

The System of Showing Horses at Exhibitions.

THE EDITORS OF THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.—GENTLEMEN,—It has always struck myself and I am certain that it has frequently struck across the conviction of many others, at the rules regulating the exhibition of horses at our Provincial and Township Shows are lax to the extreme. The one point to which at the present moment I would more particularly advert is that system which is permitted, and is generally pursued, of horses appearing for judgment in those harnesses and trappings which the wealth of their owners may allow, and which add so much to the external and general appearance upon a fair ground. The system is correct, and it is also unfair, and I am opposed to it, as I think that every horse exhibited should appear in its naked, native dignity, unencumbered with any of that paraphernalia which is so much to mislead the eye and corrupt the judgment.

According to the system now pursued, every horse is taken under every description, blood, harness, carriage, and draught, should equally all appear in the real character and attributes to which they assume. For instance, a light horse should perambulate the course with a plough, a draught-horse with a heavy cart, so on *ad infinitum*. This idea is correct enough no doubt, but it becomes absurd and monstrous, and, in short, unfair, when we see the horses appearing on the show in all the trappings of new harness, while their competitors appear just as they are and as they ought to be, in the simple bridle.

I would therefore, Gentlemen, suggest that horses brought for show, should be shown simply with the plain bridle, and with nothing more, not even with roller and crupper, as any horse capable of doing so, will hold its head and dignify its appearance without any external aid or mechanical coaxing.

There are no doubt many owners of tolerably driving horses who frequent these fairs, not with any idea of obtaining prizes, but simply to have the opportunity thus afforded of showing their animals, and effecting a sale. I certainly would not wish to deprive these parties of the privilege of showing their horses, but I certainly do think that they should have a separate distinct class to themselves, to show just as they please. As it is now, they come in direct contact with the real *bona fide* competitors in every class, and afford a wide margin for discontent and a well founded idea of injustice in the minds of those who honestly show under special rules.

Trusting that this letter may obtain an insertion in the "Agriculturist," and that its suggestions may be taken into the careful consideration of the Board. I am Gentlemen,

Yours most obediently, GILBERT SMITH.
Newbury, 30th July, 1861

FARMING MEMS.—The following is Mr. Hawkin's receipts for a top-dressing to prevent the ravages of a turnip fly:— $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of white gasashes, fresh from the gasworks, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of fresh lime from the kiln, 3lb of sulphur, 5lb. of soot. This is sufficient for an acre drilled 27 inches apart. Apply it when the dew is on the ground.—One of Mr. Spooner's remedial measures to prevent disease in the turnip crop, is to avoid a too frequent repetition on the same land, by interposing a crop of mangolds or carrots, more especially the former.—Manure for the turnip crop— $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of bone dust per acre.—A ton of well rotted manure contains of fertilizing substances $47\frac{1}{2}$ lb., of water 4 cwt. 1 qr. 27lb., of other materials 15 cwt. $9\frac{1}{4}$ lb.

A Trial with Different Breeds of Sheep

In a seed-field on the Parlington estate, distant about a quarter of a mile from the steam trial ground of the Royal Society, an interesting experiment with the various breeds of sheep is now in progress, to prove which sheep are the best adapted to the soil of the district. A sixteen acre field has been taken; 600 hurdles purchased, to divide the field into two-acre plots; and sheep of various breeds have been procured from the following flockmasters: The first compartment contains ten Cotswolds, purchased from Mr. Edmund Rack, Esq., Castle Hill, Cricklade. The second division comprises twelve Leicesters, selected from the flock of Mr. Hill, Sledmere, and descended from the pure Sir Tatton Sykes blood—in fact, the worthy baronet himself selected them, prior to the Leeds market, wishing his tenant to carry them on for the exhibition. The next division is the most interesting, as in this class one of each class is selected—the gigantic Lincoln, the symmetrical Leicester, the large-framed Cotswold, the pure and elegant Southdown, the celebrated Shropshire Down, the fast-grazing Baumshire, and the improved Leicester and Teeswater cross are all feeding together—quite a pleasing study for the sheep fancier. The fourth allotment contains ten pure Shropshire Downs, sent by Mr. G. Preece, of Shrewsbury, and procured from first-class breeders. The pure Southdowns are from the flock of Mr. G. S. Foljambe, of Osberton, Notts, possessing all those attributes of character, quality, and symmetry for which that gentleman's stock are so highly renowned. The Lincolns adjoining them are wonderful animals, bred by Mr. Greetham, of Stainfield house, and bought out of the 200 which were sold at Lincoln April Fair for 72s. each: these sheep each clipped a fraction short of 15lbs. of wool. The next lot came from St. Boswell's, Scotland, representing a cross between the Leicester and Cheviot, very highly thought of for their grazing propensities, and noted also for their rapidity of gaining flesh. The last lot are a cross between the Leicester and the Teeswater, bred in the neighborhood of Ripley, and that have at various times been suc-