

At the recent great fat cattle show at Islington, England, the Short Horns took the three leading prizes—Best ox or steer, Mr. Bull's steer, No. 65. Best cow or heifer, Mr. R. Scratton's Nectanno Bud, No. 51. The \$500 cup to the best animal in the yard, "H. R. H." the Prince of Wales' white heifer, No. 170, bred by Mr. Hugh Aylmer, got by T. C. Booth's British Crown. A fat ox exhibited by Mr. Wortley weighed, at 65 months old, about 2,700 pounds.

A MEETING of the Local Committee to make preparations for the Dairymen's Convention to be held the second week in February, was held in the Secretary's office, Ingersoll, on Monday evening, 21st ult. The business transacted consisted of a consultation as to what speakers should be invited to address the meeting and the questions for discussion. A sub-committee was appointed to make preliminary arrangements, who will report as soon as they are perfected.

SIR DUDLEY C. MAJORIBANKS, of Gainsachan, has introduced into the Scotch Highlands a herd of Swiss cattle. The intention is to maintain the breed in its purity. Eight animals, including a bull, are now at Gainsachan, and are thriving well, being suitable for the climate. The Swiss cattle are of dun colour, with white muzzle, have square frames, and are somewhat larger than the Ayrshire breed of cattle. The females are excellent milkers and nurses, and take on flesh readily.

MR. DAVIDSON'S SHORT-HORNS.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* describes at some length and with praise the recently imported Short horns belonging to Mr. J. I. Davidson, Ba'nam, Canada. They number 19 heifers, all in calf to noted sires in Scotland, and two young bulls. One of the latter jumped into the dock at Liverpool, but was fished out without injury. Crown Prince of Athelstane 2nd, the bull Mr. Davidson has at the head of his herd, this correspondent pronounces one of the very best bulls ever bred in Canada.

SALE OF ROYAL CATTLE.—The Christmas sale of the stock fattened on the royal demesne took place at the Prince Consort's Shaw Farm, under the hammer of Messrs. Buckland & Sons, of Windsor. There was a large attendance of buyers. The catalogue included 40 short-horn and polled Scotch oxen, 360 fine wether sheep, and 60 bacon hogs and porkers. The oxen averaged £12 each, the highest price obtained being £56. Half-bred sheep fetched as much as 87s.; Southdowns, twelve month lambs, 85s. Porkers and hogs averaged £6 10s. The whole of the Prince Consort's breed sold at 27, 17s. 6d. each.

THE GREAT ANNUAL SHOW of fat cattle opened at Smithfield on Monday. The exhibition is not so large as in some previous years, but the quality of the stock is of notable excellence. The Prince of Wales carries off the prize given for the best beast in the yard, with a fine short horn heifer. The Queen is a considerable prize taker; and the names of many of the nobility figure on the list. For the Scottish breeds the first prizes were awarded to Sir W. Gordon Cumming, Messrs. Martin, of Aberdeen, Mr. Read, Alford; and Mr. McCombie, M.P. The competition in most of these classes was keen.

AT Messrs. Burrell & Johnson's recent sale of sheep at Greenwood, Pickering, 36 ewes were sold for \$2,214, being an average of \$61 50 each. Six yearling rams offered brought \$527, averaging about \$76 each. Four ewe lambs were bid off at an average of \$45 each, but these were given up by the purchaser, as the prices were not satisfactory, and the buyer did not wish to hold them below their value. The best ram lambs had been all sold to customers before the sale, and the prices realized on those left were below their intrinsic worth. The fillies were not in demand, only two were sold at low prices. Seven grade heifers and heifer calves brought \$330.

IMPORTATION OF GALLOWAY CATTLE.—Peter Davy, of Springbrook farm, Ashpappan, received a car load of Galloway cattle, in a herd of four animals, at our depot yesterday. They were imported from Canada and comprise three heifers and a bull calf. The cost of these animals put down at Oconomowoc is \$879 50, and Mr. Davy is to be congratulated upon their safe arrival. The improvement in stock to which our breeders are giving their attention is of first importance to the people of Wisconsin, and Mr. Davy is entitled to great credit in this direction, as he is ever in the van of all enterprise and every improvement.—*Oconomowoc Times, Dec 9th.*

A CAUTION TO A SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR.—At the Shropshire (England) Quarter Sessions, Oct. 21, John Tatley was indicted with obtaining by false pretences, on August 27, the sum of 37s. in prizes from the Shifnal Cottagers' Horticultural Society. The prisoner had represented to the Secretary that he lived at Gorsey, within four miles of Shifnal, to which distance the operations of the Society were confined, and he was accordingly allowed to compete in vegetables, flowers and fruits. The prisoner obtained prizes to the extent of thirty-seven shillings. The Secretary visited Gorsey Bank, and ascertained that the prisoner did not reside there, but beyond the four mile line; he examined the fruit, flowers and vegetables in the prisoner's garden, and found that they were of a totally different and inferior character to those which obtained the prizes. The prisoner subsequently refunded the money. He had been led into the notorious transaction by a gardener in the neighbourhood, who had supplied the articles and received a portion of the prize money. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to 21 days hard labour.

Seeds.

Seed Department.

In order to make this department valuable it will be necessary that our readers aid us in three ways.

1st. By reporting all new kinds of grain sown in their locality, giving descriptions of their peculiarities, and when and by whom introduced.

2nd. By sending small samples, either in the head or pod or thrashed out.

3rd. By reporting the success or failure of the different grains.

As is very well known to all successful farmers, continual change of seed is necessary. Old varieties run out, and new ones must continually supply their place. It matters not whether it be cereal, tuber or bulb, it matters not how profitable and productive it may be when first introduced, it gradually loses in vitality year by year, and finally has to be replaced. The farmer who would now attempt to grow our old favorites the pink eyes or the cups, would soon prove to his own satisfaction that a change is necessary. It is the same with wheat, oats, peas, and every seed that is grown. True it may have its day prolonged by a judicious change from clay to sand or sand to clay, or by a change of climate from north to south, and every farmer should take advantage of this fact, but even under the most favorable circumstances it will ultimately run out. It is for this reason that we desire to keep our readers informed as to the different varieties of new seeds, &c., which are being continually brought before the public. We wish to have your aid in giving opinions as to their various good and bad qualities, and we also wish to know for what localities they are especially adapted.

With these words of introduction we open our Seed Department, asking for your aid in order to make it of value to the whole Canadian Farming Community.

Spring Wheat.

In the western part of Ontario, spring wheat has been for many years but a poor crop, so poor in some places that many farmers have given up attempting to grow it.

It is quite right when a man finds that any crop does not suit his soil, that he should not waste money and time in trying to fight against nature, because if he cannot grow that crop with profit, he can some other, but a great many people decide too hastily and without giving their farms a proper chance.

It may be that you cannot succeed with bright first-class wheats, but there is a class of red wheats which, although selling at a smaller price in the market, yet make good flour and give good crops.

On many farms where other spring wheats are a failure, these red second-class wheats are a success, and although we always advise, where possible, to grow the best, yet there are circumstances under which it is advisable to grow red wheat.

So far as we have heard of it the "Red Chaff" stands best as a cropper among this class of wheats. True, many of our millers do not as yet know how to grind it to advantage, but they will know by and by. We know that this wheat yields well, and that is a matter of the first importance. It will not command the highest price as may be seen from the following extract, but the extra yield will much more than balance this loss:

"The millers of Waterloo, finding that the red chaff spring wheat introduced into this country a few years ago is far superior as to yield and quality of flour to the Fife spring wheat, called a meeting which took place at Waterloo, attended by the majority of representatives of the villages in the county, to establish a fixed difference in the price of red and Fife wheat. They decided to make a difference of five cents per bushel."

Quantities of the seed may be obtained in the county of Wellington, where it has been grown for some years. If some farmer who has a good clean sample for sale will insert an advertisement of it in our pages, he will benefit himself and the farming community.

NEW VARIETIES OF POTATOES.—Will some of our subscribers who have experimented with new varieties of potatoes during the past year inform us of the results of their experiments? We wish to hear specially about COMPTON'S SURPRISE, BROWNELL'S BEAUTY and EXTRA EARLY VILMONT, which were introduced at such high prices.

The Smith Wheat.

The *Menford Monitor* refers to our remarks on the Smith wheat as follows:

A correspondent of the CANADA FARMER quotes our paragraph noticing the purchase of this wheat by an American dealer through Mr. Charles Grant, of Collingwood township, and inquires whether the statements made are reliable. The editor is dubious and thinks "the whole thing is one of those periodical humbugs which by some means or other find their way into the press." Now, we can assure our unbelieving contemporary that there is no reason whatever to doubt the substantial truth of the statements made in the paragraph in question. The facts were supplied us by Mr. Chas. Grant in person, and we know him to be truthful and in every respect reliable. More, we have ourselves seen samples of the wheat—have in fact two heads now in our possession which were given us by Mr. Grant. We might state further that that gentleman, we believe, intends sending a sample of the wheat to the editor of the FARMER, and is quite prepared to make affidavit to the truth of all he has told us. While on the subject, we may here make a correction or two in the published paragraph. The name of the grower was Mr. Thomas Smith (not Donald), and the sum paid Mr. Grant for his services was \$150, instead of \$50, the amount first promised him.

Will some of our subscribers who know the wheat have the kindness to send us the facts of the case, and also some heads of the wheat. If this new wheat is one which will be of value to the country, we wish to know all about it and to spread the information.

Threshing Machine Accidents.

Notwithstanding the very stringent but wise enactments passed for the purpose of preventing accidents from threshing machines, it is really extraordinary how many of these we still read of in most of our exchanges. Here a poor fellow is caught in the gearing, a cogged wheel, or something of that kind left exposed, and his arm lacerated so as to disfigure and perhaps disable him for life; there another, with one of his limbs destroyed by the tumbling-rod; and thus the accounts proceed. Now, law can enact, but law pure and simple can do nothing more unless the people see to its being practically applied. The law expressly says that all exposed parts of a threshing machine likely to cause accident whilst in motion must be covered or boxed in. We venture to say that these regulations are not complied with in ten cases out of twenty, and who are to blame for the injuries proceeding from such neglect? Just the people themselves. Any one of them may at any time have the manufacturer or owner of an unboxed or unprotected machine indicted before the nearest magistrate, and handsomely fined for his carelessness or neglect. Did we have only a few examples of this kind they would prove beneficial, for we believe they are all that is wanted to have the matter properly attended to.

Seed and Plant Exchange.

The Queensland Acclimatization Society desires seeds of the following plants: 1. *Asimina triloba*, *A. Palustris*, and any other species. 2. The true Sisal Hemp. 3. *Lespedeza striata*.

Any seeds of Queensland, which the correspondent may desire, will be sent in return. The *Lespedeza* (Japan Clover) can readily be obtained in almost any neighborhood. *Asimina triloba* (American Paw-paw) is common enough in some parts of the South. Several smaller species are found in Florida and elsewhere. With *A. Palustris* we are not acquainted. Some reader in Florida may be able to send the true Sisal Hemp (*Agave Sisalana*). Parcels should be addressed to "the Queensland Acclimatization Society, Brisbane, Queensland, via San Francisco and Sydney."

CORRESPONDENCE is requested on the subject of spring wheat.

MACHINE FOR ASSORTING POTATOES.—This machine consists of long rollers, a hopper, assorting board and grading chutes, so combined and arranged that the potatoes being shovelled into the hopper at one end and caused to run along the assorting board and the rollers, the smaller potatoes will escape between the roller and the assorting board, while the larger ones will be discharged at the end. The distance between the roller or rollers and the assorting board increases from the head toward the tail, and the potatoes escape through the space, varying in size in the same measure, so that they can be separated into two or more grades by suitable partitions into receptacles below. The assorting board is adjustable toward and from the roller, so as to change the grade at will.