. The only regret connected with it will be the fact that it may take place at some other place than St. Louis.—*St. Louis Globe*.—*Democrat*.

**NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting of the Norfolk Agricultural Association was held at the Royal Hotel, Norwich, on Saturday, the retiring President, Mr. R. T. Gurdon, in the chair. It was agreed that the summer show for 1880 should be held at Downham, on the 16th and 17th of June. Mr. Henry Villebois was appointed President for 1880.

## SHORTHORNOLOGY.

The following amusing contribution, from the pen of Mr. G. T. Turner, appears in the current number of the *National Live Stock Journal* of Chicago:—

It is, to me, a source of satisfaction to read American accounts of Shorthorn matters detailed in plain business-like phraseology. It may be taken for granted that there are good, pure-bred Shorthorns in the United States, yet they are modestly described. In England, on the contrary, one is accustomed to read of beauty, loveliness, grandeur, and magnificence as common attributes of fashionably-bred Shorthorn cattle. To outsiders these terms are meaningless when so applied, and many of the animals spoken of in this way are, in spite of their pedigrees, very plain to look at. Their nomenclature, too, is of the most pretentious character; one Queen had a Latin poem composed in her honour, and Princesses, Duchesses, Dukes, Duchesses, Earls, Barons, Baronesses, Counts, Countesses, Lords, and Ladies are the titles of what is supposed to be a bovine aristocracy, far removed from the level of plebeian cattle of other breeds. This may be all very well in its way, but the practice of naming animals after persons in high life is, after all, but questionable taste. The simple announcement, for example, that Princess — is "sojourning" with the Duke of —, which appeared in one of the agricultural papers the other day, does not sound well. And yet, in the same paper—famous for its Shorthorn lore—the fact of a Shorthorn cow coming again and again in season whilst in calf, was described as a matter of such importance that no "false notions of delicacy" could be allowed to overrule its mention. We read of a cow and calf as "Lady — and her handsome daughter"; of a cow having "grown bigger, if not more lady-like"; of another as being "light around the waist, and of lady-like bearing"; of a "sweet, motherly-looking cow"; of another as having "settled down into the position of a buxom mother"; of a heifer as possessing "lovely style, and a chastely-moulded form"; of another as "blooming into heifer-hood"; and of a heifer calf as a "sweet youngster." We read, too, of the "Duke of — and his two nephews"; of a bull described as "the illustrious uncle" of Duke —; of another bull being "gentlemanly in his gait"; of Prince — having "completed his eleventh birthday"; and of a bull having "ended his days somewhat abruptly in the prime of life." I could fill a page with similar extracts, in which Shorthorn cattle are daily spoken of in terms usually applied to human beings. I have before me a newspaper cutting—and I am not stating anything which I have not now before me in print—in which a Shorthorn's name is styled a "baptismal paronymic"; another describes a young bull as the "scion of a lordly race," and an old one as a "monarch of the yard." The following description of a bull calf is unique:—

"No sooner does the eye catch sight of him than it becomes impressed with his rare elegance and beauty of style, and the beholder involuntarily exclaims, 'This is a little nobleman!' His handsome head and finely-chiselled countenance are features worthy of special admiration, and he comes down rich and full to the bosom, with a beautiful contour of neck and shoulder. \* \* \*. Nor must it be forgotten that he has gaiety of carriage and lordly style. \* \* \*. We have analysed our treasure and find it will stand the test of the most scrutinising examination, but we do not stop to set down minutely what is to be computed to the size or form of the diamond, the beautiful setting, or the fashion, when we fully know that the whole together ravishes all eyes, and makes the possessor generally envied and world-renowned; \* \* \* is entirely a jewel of this nature, which every Englishman must feel regretful to lose from this country; but being destined to adorn the bosom of the Southern Ocean, we only hope it will blazon there in brilliant lustre, and for many years attract attention from every part of the civilised globe."

This bull is, unfortunately, dead—he was a real good one, I am told—and the bosom of the Southern Ocean has one jewel the less to adorn it.

The points of Shorthorn cattle are often described in similar style. They are nearly all "grand," of course, and sometimes their grandeur and magnificence appear to be too great for expression. I shall not soon forget hearing and seeing a breeder deliver himself of deep sentiment when looking at one

of the most noted prize-winners of the day. "Eh! but he's a gr-r-r-r-a-a-a-ud uh!" The word seemed much too big for his mouth. Some of the descriptive terms are not a little remarkable. If an animal is good over the loin, it is written down as having a "broad expanse of tab e-land"; the hair on a Shorthorn beast is described as "downy," "mole-like," "velvety," "mossy," and "like that of the Esquimaux dog"; the touch like that of the "sea-otter," "superb," "luscious," "lovely"; and the newest definition of a Shorthorn's hide is an "elastic wrapper." I have seen the word "grand" used with regard to every part of a Shorthorn, except the ear and the tail; and I have seen the former described as "beautiful," and the latter as "aristocratic." One writer, who gives long reports of noted herds, describes nearly every other animal as being "tubular," and yet most of them have a "table-land" of back or loin. It is evident he cannot mean that they are cylindrical—he must intend to convey the idea that they are hollow, or at least have a passage through them of some sort. As may be supposed, poetry sometimes crops up in the more flowery paths of Shorthorn literature. The following is quite classical:—

"Waves now the field for 'Warlabey' as Vesper Star comes in,  
And, silent though the Bates men are, the Booths main—  
't'au die dia.

A Crosbie wins the maiden for a thousand guineas down;  
Nor cues the lucky bid that clamed her for his own."

And quite recently some one describes a "growthy" (!) calf as being—

"Fair as a star, when only one  
Is shining in the sky."

This sentiment is very beautiful. To crown all, an enthusiastic admirer of Shorthorns, and all pertaining to them, uses the word "immortal" in connection with the name of a well-known auctioneer.

All this is, to me, simply ridiculous. I have an old-fashioned liking for calling a spade a spade, and I like to have a cow called a cow—not a "queeny matron," a "buxom female," or a "maternal ancestress"; if she has bred good stock, I should prefer using simple words to that effect, rather than speaking of her as "the progenitress of many fair sons and daughters," in the phraseology of our "tubular" friend; and I fail to see why the briskeet of a beast should be called a "bosom," or its hide a "wrapper." No one can have a greater appreciation of the merits and great usefulness of the Shorthorn breed of cattle than I have, nor a greater dislike to the purely arbitrary and artificial rules by which "fanciers" breed them. "Fashion" is now centred in one family only, and none but its near relatives can command prices much beyond those of ordinary pure-bred cattle. No one seems to know, or to be able to form any idea as to how long it will rest with the Duchesses, or where it will go next. I have seen many of them, but there is nothing which can be seen or felt about them—nothing apparent to the eye or amenable to the touch—which gives them superiority over other strains of blood. Their value appears to rest on their reputed purity, and not by any means on their corporeal merits. The "unintelligent" and the "unschool'd critics" have been ridiculed by Shorthorn fanciers for predicting the downfall of the Shorthorn mania, and for expressing the opinion that, like other manias, it would have its day and disappear. I, for one, am a firm believer in this collapse, because I see it rapidly taking place, and because I do not think such artificial condition can be maintained by the breeders of such undeniably useful stock. When that time shall come, I shall be prepared to see great improvement made in the general standard of Shorthorn excellence, a wider field of usefulness established for the breed, and the total disappearance of ridiculous phraseology from Shorthorn records in agricultural journals.

SCULPTURE EXTRAORDINARY.—The *Exchange and Advertiser*, undoubtedly a most useful paper in its way, runs this so-called comic papers rather closely sometimes. A correspondent has forwarded me a recent number in which appears the following advertisement. "Wanted a walnut wood cut age piano forte by a widow-lady with carved legs!" There hasn't been anything so rich as this, and certainly not so original, in *Punch* this many a year. —*Muirfair*.

## REVIEW OF THE CORN TRADE.

From *The Mark Lane Express* for the week ending  
November 24.

The sharp spell of frosty weather which ushered in the week proved of short duration, as the temperature rose considerably on Tuesday and speedily obliterated the signs of winter. Since then the air has again become colder, and some quantity of snow has fallen, thus again stopping wheat-sowing and the carting of mangels. Fortunately wheat-sowing had made considerable progress before the interruption came, and it is also to be observed that it will go on all the faster after the freezing and moistening of the soil if we get a return of mild and fine weather. Fears are, however, expressed that in some districts the prospects of the future crop is being jeopardised by the quality of the seed corn, really good samples have been and still are, exceedingly difficult to obtain. Mangels are yielding badly; in fact it may be said of roots generally that about half an average crop is all that will reward growers this year. In Scotland agricultural affairs are more backward, but every exertion is being made to make up for lost time, and if the weather only prove propitious for another fortnight we may expect to hear of a fair breadth of land under winter crops. The outstanding cereals have now been secured in the later districts, with results indicating a good bulk of straw, but little grain, and that by no means of the choicest quality. Supplies of English wheat at the country markets have been on a rather more liberal scale, as the home crop, such as it is, is being rapidly pushed forward. The results of the thrashing day by day have served but to emphasise the tale of deficiency, while as regards quality and condition the less said the better. Dullness has been the prevailing feature in provincial trade for wheat and spring corn, a decline of 1s. per qr. having been quoted on the former in many important Exchanges. The imports of foreign wheat into London have been again unusually heavy, last Monday's return showing an arrival of over 118,000 qrs., which, with subsequent supplies up to Friday of 87,280 qrs., have for the moment destroyed the natural balance of the local trade. A large proportion of the imports have consisted of Russian wheat, the shipments of which may yet be prolonged should weather prove mild, as no definite news of the closing of the Baltic ports has yet been received, and there are many steamers now loading at Cronstadt. America is, however the observed of all observers, and upon her action alone will depend the future course of prices. The shipments from Atlantic ports show considerable diminution, both to United Kingdom and the Continent, but the gigantic visible supply fetters the trade in spite of the fact that England has reaped barely half a crop of indigenous wheat. It is worth remarking that recent advices from the other side of the Atlantic estimate that 60 per cent of export surplus has already passed out of farmers' hands, and if this statement be true the depressing power of the visible supply should be materially weakened. Of course the large imports now arriving are considerably in excess of our immediate

requirements, but, notwithstanding surface fluctuations, there is a strong undercurrent of confidence observable in the trade, the outlook for holders being decidedly a hopeful one; and, with disappointment paramount as regards the English crop, the stoppage of Russian supplies by winter may very probably turn the scale in sellers' favour. Very little business has been done during the past week, as it is evident the wheat trade is being severely tested. The pressure to sell ex ship has caused prices to give way about 1s. per qr., and country millers have not been loth to avail themselves of the concession, which has, however, been made more with the view of avoiding landing expenses than of overcoming the reserve of buyers. The arrivals of grain laden vessels at ports of call have been moderate during the past week. Wheat off coast has been in fair demand, and although prices declined during the early part of the week a better feeling has since pervaded the trade. A good many cargoes have been disposed of both for the United Kingdom and the Continent at improving prices, the decline having been fully recovered. Maize has given way slightly, but the demand has somewhat improved. Very little business has been done in forward wheat, owing to the high prices asked in America. Resellers have offered very sparingly, and generally at figures beyond the reach of buyers, but some sales of red winter on passage have been made at 53s. 6d. to 53s. 9d. and 55s. for December-January shipment. The sales of English wheat noted last week were 40,065 qrs., at 47s. 10d. against 49,580 qrs. at 41s. 2d. in the previous year. The London average for the week ending November 21st was 51s. 4d. on 947 qrs. The imports into the United Kingdom for the week ending November 15th were 2,110,944 cwt. of wheat, and 301,035 cwt. of flour. With the exception of some slight return of firmness, there was but little change in the trade on Monday last, and the day's business was on the whole of a decidedly disappointing character, as the steadier feeling which marked the close of the previous week led holders of wheat to anticipate increased activity. The attendance was above the average, but in the presence of large arrivals of wheat and flour the market was depressed, and millers showed no inclination to add to their stocks, the day's sales being confined to the supply of the retail wants of country dealers. There were 3,951 qrs. of home-grown wheat, and a rather larger supply fresh up on factors' stands. Notwithstanding the improved condition of the offerings, sales were effected with difficulty at nominally unaltered currencies, and many samples remained unsold at the end of the day. Of foreign the imports were excessive, exceeding 118,000 qrs., more than one-half of which quantity was from American Atlantic ports. Russia furnished 37,573 qrs., and Germany 7,690 qrs., the remainder of the supply being from Australia and the East Indies. Factors held for the full rates of the previous Monday, but buyers declined to operate, and scarcely anything was done until late in the day, when a small consumptive demand was experienced, at an occasional decline of 6d. to 1s. per qr. for both Russian and American sorts, where sales were pressed ex ship. The exports were 1,115 qrs. against 1,926 qrs. in

the preceding week. There were 4,535 qrs. of home-grown Barley and 51,877 qrs. of foreign. Fine malting sorts were steady, and fully as dear, but grinding qualities could only be moved at 6d. to 1s. per qr. less money. Maize, with an arrival of only 1,400 qrs. from Sulina, was very inactive, and, in spite of the scarcity of spot corn holders were unable to realise any advance. The imports of oats slightly exceeded 91,000 qrs., and although some portion of the previous week's decline was recovered the trade was overweighed by the continued heavy arrivals, sales being only practicable at a reduction of 3d. to 6d. per qr. On Wednesday the return showed 1,740 qrs. of English wheat and 73,300 qrs. of foreign. The trade relapsed almost into stagnation, and with a very meagre attendance the few sales of wheat which took place showed a decline of 1s. per qr. on Monday's prices. Feeding corn was also dull, and the turn lower to sell. On Friday the supply had increased to 1,840 qrs. of home-grown wheat and 87,280 qrs. of foreign. The demand was very inactive, but Wednesday's prices were nominally maintained in the small retail business which was done. Maize was dull, and Spring Corn the turn easier. The imports of Flour into the United Kingdom for the week ending November 15th were 301,035 cwt., against 234,891 cwt. in the previous week. The receipts into London were 18,111 sacks of English, and 26,820 sacks and 2,922 barrels of foreign. A sluggish demand has been experienced for all varieties throughout the week, and both sacks and barrels have moved off slowly at barely previous quotations. The week's arrivals of Beans were 68,651 cwt. and of Peas 110,824 cwt., showing an increase of 6,188 cwt. on the former, and 25,511 cwt. on the latter. But few transactions have taken place, and where sales have been pressed prices have given way 1s. per qr. for both these articles. The week's deliveries of Malt were 13,981 qrs., and the exports 1,797 qrs. The trade remains in a quiet state, and quotations have undergone no change since last week. A fair amount of activity has characterised the agricultural seed trade, red Clover in particular having met a good demand at fully late rates, while white Clover and Alsike have also ruled steady. There has been no fresh feature to note in the trade for white Mustard or Canary, but Hemp continues in request at the moderate price of 32s. per qr. The country markets are now beginning to be fairly supplied, as the recent dry weather has enabled farmers to thrash more freely. The condition of much of this year's produce is still, however, unsatisfactory, and considerable difficulty is experienced in obtaining really choice parcels of seed Wheat. Damp lots have been practically unsaleable, while fairly-conditioned samples have given way 1s. per qr. Spring Corn has ruled quiet, but prices do not appear to have altered much. At Liverpool, on Tuesday, a quiet tone prevailed throughout the grain trade, and with only a dull retail inquiry Wheat receded 1d. per cental. Flour moved slowly at about previous rates, while Beans and Peas, with increased prospective supplies, were the turn against the seller. Maize was not very active, but with small arrivals a shade more money was obtainable, new mixed American closing at 5s. 9d. to 5s. 9½d. per cental.

The week's imports included 105,000 qrs. of Wheat and 8,000 qrs. of Maize. At Newcastle Wheat has been firmly held for last week's prices, but the demand has been very inactive. Maize and Spring Corn remain unaltered, and Flour has favoured buyers. At Leeds sellers have had to accept 1s. less money for Wheat, and the same reduction has been necessary to effect sales of lower qualities of Barley, but other articles have supported last week's currencies. At Edinburgh the market has been well supplied with grain from the farmers, and all articles have met a quiet but steady sale at last week's prices. At Leith the weather has been seasonable, and farmers have been enabled to make good progress in Wheat sowing. The past week has been a very dull one in the grain trade, which has been a good deal depressed by the large arrivals of American Wheat off coast. The week's imports have been small of Wheat and Oats, but liberal of Barley and Flour. At Wednesday's market Scotch Wheat sold readily at previous prices, while foreign met a dragging sale at a slight reduction on last week's currencies. Both malting and grinding Barley sold slowly at unaltered rates, and Maize, Beans, and Peas were in moderate retail demand at former values. At Glasgow the arrivals from abroad have been large of American Flour, but small of other articles. The trade has been dull and depressed, and with only a light retail inquiry prices closed a shade weaker for Wheat and Flour, but Barley and Oats were unaltered. At Dublin Wheat has met a slow sale without much variation in value, while Barley has been the turn cheaper, even for the choicest samples. Maize has ruled dull, the demand having been quite of a retail character. At Cork the weather has been fine, and a limited business has been done in Wheat at unaltered prices, but a firm tone has prevailed in the trade. Maize still meets with little consumptive inquiry, and last week's values have been barely maintained.

The following are the reports from Mark Lane during the past month :

Monday, November 3.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat 3,109 qrs.; foreign 64,248 qrs.; Exports 1,361 qrs. There was a rather better supply of English Wheat at market this morning, and some improvement was noticeable in the condition of the samples. Sales progressed steadily at last Monday's currencies. Of foreign the arrivals were liberal, although not excessive, and with a large attendance of millers, an improved demand was experienced at the full prices of this day week, the intervening depression of Friday having been recovered.

Country Flour 15,581 sacks, Foreign 5,579 sacks, and 364 barrels. Both barrels and sacks met a slow sale at about late rates.

English Barley, 2,619 qrs.; Scotch, 3,044 qrs.; Foreign, 25,097 qrs. Holders asked rather more money, but the trade was slow and sales difficult to effect at any advance.

English Oats, 1,553 qrs.; Scotch, 80 qrs.; Irish, 370 qrs. Foreign, 66,003 qrs. Exports, 17 qrs. All varieties were in fair request at the full currencies of this day week.

English Beans, 878 qrs. Foreign, 761 qrs. There was a steady demand and prices occasionally favoured sellers.

Linseed, 4,986 qrs. Exports, 2 qrs. Firm, and fully as dear.

Malt: English, 15,609 qrs.; Scotch, 1,496 qrs.; Exports, 998 qrs. There was a fair show of new samples, and a quiet trade was done at unaltered prices.

Maize: The decline of 6d. per qr. which took place towards the end of last week was recovered, and prices closed the same as on Monday last, with a moderate inquiry.

Monday, November 10.

The arrivals during the past week have been: English Wheat 6,274 qrs.; foreign 69,507 qrs. Exports 1,926 qrs. The supply of English Wheat fresh up to market this morning was again small, and although many of the samples were in better condition, the trade ruled dull at a decline of 1s. to 2s. per qr. Of foreign the arrivals were liberal, and with a moderate attendance of millers a quiet consumptive demand was experienced at a decline of 6d. per qr. on red and 1s. per qr. on white descriptions.

Country Flour, 17,585 sacks; foreign, 7,016 sacks and 450 barrels. Prices were nominally unaltered for both sacks and barrels, but where sales were pressed, holders had to submit to a slight reduction.

English Barley 2,104 qrs.; Scotch 1,978 qrs.; foreign 37,934 qrs. Maltng sorts met a slow sale at about late rates, while grinding qualities were neglected and 6d. per qr. cheaper.

Malt: English, 12,861 qrs.; Scotch, 560 qrs. Exports, 1,819 qrs. In moderate request at about former quotations.

Maize, 2,934 qrs Exports, 373 qrs. In rather better demand at last Monday's prices, 28s. to 28s. 6d. per 480lb. being the value of mixed American.

English Oats, 1,253 qrs.; Scotch, 116 qrs.; foreign, 81,784 qrs. Exports, 57 qrs. With large arrivals from abroad, the trade ruled quiet, and sales were only practicable at a reduction of 1s. per qr. on swedes, and 6d. per qr. on other sorts.

English Beans, 792 qrs.; foreign, 5,153 qrs. A steady consumptive demand was experienced at last week's currencies.

Linseed: 9,309 qrs. Exports, 727 qrs. Unaltered in value, but very firmly held, owing to scarcity.

Monday, November 17.

The arrivals during the past week have been:—English Wheat, 3,757 qrs.; Irish, 194 qrs.; Foreign, 118,119 qrs.; Exports, 1,415 qrs. There was a rather larger supply of English Wheat at market this morning, and as sales progressed very slowly at about last Monday's rates Of foreign the arrivals were excessive, and the trade proved disappointing, as notwithstanding the large attendance of millers only a few retail sales could be effected at the same prices as were obtainable on this day week.

Country flour, 18,111 sacks. Foreign 26,820 sacks, and 2,922 barrels. The demand was inactivs, but in the limited business passing both sacks and barrels maintained former currencies.

English Barley, 1,942 qrs.; Scotch, 2,543 qrs.; Irish 100 qrs.; foreign, 51,877 qrs. Maltng descriptions sold slowly without change in value, and grinding qualities were very dull, and a shade cheaper.

Malt, English, 13,255 qrs.; Scotch, 623 qrs.; Irish 103 qrs. Exports, 1,797 qrs. Buyers operated with a good deal of caution, but where sales were made previous rates were, obtainable.

Maize, 1,400 qrs. Exports, 50 qrs. Prices were nominally unaltered for both round and flat corn, but notwithstanding the scarcity on spot buyers were hard to find.

English Oats, 1,666 qrs.; Scotch, 1,218 qrs.; foreign, 91,063 qrs. Some portion of last week's decline was

recovered, although continued heavy arrivals from abroad depressed the trade, and prices favoured buyers to the extent of 3d. to 6d. per qr.

English Beans, 871 qrs.; foreign 6,037 qrs. Quiet but steady at about last Monday's quotations.

Linseed, 11,615 qrs. Exports, 1,093 qrs. Unaltered in value or demand.

Monday, November 24.

The arrivals during the past week have been:—English Wheat, 5,364 qrs.; Irish, 100 qrs.; Foreign, 99,323 qrs.; Exports, 2,121. The arrivals of English Wheat at market this morning were again moderate, and the trade ruled slow at about last Monday's prices; of foreign the imports were very heavy, and, with a fair attendance of millers, a quiet consumptive demand was experienced at about late rates for all except Wm'er American descriptions, which were 1s. per qr. cheaper on the week.

Country Flour, 18,921 sacks; Foreign, 5,762 sacks and 9,581 barrels. In limited request, and the turn in buyers' favour for both sacks and barrels.

English Barley, 3,329 qrs.; Scotch, 408 qrs.; Irish, 12 qrs.; foreign, 15,475 qrs. Inferior maltng sorts gave way 6d. to 1s. per qr., but grinding qualities, although slow, were not notably lower.

Malt: English, 15,886 qrs.; Scotch, 1,423 qrs. Exports, 1,173 qrs. The demand being very limited, holders had to accept rather less money to effect sales.

Maize, 7263 qrs. Exports, 200 qrs. There was very little corn offering on spot, and scarcely any business was done, prices remaining nominally unaltered.

English Oats, 2,276 qrs.; Scotch, 201 qrs.; Foreign, 91,529 qrs.; Exports, 50 qrs. With a somewhat increased demand, holders were enabled to establish an advance of 3d. to 6d. per qr. on the depressed prices of last week.

English Beans, 730 qrs.; Foreign, 790 qrs. A quiet trade at about previous currencies.

Linseed, 3,358 qrs. Dull and unaltered in value.

CURRENT PRICES OF BRITISH GRAIN AND FLOUR IN MARK LANE.

	Shilling	per Quarter.
WHEAT, Essex & Kent, white.....	old — to new	51 to 63
	red.....	old — new 46 57
Norfolk, Lincolnsh., and Yorksh. red —	old — new	50 57
BARLEY, Lincolsh., and Yorksh. Chevalier new.....		42 53
Grinding.....	35 to 42.....	Distilling 36 43
MALT, pale.....	new 65 to 74.....	old brown 52 54
RYE.....		32 36
OATS, English, feed 23 to 25.....		Potato 25 29
Scotch, red.....		Potato.....
Irish, feed, white 26 23.....		Flue.....
Ditto black.....	25 26.....	Potato.....
BEANS, Mazagan.....	34 37.....	Ticks 35 23
Harrow.....	— —.....	Pigeon, old 42 50
PEAS, white boilers 34 33.....	Maple '8 to 10.....	Grey 35 37
FLOUR, per sack of 280lb., town households.....		44 50
Best country households.....		42 44
Norfolk and Suffolk.....		40 42

FOREIGN GRAIN.

	Shilling	per Quarter.
WHEAT, Danzig, mixed.....	62 to 63.....	extra — — 64
Konigsberg.....	59 62.....	extra — —
Ro-tock.....	56 60.....	od..... — —
Pomera, Meckberg, and Uckermark.....	rod.....	56 58
Ghirka 56 to 57.....	Russian, hard, 50 to 55.....	Saxonska 54 50
Danish and Holstein.....	rod — —.....	red American 52 58
Chilian, white, 60.....	Caifornian 60 63.....	Australian 60 62
East Indian, No. 1 Club white 55 to 56; No. 2.....		51 53
Old, white 40 to 61; red 47 to 49; hard 47.....		49 49
BARLEY, grinding, 25 to 26.....		distilling 36 46
OATS, Dutch, brewing and Poland 22 to 24.....		feed 21 23
Danish and S-wedish, feed 21 to 22.....		Stralsund 23 24
Canada 00 to 60.....	Riga 19 to 20.....	Petersburg 19 23
BEANS, Friesland and Holstein.....		— —
Italian.....	37 to 39.....	Egyptian 38 39
PEAS, Canadian.....	36 37.....	Prussian 37 40
MAIZE, Black Sea.....	30 31.....	Mixed American 28 29
FLOUR, per sack, French 38 44.....	Sp nish, p. sack — —	
Hungarian, per sack.....	45 60.....	American barrel 26 30
TARES, Spring.....		— —

# THE FARMER'S MAGAZINE.

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