

Our English Letter

Season and Crops—An Act to Deal with Insect Pests—Highland Cattle of the Past and To-day Northern Breeds of Sheep

London, July 25, 1907.

The last week has brought fine summer weather over the country. The change for the better did not come before it was needed and much of the grass that was cut was unfortunately damaged by the incessant wet. So brilliant has been the weather that this week grass has been cut and hay harvested during the same day and the result is that an excellent crop has been secured. All crops have profited by the sunshine and I have seen fields where the earlier grain crops have already taken on the yellowish tinge that betokens an early harvest. If the sunshine continues the harvest will be on us at once and be earlier than usual. Speaking of farming prospects

which came into force 4th of July 1907, is to extend to all pests destructive to crops, trees or bushes, the power which may be exercised in Great Britain by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and in Ireland by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, under the Destructive Insects Act 1877, in relation to the potato beetle.

These powers and provisions as applied, with modifications, by the Act are:—

1. Power to make such Orders as the Board or Department think expedient for preventing the introduction of the pest.

2. Power to prohibit or regulate the landing of any vegetable substance or other ar-

6. Power to prohibit the sale, etc., of specimens of the pest.

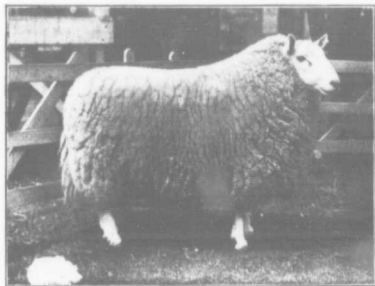
7. Power to impose penalties for offences against the Orders.

8. Power, by Order, with the consent of a Local Authority to direct or authorise payment by them of compensation for crops, trees or bushes removed or destroyed under an Order. The compensation is not to exceed half value for diseased crops, etc., nor three quarter value for other crops.

9. The Local Authorities who may be required to carry the Orders into effect are the same as those under the Diseases of Animal Act.

HIGHLAND CATTLE OF THE PAST AND TO-DAY.

The Highland Show at Edinburgh was very interesting, inasmuch as some of the Scottish breeds that are seldom seen in any degree of perfection in the English showyards are here brought not only in what we



FIRST PRIZE CHEVIOT RAM, ROYAL SHOW, 1907



CHAMPION HIGHLAND BULL AT THE ROYAL SHOW, 1907

generally a good friend writes me in a cheerful strain.

"The hay is generally harvested in this district, the greater part in rather poor condition, but since the change of weather there are some ricks 'carried' in good condition. The grain crops are an average, barley the best, oats and wheat not so good but improving. Harvest will be late, and some grains are unusually weedy, with quantities of charlock and poppies in large proportion in this neighbourhood. Sheep have done well, but cattle not quite so well as they do most years owing to the unseasonable weather, the grass being so continually wet. Roots are improving. The early sown did not come away well owing partly to the weather, wireworm, and fly, but now I think it will be an average season."

The effect of the new Act

ticle brought from any place out of Great Britain or Ireland, the landing whereof may appear to the Board or Department likely to introduce the pest, and to direct or authorise destruction of the article if landed.

3. Forfeiture by the customs of articles illegally landed.

4. Power to make such Orders that the Board or Department think expedient for preventing the spreading of the pest.

5. Power to direct or authorise the removal or destruction of any crops, trees or bushes, or other substance on which the pest in any state of existence is found or to or by means of which the pest may appear to the Board or Department likely to spread, and the entering on any lands for the purpose of such destruction or removal, or for examination or enquiry or any other purpose.

call "their Sunday clothes" but are also brought in greater numbers and of better quality.

Some of the shaggy West Highlanders were very good to see; cows and calves, as well as matured bulls of this glorious breed were alike worth going many miles to look at and some of their attendants attired in Highland costume added to the picturesqueness of the scene.

This sight was calculated to and did carry one's memory back to the olden days of the great Falkirk Trusts, where these Highland cattle used to assemble in the autumn months of August, September, and October in their thousands. Their owners in some cases, and attendants in others donning the kilt and sheltered in the 'plaid'.

What journeys the Highlanders of those days had to undergo. Commencing their journeys perhaps, by swimming across

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