

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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The Farmer's Advocate

—AND—
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Our rates for single insertion are 20c. per line—\$2.40 per inch, space of nonpareil (a line consists on an average of eight words).

Manufacturers and Stock Breeders' cards inserted in "Special List" at \$1 per line per annum.

Condensed farmers' advertisements of agricultural implements, seeds, stock or farms for sale, or farms to let, not to exceed four lines, 50c., prepaid.

Advertising accounts rendered quarterly. Advertisements, to secure insertion and required space, should be in by 20th of each month.

Letters enclosing remittances, &c., only acknowledged when specially requested. Our correspondence is very hearty and must be abridged as much as possible.

This issue has been delayed to give you more complete accounts of the Exhibitions, and to give you the Provincial Prize List to bind with this volume.

Exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

This Society holds its Exhibitions at different places each year. This year it was held at Bristol from Tuesday, the 9th of August, till Monday, the 15th, both days included. We do not see much advantage in continuing it till Monday of the second week, as it adds much to the expense of exhibitors. We think our plan of completing it in one week is preferable to the English plan.

In England the admission on the two first days is 5s., or \$1.25, for each person; on the third and fourth days it is 2s. 6d., or 62 cents, and on the two last days it is 1s., or 25 cents. Perhaps the plan of having one 50-cent day would be of advantage here, as many who have attended our exhibitions during the rush have found great inconvenience, and many ladies and gentlemen would rather pay double the price to have more accommodation. A large stand for seats is erected near the stock ring, and a charge of 1s. is made for seats. This plan might be advantageously adopted at our exhibitions. The crowding around the ring here is laborious and unsatisfactory; a great improvement might be profitably made.

The exhibition of stock, particularly of Short-horns and Herefords, was an exhibition worth seeing alone, but the numerous other breeds added greatly to the attraction. The Longhorns, Devons, Sussex, Welsh cattle—thrifty black animals—the dun-colored delicate Jerseys, and the small, compact, beautifully marked Guerneys were all in their turn admired. To our astonishment, we did

not see an Ayrshire beast on the ground; no prizes are awarded to that class. We thought this an omission, but on enquiry we were informed that none in England took sufficient interest in that class to render a prize list for them necessary.

Every animal appeared to have its attendant. They are brought out on call in much better order than with us. Each class of horses was better represented than at our exhibitions; still our show ring of horses would find plenty of admirers, and would even astonish some in England. In sheep the exhibit was very good. One class drew our attention more particularly; they were the Oxford Downs. These are large sheep, much larger than the South Downs, having wool very much resembling that of the South Downs—close, thick, even and fine. Many of these animals were perfect models. The advantages claimed for this breed are that they are good milkers, yielding early lambs, excellent mutton and a good fleece. The mutton from these sheep ranks next to that of the South Down. What we want now in Canada is to improve the quality of our meat. Cotswolds, Lincolns and Leicesters of the present date yield mutton of a coarse quality, and the Merino mutton is worse. The flavor of an English mutton-chop is very different from that of our mutton. We can improve ours, and we think the proper sheep to do it with will be the Oxford Downs.

We felt a strong desire to bring some of this class of sheep with us, but on enquiry at Liverpool what the cost would be per head to New York, as we intended returning that way, having purchased a return ticket in Canada, found the price was £4 per head from Liverpool to New York. This we thought too much, as we had been informed that our Canadian steamers carried sheep from Canada to Liverpool for about \$2 per head, and there is always more freight going to Liverpool than returning. Thus \$20 per head appeared too much, besides the trouble of passing through the States.

There were no Canadians at the Royal Exhibition purchasing any stock that we could find. A Mr. Hewer purchased a few Berkshire swine, but they were for the United States. Some Australians were buying, or trying to buy, some Shorthorns. The prevailing dull times and uncertainty of monetary affairs in the States, and disturbing elections, strikes, &c., here, have kept American and Canadian stock purchasers from the Royal this year.

We passed the pig pens, but found that none of the breeders of whom we inquired knew anything about the improved Berks' breed. They exhibit them there, but call them Berkshire hogs.

The exhibit of agricultural steam engines was enormous. We presume there must have been between two hundred and three hundred on the ground. We were more interested in a grain-weeding machine than in any other new implement. This machine is made to pass through fields of grain just before the grain shoots into head, and

will pull up or break off the heads of all rubbish larger than the width of a blade of wheat. It is drawn by one horse, and a series of close-set iron or steel teeth revolve, combing the rubbish out of the grain. Our impression was that this machine might take out cockle, thistles and other nuisances from the grain. Most of the agricultural implements were much more roughly finished than they are with us. They appeared very strong, heavy and durable.

The farmers do not exhibit grain, as they do in this country. The seedsmen exhibited lots of seeds of all kinds. There were no floral, fruit, vegetable or art displays as with us. They have separate exhibitions for different purposes in England. The Prince of Wales visited the Exhibition. The Exhibition grounds are situated nearly three miles from the Main R. R. Station, and every available space from the station to the grounds was covered with platforms for seats or stands. The best seats were let for one guinea, equal to \$5; the second best, half a guinea, 10s. 6d., a little over \$2.50. Standing space was from 2s. 6d., or 62 cts., to \$1.25, and the platforms were all filled; £1 was about as readily paid for a seat as 50 cts. would be with us, and this in England, merely to sit on the fence and see the Prince pass by! Loyalty, respect and love for our Queen know no bounds in England, and we will re-echo the feeling when her son-in-law and the Princess come amongst us.

Fall Rye.

Rye is said to be a most impoverishing crop, exhausting the land of the very best plant food it can give and leaving it permanently barren. We do not think rye is deserving of so hard a character. It is generally sown on land that is not fertile enough for the production of wheat or other cereals, and it must have food; the land having very little plant food is easily exhausted of that little. Where rye has been grown on land of average fertility it has not left it more exhausted than would a crop of wheat. Rye has this advantage—it will give a tolerable crop on land that would not be worth cultivating for wheat. We have seen fair crops of rye on cold, hungry upland soils, and also on moory land that might produce wheat straw, but not wheat. Another point in favor of rye as a fall crop is its great hardiness. It is not apt to be winter-killed. It is indigenous to the cold north. When we may reasonably expect a good wheat crop let wheat be sown, but if the soil or its preparation be otherwise, we would prefer sowing a plot of rye than of wheat, even for the grain.

Rye as a forage crop is not sufficiently appreciated. For soiling it is invaluable, as there is no other plant hardy enough to maintain its growth during our Canadian winters that will give so heavy an early cutting for soiling. September is the best month to sow it for that purpose, but October is none too late. Sown even in the latter month in a favorable situation, it will yield a large