

only two classes for Hackneys which were meagerly filled. In the harness class the reserve award was secured by a Canadian-bred horse, Great Scott, out of an American dam.

Among cattle Jerseys and Guernseys formed the most noteworthy feature of the show. The entry of Jerseys was 173, and of Guernseys 88, making a total entry of 266, while the entire entry for all other breeds of cattle combined was 239. Not in numbers alone but in point of merit the Jerseys and Guernseys were very superior, and was probably rarely, if ever, excelled. Frequently among the list of winners in Jerseys we notice the names of Lord Rothschild, Duke of Marlborough, Miss Greenall, and Mrs. C. McIntosh.

Among other breeds of cattle perhaps Devons eclipsed any of those remaining. Every class was well filled, and in most instances a number of honorary awards had to be expended to satisfy the judges.

There was not a brilliant turnout of Shorthorns, although the female classes contained animals of very choice quality. A number of the winnings fell to animals bred by Mr. Duthie and sired by Scottish Archer. Mr. J. D. Willis, of Bapton Manor, was successful in several sections.

Herefords made a small class, as did also Aberdeen-Angus, there being seven catalogue entries in the three classes devoted to the latter breed. Sussex cattle made up one of the best and most interesting classes in the show, not so much on account of numbers but for the excellent quality of the entries. In yearling heifers three highly commended tickets had to be issued after the money prizes were placed.

There was quite a large display of Kerries and Dexters. In the latter the Prince of Wales gave a good lead to the heifer class with his three-year-old, Dainty Girl.

In sheep the following breeds were more or less strongly represented: Leicesters, Cotswolds, Kentish, Devonshire Longwools, Southdowns, Hampshires, Shropshires, Oxford, Somerset and Dorset Horns. Of these Shropshires were undoubtedly the best in numbers and general merit. Hampshires too proved their claim to a high standing as a breed at this show. Southdowns were numerous, but disappointing in quality and uniformity. The other breeds represented were not as strong as one would have looked for in the southern part of England.

Pigs have, since 1893, been debarred from exhibiting at this Show on account of disease, but this year showing was again resumed with rather a scarcity of entries. Berkshires, Large Whites, Middle Whites, Small Whites or Small Blacks, and Tamworths were moderately represented.

Our Scottish Letter.

These be the days of Jubilee and all the world and their wives have gone fairly mad over the diamond celebration of Queen Victoria's reign. This is the greatest thing in the world at present, and politics, trade and agriculture are severally at a standstill. It can hardly be said that this state of matters is good for the country. With a backward spring, a long succession of dull, cold east winds, and the newest phenomenon, a boycott of the public auction marts, the lot of the average farmer who means to make his rent out of profits is not a happy one. The sudden

OUTBREAK OF BOYCOTTING

has come at a most inopportune moment. After a weary time of very low prices for fat cattle, the market had taken a turn for the better, and prices were on the upgrade. To-day sales of prime polled bullocks in Aberdeen are reported at 39s. 1d. per 112 lbs., live weight, and at all the principal marts improved prices are recorded. In these circumstances it may be useful to indicate what the boycott means, and all the more as the Canadian shipper of fat cattle will be as badly hit by it as the home feeder; indeed more so, as the boycott was first put in force at the Yorkhill wharf.

To understand the position we must go back a bit. For some time the growth of what are called co-operative stores has been regarded as a stern menace to the prosperity of private traders, especially such as had to do with food and raiment for the million. The co-operative stores are huge combinations of the working classes, managed by themselves through directors specially selected for the purpose, in which the system of bonuses largely prevails. The stores sell only to members. Each member is bound to buy all he or she needs in the way of food and raiment from the stores, and for every purchase up to a certain amount the buyer is entitled to a definite share in the profits, which share is payable at a specific date, usually about the rent time. In this way the stores become the bankers for the members, who without any effort on their part are continually, and, as it were, automatically, laying past a certain amount of money which otherwise they would have needed to lay past by strict self-denial to meet the payment of rent and taxes due at the quarter's end. It is argued by the private traders that this system simply means that the purchaser from the stores receives goods of inferior quality, and there is some reason to believe that in this there is a germ of truth. Be that as it may, inferior or not inferior, the buyer shares in the profit and has little care for the future. The growth of these stores has been phenomenal. They exist in every center of population and accumulate money at an enormous rate. Consequently they have em-

barked in many enterprises, amongst others, farming, which they have never been able to carry on at a profit. It is alleged that a system of mild terrorism exists amongst the members of each society, and that any workman who does not join the stores is a marked man. Whether that be so or not I cannot tell, but this is certain: the effect of the system is to stamp out individuality and gradually merge the individual in the body corporate. The widespread ramifications of the system will be understood when I mention that a wholesale co-operative society exists the partners in which are the various local retail societies, and these local institutions are under the same obligation to purchase their goods from the wholesale society as their own members are to purchase from them. The aim and object of the entire system is the abolition of the individual and the exaltation of society or the State.

The pressure of the competition of these stores was very keenly felt in Glasgow, and a few years ago private traders organized themselves to crush the stores or at least to fight them with their own weapons. Many of the servants in the employment of private firms were members of the co-operative societies, and the first movement of the traders was to intimate to all such that they must either resign their membership or their situations within a short specified period. This was a very serious step, but I believe it has been carried through with a very considerable measure of success. There was a good deal to be said in its favor. These employees were practically opposition traders who from their position in the service of private traders were able to learn many trade secrets which became useful to the co-operative society of which they might be members. It is an extension of the same principle which has brought about the present deadlock in the auction marts. Naturally the co-operative societies are very large buyers of fat cattle. The butchers are the best organized of all the private traders, and they resolved to strike a blow at the stores by cutting off their supplies of meat. To this end a resolution was come to by all the butchers in Glasgow under which they pledged themselves to purchase cattle from no auctioneer who would sell to the agents of the co-operative societies; and to make sure that this would be carried through, they formed a concordat with certain of the auctioneers, who signed a pledge to the desired effect. The battle began at the foreign animals wharf at Yorkhill. The butchers resolved and kept their resolution to buy from none but the auctioneers who would refuse the co-operative bidders. Consequently some of the salesmen on that particular day had very bad trade indeed. If they did not agree to the butchers' terms their only customer was the agent of the wholesale co-operative society which supplies all the local societies. At first a good many of the salesmen stood out against the coercion, but after the first week they abandoned the struggle, and now the butchers control the marts in every center where either foreign or homebred cattle are disposed of. The effect on the feeder alike here and in Canada is obvious. One of the best bidders is driven out of the market, and the butchers, who are just as well organized as the co-operatives, can dictate their own prices to the farmers or agents. The first remedy which suggests itself is of course this, that the agents of the co-operative societies will buy direct from the feeder, and this many of them are doing. But they are not competitive buyers; the one store does not compete with the other, and there is a dead level of prices. Further, the butchers intimate further reprisals. They say that they will compel the auctioneers to refuse to sell store cattle to those farmers who have been selling fat cattle privately to the wholesale co-operative society. Should this be carried out it is obvious that farmers will next need to combine in self-defence, and possibly the result may be to lead to a reversal to the system of sale by private treaty. If so, to some extent good might come out of evil, as no doubt many have the feeling that the auctioneers latterly have had rather much power. Be that as it may, the present situation is anything but pleasant, and we believe it is as heartily disliked by most auctioneers as it is by most farmers.

A Question of Interest.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In Mr. Munroe's article on "A good dairy cow—How to get her, and how to keep her," published in the ADVOCATE, he asks the farmers to line up for a practical arithmetic class. After they have lined up and toed the mark he suggests the following problem in interest as their first lesson, viz.:—"If a man invests \$3 per week for one year and gets a clear profit of \$2 per week for the same time, what is the annual rate per cent.?"

He says, "It's a stunner." Well, I can't see anything stunning about the problem, but really his solving and answer does "stun" me when he tells us that the rate per cent is 3466%.

That is about the way the "sharks" in the cities figure interest when the backwoods farmer goes in to pay or renew his note, but the everyday farmer, in answer to the problem, would say that 66% is the rate per cent. Not much difference, only 3400.

BERESFORD.

FARM.

Haymaking.

By this time the hay crop for 1897 has been grown; the vital question with the farmer now is to save it. In the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for June 15th a batch of excellent letters from practical men appeared dealing with this important subject. They would well repay reading and re-reading. By the time the present issue reaches our readers hay-making will have been commenced in many sections of the country. Clover in Western Ontario is generally far enough advanced to commence cutting on the 1st of July, but will probably be a little later in some sections this year on account of the continuance of cool weather up to nearly the middle of June. If the clover is mostly in full bloom and some of the lower leaves are beginning to turn brown the sooner it is cut the better, if the weather is favorable for drying and curing it. The weather being right, it is wise to begin cutting early, as the aftergrowth will be better for it and many weed seeds may be destroyed; and if there is much to cut and care for it may be late before it is all secured, and the last cutting will be so over-ripe as to be seriously injured in feeding value. For clover that is cut early we think, as a rule, it is better after it has been shaken up and turned over to dry to be put in medium-sized cocks and allowed to stand a few days to sweat and cure before being put in the mow. A little salt scattered over each load as it goes into the mow will have a good effect in checking fermentation and prevents molding. Later in the season when the grass gets more advanced hay may, by keeping it well tossed up and exposed to wind and sun, be hauled in from the windrow the same day it is cut. This applies especially to timothy, but even timothy should be cut before it is ripe, and makes a better quality of hay if allowed to cure in cocks before it goes into the mow. Special care should be observed in the case of clover that it is not left exposed to the dew which is often as hurtful to the quality as a shower of rain, and when once the fresh green color is lost it is permanently lowered in nutritive value, and cannot again rank as first quality. To sum up, we repeat commence cutting early if weather is favorable. Cut no more than you can care for. Keep hay moving, exposed to wind and sun; rake before too dry. Avoid exposure to dew or rain. Cure in cocks, though we have seen some good hay "made" simply in windrows. Secure it in the mow as soon as in proper condition and salt it down moderately. Where there is a large crop to take off, "hands" scarce and speed an object as in "catchy" weather, the hay loader will render great service, as described by "Old Haymaker" in our last issue.

The Harvest Field.

The importance of having all the implements required for harvesting operations ready and in working order some time before the fields are "ripe unto the harvest" is so patent as hardly to require a reminder. But, notwithstanding this, we fear there may be some who will put off the necessary preparations till the day they wish to commence the work, and then may find some part of the machinery out of order and requiring attention which may involve the loss of a day's work and a delay in the harvest which may mean a considerable loss in the quality of the grain or of the feeding value of the fodder, and a loss of time which may be of great value in the preparation for sowing of fall wheat, which in these days presses close upon the heels of the harvest. We believe it is safe to say that as a rule in this country grain is allowed to get too ripe before cutting for the best results from the whole crop. Since a large proportion of the straw of all our grain crops is utilized for fodder it is of great importance that it should be cut as early as the condition of the grain will justify, in order to secure the greatest amount of nutriment in the straw, which may be safely cut quite on the green side if the weather is favorable and it is bound in small sheaves. When the grain is in the dough state it is, as a rule, safe to cut it, as there is then sufficient sap in the straw to nourish the grain for a few days, and the color will be even a brighter and richer shade than if left to fully ripen before cutting, besides being less liable to waste from shelling out. When the commencement of harvesting is delayed till the grain is fully ripe it frequently happens that before the cutting is completed the last fields have become excessively ripe and are liable to great loss from shelling, besides the loss in the feeding value of the straw which is almost inestimable, and a rainstorm may come and beat down a crop that had stood up well and might have been safely cut. It is well, therefore, to be forward with the work, to commence cutting early if the weather is favorable, to bind in small sheaves, stook the sheaves firmly, so that they will not be liable to fall over, and haul into the barn as soon as dry enough to be safe.

A Scottish Opinion of the "Farmer's Advocate."

JNO. ALLEN, Esq., Aberdeenshire, Scotland, under date of June 4, writes:—"I am always well pleased with the ADVOCATE, and I must say it would be the last paper I would part with."