

expected. Cows in milk were not so numerous as is usually the case. The other breeds were only dimly represented.

The sheep exhibit at the Royal is always one of great importance. The number of entries made at this year's show was 631, as compared with 624 in 1898, and 649 in 1897. The sheep this year formed the chief feature of the Show, the entries being larger than last year, and the general average fully as good. The judging in some of the classes was very protracted and competition of the keenest kind. The display of Leicesters was a very creditable one. Cotswolds, though short in numbers, were never better represented. There was an excellent entry of 58 pens in the Lincoln section. Recent years have brought this breed into greater prominence from the fact that the demand for export has been a very large one. Oxford Downs came with a highly creditable muster, and the judges must have thought highly of the animals, for they were liberal in bestowing honorary awards. The Shropshire classes all round made a very satisfactory display, though there was little of what may be termed outstanding excellence, but to compensate for this there were fewer indifferent animals or pens than was the case a short time ago, and the type was very superior. One of the leading winners in this class was Mr. Alfred Mansell, who visited Canada in May last. The entry of Southdowns, which numbered 113, was one of the best for several years past. Greater discrimination seems to have been exercised by exhibitors in making their selections. There was a typical and excellent entry of Hampshire Downs, and some of the breeds not well known in this country were largely represented, such as the Suffolk, Border Leicester, and Kent and Romney Marsh sheep.

The Whites (Yorkshires), large, middle, and small, were undoubtedly the feature of the pig section of the show. Competition in most classes was keen, and in some cases there was a large number of good animals. There was a good class of large white boars, in which Sir Gilbert Greenall's fine boar, Walton Eclipse 2nd, was first winner. Mr. Sander, Spencer was a winner in many of the other sections. The middle whites were a strong class. The Berkshires were hardly so well represented as is usual at the Royal. The class of sows born in 1897 and 1898 is the strongest in this department. The champion prize for the best Berkshire pig in the yard went to Mr. Jefferson's sow, Peel Jessie, his boar, Peel Charlie, being reserve champion. The Tamworths, though out in small numbers, were good in quality. There are indications of a great improvement going on in this breed.

The poultry classes, both live and dressed, were small in numbers. This is said to be due to the fact that the season in Great Britain is a very bad one for chickens. But the falling off was noticeable in old birds as well as in young ones. The produce classes were not as well filled as expected. A very interesting trial of cream separators took place, which formed one of the features of the show.

Working the Garden

The all-important work in the garden is to destroy weeds. The best time to kill a plant is just after the first leaves have shown themselves above the ground. Then it is tender. All that is necessary to destroy it is to stir the ground enough to move the plant. But to find time to do this is the difficulty.

If the garden has been properly arranged a horse and cultivator will go over the garden in a few minutes. If the rows are long, and there is space for turning at the ends, the horse will do quite well. But in a small garden the horse and a cultivator are a nuisance. When this is the case the work is usually put off and the weeds neglected. The frequent stirring of the soil is as important for the garden as for the corn field.

A hand cultivator is a good implement in the garden. What is wanted most is an implement that is always ready. With such an implement the garden may be gone over at

odd spells. It is really surprising how much can be done in fifteen minutes. If the work is begun when the weeds first start there should be no trouble to keep the ground clean and mellow with a very little outlay of time and labor.

As to the time of day when this work should be done many will say that it makes little difference. The best time to kill weeds is the middle of a hot day, when they are cooked very promptly after the roots are cut off. Generally work in the garden is done in the evening, and while it may not be the best time to kill weeds there is not the evaporation from the freshly stirred soil that there is at mid-day, but the soil gathers moisture from the air at that time. However, the main object is to get the work done, no matter what time of the day.

Teaching Agriculture in Public Schools

The Normal School's Relation to It : Mr. Dearness' Appointment to the London Normal School Recommended

In a recent issue of the *London Advertiser* reference is made to a petition signed by the public school teachers in that district strongly recommending the appointment of Mr. John Dearness, Inspector of Public Schools for East Middlesex, to the principalship of the new Normal School shortly to be opened in that city. While we have refrained in the past from taking any part whatever in matters not intimately connected with the agricultural interests of the country, we are constrained in the present instance to diverge a little from what has been our practice, as the appointment referred to indirectly concerns every farmer in this province.

During the past year or two considerable prominence has been given to the teaching of agriculture in our public schools, and at the last session of the Legislature the Minister of Education announced that agriculture would be made a compulsory subject at the departmental examinations, or, in other words, that the teaching of agriculture would be made compulsory in the public schools. To teach this subject effectively teachers are necessary, and efficient teachers cannot be secured without some training. To our mind there could be no better place for giving public school teachers the necessary training in teaching agriculture than at the Normal School. This fact is also partially recognized by the Toronto Normal School authorities, who every year make one of the features of the term a special visit of the students to the Ontario Agricultural College, for the purpose, no doubt, of getting them interested in the teaching of agriculture and what is being done along that line at the college.

If, then, the Normal School is recognized as furnishing a good opportunity for the training of teachers in agricultural subjects, why not go the whole length and where possible appoint principals to control these schools who have a more or less practical knowledge of agriculture and are competent to teach this subject to the students in training under them? It is because we take this view of the situation, so far as the teaching of agriculture is concerned, that we have deviated from our usual course to say a word in behalf of Mr. Dearness' appointment to the principalship of the London Normal School.

Among the other qualifications which eminently fit Mr. Dearness for a position of this kind and which it is not necessary for us to refer to here is, that for a number of years he has been closely associated with the agricultural interests of this province. He has frequently addressed farmers' institute meetings on various agricultural subjects, chiefly those referring to weeds and insect pests, on which he is a recognized authority. His contributions to the