



A prize-winning English Shire mare. Sold recently for \$2,880.

Our English Letter

London, February 23, 1907.
THE FARMING OUTLOOK

A welcome change came with the new moon, and the plow is again going although the ground is stodgy. Barley will be sown as soon as the land is workable. A few weeks ago a farmer friend wrote as follows: "I saw a reference recently to double furrow plows. I purchased one on trial and am perfectly satisfied that, with three horses abreast, a great saving will be made in plowing. My man has been plowing two acres a day seven and a half inches deep and ten inches wide. The horses are not doing any more than two in the swing plow at the same depth. There would be a difficulty with this plow in putting down ditches. The skims turn in the stubbles or grass on the top all right, but anything lumpy runs up against the body of the plow, and has to be knocked into the furrow. To the old style farmer who believes in the four-horse plow and two men, the double furrow and one man will be Anathema, but anything that will save labor and do the work as well will be welcome."

It will interest some of your readers to know that steam and petrol motors are not fulfilling all the expectations hoped of them. The wear and tear has been far more than expected, and in not a few cases they have been laid aside and the horse resorted to again. No doubt improvements will be made, but the high rate of speed run at seems to shake them to bits before their time. Five working years were expected of them when turned out, but either too much has been taken out of them or they are not fit for what they were to do. The poor taxman will not be sorry to see less of them, and the heavy traction engines on the roads, which they are tending to replace, there should be some law to prevent heavy traction engines and loads from going over the roads after frost. They injure the road more than months of ordinary traffic.

The first of the spring sales of store sheep has taken place and the demand was all that could be desired. Lambs have wintered well and have left a handsome profit. A pound a head, with few losses, is good work since August. Several large lots bought for 50s. and 22s. were sold for 42s. and 44s. They won't leave so much for the next six

months' keep. Store cattle have not done so well as sheep, and are not wanted.

EXPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

The articles included under the term dairy products are generally allowed to consist of butter, cheese, eggs and milk. The first three have been articles of commerce for a long time, but in increasing quantities as the demand in the crowded countries of Europe, more particularly the United Kingdom and Germany, has increased and swifter vessels have transported them from greater distances, while the development of dairy farming in new countries furnishes a cheap supply at all times of the year.

Cheese may be divided into two kinds, soft and hard, to the former of which belong cream cheeses and many of the fancy cheeses manufactured on the continent, such as Camembert, Brie, Neuchâtel, etc. These keep only for a short time and can be exported only to countries at no great distance. Hard cheese will keep for months and are the object of considerable trade. Cheddar is the kind which figures most largely in commerce, being exported in large quantities from Canada and the United States. Holland exports Gouda and Edam cheeses; France, Gruyère and Roquefort; Switzerland, chiefly Gruyère; and Italy, Gorgonzola and Parmesan.

Eggs are now brought from even as far as Canada, and are used in calico printing and other industries as well as for food.

Milk cannot be carried far in a fresh state and the trade in this article is limited, though of considerable importance in a few countries, notably Switzerland and Norway. Condensed milk, sweetened or unsweetened, came into general use between 1860 and 1870, and milk is also preserved in cans and dried into a powder.

Denmark is one huge dairy farm and its preponderance is remarkable for such a small country. By far the greater part of the butter shipped by Russia comes from Siberia. France exports fancy cheeses and imports hard kinds, and imports eggs from Italy and other countries. Holland deals largely in eggs but does not produce enough for home consumption. The United States now exports less than 9 per cent. of its dairy produce.

The chief importing countries are United Kingdom and Germany. Of butter, eggs and cheese, the home production is less than the imports. The value of imported milk exceeds one and a half million sterling, but the quantity is insignificant compared to the home production.

GROWING WOOL

Wool, which a few years ago was looked down upon as a secondary matter, has now become, owing to its increased value, one of very considerable importance and source of income that makes a material difference to many farmers. All through the period of depression flock owners were repeatedly advised not to neglect the question of wool. No matter how low the price of this or any article may be, there is always a better price to be paid for the best quality of that particular article, and seeing that it costs no more to produce a pound of wool of the first quality than a pound of inferior quality, it was the business of the flockmaster to see that he produced the best pound. Owing to the low price of wool, the care and careful selection for its improvement was neglected, and the result has been a serious falling off in the quality of that produced in this country. This is by no means at the standard at which it should be, and there is room for vast improvement in nearly every breed.

Each breed of sheep produces a different quality of wool, and the market value of such naturally varies, but no matter what may be the quality of the wool produced by the breed, it is the duty of those breeding any particular breed of sheep to see that the best, and the best only, is produced. Quantity of wool is another matter which needs attention. The figures and facts in relation to these are given in connection with the Australasian supplies, and it is most remarkable to find how largely the production of wool has been increased by judicious management and selection. Of course, at home, where mutton has so high a value, one must not sacrifice mutton for wool, but there is no reason why wool should be sacrificed for mutton. The two productions of sheep should run hand in hand, and whilst every effort should be made to increase the early development of mutton, the same effort should be made to increase and keep up the standard and quantity of the wool.

ITEMS

A most trying winter is gradually drawing to a close and I do not think that anybody will be sorry to see the back of it. Within the past four weeks the barometer has registered a record height and depth, both of which were accompanied by heavy rain, which have done a terrible amount of damage both on sea and land.

Shire horse breeders have had a good sale season so far. At the leading sales which have taken place, prices have been wonderfully good. At Sir P. A. Muntz's the Shire mare Dunsinore Fuchsia made 520gs. (\$2,880). She has been a large winner of prizes at all our shows and is in prime, having been foaled in 1903. A three-year-old filly, Aldeby Lady Jameson, made \$2,115. The average price of 31 animals sold was just over \$740 dollars each.

The series of spring horse shows begin next week and are expected that they will be more than usually successful.

An exhibition is being held in London of South African products and many and varied are the foods, wines, etc., on exhibition. From what I can see, large quantities of wine are made. A determined effort is being made to get a footing on the British markets.