

with span roofs and free communication between them. The cattle are admitted from the railway trucks and wharf through sliding doors at one end, and are passed down the gangways into lateral pens. One of these large sheds—one half, indeed, of the market—is provided at the far end with a large pen, the bottom of which is the platform of a Pooley's weighing machine. This platform will carry and balance eight full sized beasts, and of course more younger cattle. A large side gate on it gives the cattle access to the ring, or rather semi-circle, in which the auction takes place. Side by side with this gate from the weighbridge is another, opening into one of the main gangways of this shed, by which the cattle pass back and out after having been offered for sale. On an elevated stand inside the ring, and immediately adjoining the machine, which itself is outside the ring, a clerk is stationed, having the beam of the machine under his eye and hand. An opening in the wall enables him to communicate directly with the drovers as they pen the cattle on the platform. He thus obtains the numbers. On a slate tablet on the wall above his head he enters this number, and below it the weight of the cattle.

"This is in full view of the auctioneer and of the company. As soon as one batch has passed off, and while they are being offered, he sponges out the figures, and takes the numbers and weight of the next batch. These he chalks up as soon as the previous batch are put out of the ring. Some of the vendors do not submit their cattle, or portions of their cattle, to the test of the scales. In this case their animals enter the ring from the other shed, which is not provided with the scales. The youngest cattle are the stock that more than others escape the ordeal. On the wall over the exit from the machine, and in full view of the company, is this notice:—

"This is to certify that we have this day completed our quarterly examination, repair, test, and adjustment of your cattle-weighing machine at your yard, and have left it in good order.

"H. POOLEY & SON.

The auctioneer makes no remarks about the weights, but the buyers do so, and in some instances act promptly on a hint given by a friend or bystander who owns and uses a machine on his farm.

Messrs. Swan wired to Glasgow for four trucks of Canadians ma- to come up; they arrived during the sale. Two lots of ten each passed over the chine, averaging sixty-three stone per animal, and selling for £10 17s. 6d., or a little under 3s. 6d. per stone. The other two lots were withdrawn.

The next day's sale, Tuesday, 12th November, consisted of fat cattle, sheep, and a few pigs. Here there seems to be a more direct reference to the scales, both by the auctioneers and the buyers—the auctioneer occasionally, to help on the bidding, calling on the weigh-clerk to announce the weight; and, on the other hand, the by-standers using a table or a book of reckoning for the reduction of quotations per head to price per stone during the progress of the bidding.

I am very sorry to say that pleuro-pneumonia has been spreading in an alarm- ing way in Scotland this last season, and there has been a great deal of discussion in the press, the agricultural papers particularly, as to how this should be dealt with. While there are some of those skilled in these matters who are in favor of inoculation, the great majority continue to be in favour of compulsory slaughter with more stringent regulations—for instance, instead of the matter being dealt with, in the case of disease breaking out in a district, by the local authorities, that the whole matter should be placed in Imperial hands, the funds to recompense the owners for the slaughter of the animals to come out of the Imperial Treasury, and the official appointed to investigate such cases to be sent down by the Minister of Agriculture, it having been thought that the local people in many instances have not been as particular as they should have been. I heard a good deal of argument in connection with this question, in which I was much interested, at the Renfrew- shire Agricultural Annual Meeting last month, to which I was invited, and on which occasion Principal McCall, of the Veterinary College here, delivered an address upon the whole subject, at the request of that society.