

The Royal Agricultural Society of England.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, England, July 7, 1879.

SIR,—The Royal Agricultural Society, this year under the presidency of the Prince of Wales, is now holding its international Show in the suburbs of the world's metropolis—the most spacious area ever occupied by such an agricultural display being covered by vast lengths of temporary buildings, from sound, well-built stabling to canvas-roofed sheds, far exceeding in total capacity anything hitherto witnessed at an exhibition of the kind. The Show grounds embrace 100 acres of level pasture land at Kilburn, in the northern part of London. The site is packed with steam engines and machinery, collections of home and foreign produce, live stock, implements, etc., and so numerous and bewildering are the exhibits that your correspondent shrinks from the task of giving your many readers the faintest idea of their attractiveness; in fact, space would not permit of it. A passing glance, as it were, must suffice. Turning either to the right or the left after passing through the main entrance, you pass a long succession of stalls of seeds, foods, manures, models, and other objects of interest and importance in agriculture or horticulture, and you find both on the right and left sides of the Show grounds hitherto unexampled arrays of agricultural machinery in motion. The seeds and models occupy 2,220 ft. lineal of shedding, and the ten sheds of machinery in motion measure 4,683 ft. in total length. Over a mile in length is crowded with steam engines driving more or less powerful machinery—every article claiming some improvement over that in common use. The ordinary stands of machinery and implements are arranged in lines at right angles to the main avenue, transverse avenues separating 14 long rows of sheds on the right, while as many avenues on the opposite side divide a similar number of rows of about the same length. These rows of shedding cover a total length of 16,000 ft., and some idea of the magnitude of the Show may be gathered from the fact that simply to walk along one side of each of the sheds (which are all packed with articles in as close order as may be consistent with their adequate display), would take a visitor a journey of 22,903 ft., or 4½ miles. The live stock occupy a total length of over six miles of shedding. Altogether there is said to be over twelve miles of sheds. The entries of cattle number 1,007—more than ever known at the Royal. There are 841 pens of sheep, and 211 of pigs. Horses, I am told, have not always been a strong feature in the Royal show-yard, but this year there are no fewer than 815 horses, ponies, mules and asses; the largest previous show of horse-flesh having been 424 entries at Birmingham in 1876. The total entries of live stock amount to 2,874—an average of 1,317 for the last seven years. The horses, cattle, sheep and pigs were truly magnificent in every respect, and the source of much wonder and admiration to your correspondent. The Queen had 15 entries in live stock, mostly Shorthorn cattle, but Her Majesty was beaten by the splendid contributions of her subjects. The Prince of Wales (who, by the way, takes a lively interest in all that appertains to agriculture) came forward with 20 entries, and in the matter of prize-taking was more successful than his noble mother. He took first prize for Clydesdale fillies, and a first and high commendation in the heifer class of polled Galloways.

A London journal says: "When the prize list is overhauled it is rather a matter of astonishment to find persons distinguished by birth and almost boundless means—devoted as much of their leisure and attention to wealth is to that truly aristocratic pursuit, the improvement of the land, as well as of all races of animals feeding thereon—should not more frequently succeed in beating competitors who have far less capital to work with and who must content themselves with farming at a profit to the exclusion of any such patrician ideas as honor and glory."

An interesting feature of the exhibition is a loan collection of ancient and modern English and foreign farm implements. Here may be seen the ugly, clumsy, worm-eaten wooden plow of days gone by alongside of the neat iron one of to-day. The col-

lection of old plows from all parts of the world once seen can never be forgotten. Every description of old farm machinery is there to excite one's curiosity. The display of modern implements is very fine, but nearly all that came under my observation I have seen in Canada. An American firm have a large number of reapers, mowers, chaff cutters, etc., on the ground.

The Americans also make their customary "big spread" in other parts of the grounds—particularly in the international dairy and bee-keepers' departments.

In spite, however, of glib tongues and flaring stars and stripes, I venture to say that Canada was more prominently placed before the public than the U. S. I shall never forget the squeezing and trampling I encountered in trying to reach one particular tent in the department for dairy produce. In this tent there were two monster Canadian cheeses, each weighing three-quarters of a ton, and the crowd that continually thronged there was something wonderful to behold. One man was incessantly employed taking orders for Canadian cheese. These monstrous specimens of dairy produce were made at the factory of Mr. George Morton, near Kingston, Ont., for Mr. Tubal Webb, of this city. Both cheeses were rich in quality, very fine in flavor, and perfect in condition. They were cut by electricity in ninety seconds—a feat that would take a man two or three hours to perform. Mr. Morton (above referred to) was also an extensive exhibitor in more portable samples of Canadian cheese, and his display was not only creditable to him, but to Canada at large. The Canadian cheese has been favorably commented on by all the leading journals of London.

The department for dairy produce also contains the first lot of Cyprus cheese ever introduced into this country. Each cheese is moulded into the size and shape of a pine apple, and is to be eaten grated.

There are two stalls on the grounds which attract a great deal of attention, and which from their novelty I cannot forbear referring to. At one a felt lined box hatches chickens and ducklings, which at once run about and seem to enjoy their newly-found life very much. At the other stall there is a contrivance for "fattening poultry by machinery." Every farmer, perhaps, has heard of the old barbarous custom of forcing balls of paste down the throats of turkeys to fatten them up for Christmas; but I am not sure that it was any more cruel than this new machine. It consists of a number of small pens revolving on a spindle. In each compartment a fowl is chained by the legs in solitary confinement. The attendant seizes hold of one of the birds by the neck, forces open its bill by a movement of the fingers, and then inserts down the throat a metal nozzle, through which a ration of a kind of gruel is forced by the pressure of the foot upon a lever connected with a reservoir. Fowls by this process, it is claimed, fatten in twenty days, fed thrice a day; ducks in fourteen days, fed four times daily. From 400 to 500 birds can be fed in an hour. The gruel is composed of barley meal, ground maize, milk and water. The French father both these stalls.

The exhibition is considered a grand success so far as the variety and number of exhibits are concerned, but up to the present it has been somewhat of a failure as regards attendance. This is owing entirely to the weather, the rain last week having been very heavy. In consequence the authorities have decided to prolong the Show until Thursday next. Since Thursday night last we have had splendid weather, and 40,000 and 50,000 people are now daily visiting the grounds.

DEVONIA.

Phylloxera or Grape-vine Flea.

SIR,—Some very promising grapes coming into full bearing in my garden are in a fair way of being destroyed by little insects that are eating the bark of the roots. Can you tell me any remedy? GARDENER, Kingsville, Ont.

[The insect injuring your vines is the vine flea (Phylloxera). They have laid waste whole vineyards in France, and are causing some damage and great alarm in the United States. In France they have come to the conclusion that the destruction of the Phylloxera is an impossibility, but recommend the employment of alkalies as fertilizers to stimulate the vine and enable it to grow in spite of the insect. It may have been imported with the young vines from the States in your case. Hardy vines, luxuriant growers, are considered pretty safe from its attacks.]

Black-Leg.

SIR,—You would confer a great favor on an old subscriber and on others of your readers if you would give in your widely circulated paper some remedy for the black-leg in young horned stock.

STOCK-FEEDER, Shelbourne, P. Q.

[This disease is a very acute one and generally proves fatal, wherefore treatment will be of no avail unless resorted to in the very beginning of the disease. In fat and plethoric animals it is proper to bleed; but if this is not done in the beginning of the disease, it only tends to hasten death. Frequently showering the body with cold water is beneficial. The following physic may be given in one dose: One pound of Epsom salts, ten ounces of solution of aloes (made by dissolving an ounce each of Barbadoes aloes and common soda in eight ounces of boiling water), one ounce of spirits of turpentine, and half a gallon of thin, warm gruel. Shake this well together before drenching. Thereafter give, every two hours, half a drachm each of nitric acid and muriatic acid, mixed together with a pint of cold water. The animal may have all the pure cold water it will drink. A seton should be inserted in the dewlap. In fact, as a preventive measure, when this disease appears among a herd of cattle, it will be of great service to put a seton in the dewlap of all the young stock up to two years of age, and to give each one from two drachms to half an ounce of saltpetre, once daily, during the week. It will also be proper to remove the animals to a pasture some distance from the one on which the disease occurred.]

Lucerne.

SIR,—I read with interest your brief remarks about Lucerne, and wish to know something more of this plant. It is not much grown, so far as I can hear, on this continent.

X. Y., Prescott, Ont.

[Lucerne is a crop which was very fashionable 30 or 40 years ago, but of which we see but little now days. Some of the patches that were sowed with Lucerne in 1840-50 still produce excellent crops of forage, but in such cases the soil is deep and rich. None other should ever be selected for growing Lucerne. When the roots can run down some feet there is no plant which will produce more or better cow food. Probably the reason why so many undertook the culture of Lucerne and gave it up was the fact that they sowed the seed on shallow soil. In a congenial location Lucerne will yield half a dozen crops in one season. Cows are very fond of it, and it is pretty safe to trust to a cow's judgment as to the value of her food. It takes two or three years for Lucerne to get well rooted, so as to produce full crops, and this, probably, is another reason why its cultivation in this country is so unpopular. Americans want things to grow, like Jonah's gourd, in one night. We look to see orchard grass the popular soiling food of America.—Am. Ex.]

A subscriber says the most effectual means of fighting the potato bug is the following: Let every farmer plant a small plot of potatoes late in the season. To these small plots all the late broods will gather. These late broods supply the army that causes so much annoyance the following year. On these small late plots they can be easily exterminated, whereas without them they would go into winter quarters and be ready for early work next year.

SIR,—I see a great deal of spring wheat that is not worth harvesting; and I see summer-fallows (as they are called) good for little else than to encourage weeds and Canada thistles to bloom on them. This is a sad state of things for the farmer who works the whole year round, and who expects to pay all living and other expenses by the fruits of his labor, and have "something to spare!" Now, sir, my advice to all such farmers is: Reduce the size of your farms one-half or more; ten acres well worked and attended to will secure you larger returns than 50 or even 100 acres merely skimmed over—the way a majority of the farms in this country are worked at the present time. Or, if you cannot dispose of your surplus acres, turn over a new leaf at once. Seed down 20 acres of your 100, work the remainder, tilling the 20 acres less and having 20 acres more pasture. You will then have better sheep and cattle, with less labor, and will raise more produce. Cultivate less and clean your farms, raise the best cattle, give your best personal attention to everything, and in ten years you will be a thousand dollars in pocket while the farm will be doubled in value.

LOBO FARMER.