

irrepressible questioner that the siros that had been so much spoken against "would not be sent into the country," and at that we have been left—for the present.

A FLAX INQUIRY.

By the way, T. W. Russell, the Vice-President, has been one of the vanquished at the elections, and those qualifying letters, "M. P." have disappeared. One of his last acts before the election was to appoint a committee to inquire into the very vexed subject of flax-growing, and to report upon the causes that have influenced its decline, with a view to their remedying. The flax crop is one of great importance to the Province of Ulster, and at one time, indeed, it was extensively cultivated in the Southern and Western Counties, as well. During the past two or three decades it has, however, seriously fallen off, and so we find that, whereas 156,000 acres were devoted to it in the year 1871, the area under flax last season (1909) was only 38,110 acres, which was 8,800 acres less than in 1908. Even flax-growers themselves are not agreed as to the real reason why prices have not encouraged them to continue growing the crop, so the inquiry about to take place is being awaited with genuine interest, in the hope that it will ultimately lead to the successful revival of one of our all too few remaining industries.

"EMERALD ISLE."

Smithfield Show Carcasses.

The block-test reports, published by the Live-stock Journal of the live and dressed weights of animals in the competition at the recent Smithfield Fat-stock Show, furnish valuable information. In the carcass test of steers under two years of age, the number of entries was ten, which gave an aggregate live weight of 12,146 pounds, and a carcass weight of 7,745 pounds. The percentage of carcass to live weight was 63.76; the average daily gain of the whole class was 1 pound 13.90 ounces alive, and 1 pound 3.07 ounces in the carcass. The highest percentage of carcass to live weight was 67.16, and the lowest 56.47. The highest average daily gain alive, 2 pounds 4.80 ounces, was given by the champion carcass, Sir Walter Gilbey's cross-bred; the same animal gave the highest average daily gain of carcass weight, 1 pound 7.68 ounces. The lowest average daily gain alive was 1 pound 8.46 ounces, and 15.13 ounces, both given by the same animal.

The butchers' reports of this age give particulars of eighteen steers. The aggregate weight alive was 23,965 pounds, and dead 15,264 pounds, showing a percentage of 63.68 of carcass to live weight, with an average daily gain of 1 pound 15.33 ounces alive, and in the carcass of 1 pound 3.95 ounces. The highest percentage of carcass to live weight was 78.48 per cent., and the lowest 57.35 per cent. Of the eighteen animals reported on, one dressed over 70 per cent., four over 65 per cent., eight over 60 per cent., and five under 60 per cent. carcass to live weight.

The average daily gain alive was 2 pounds 4.19 ounces, and the lowest 1 pound 4.19 ounces, and the average daily gain of carcass, and the lowest 1 pound 3.07 ounces.

of carcass to live weight, and, on the other hand, both in respect to average daily gain alive and in the carcass, those specially fed for exhibition alive show the highest, indicating, as has been mentioned in former years, that the excessive amount of feeding necessary to win in the live section of the show is not essential for the production of suitable and salable carcass for present-day requirements.

The steers over two and not exceeding three years, exhibited in the carcass classes, numbered thirteen. The percentage of carcass to live weight worked out at 65.48 per cent, with an average daily gain alive of 1 pound 7.79 ounces, and in the carcass of 15.58 ounces. The range of percentage of carcass to live weight was from 69.08 per cent. to 63.39 per cent. The range of average daily gain was from 1 pound 11.86 ounces to 1 pound 2.76 ounces alive. The highest daily gain of carcass weight was 1 pound 2.67 ounces; these averages ranged from this down to 12.12 ounces.

The butchers' reports for this age include 36, showing a percentage of 65.81 per cent. of carcass to live weight, 1 pound 10.94 ounces average daily gain alive, and 1 pound 1.73 ounces average daily gain of carcass. The highest percentage of carcass weight was 71.85, and the lowest 59.24 per cent.

Heifers not exceeding three years of age in the next section to which reference is made. This class, in the carcass competition, was very small, and a comparatively weak one, for there were only four entries present, the aggregate weight of which was 4,817 pounds alive, and 3,161 pounds dead, which gave a percentage of 65.62 per cent. of carcass to live weight, an average daily gain of 1 pound 8.78 ounces alive, and 1 pound 0.26 ounces dead.

The range of percentage of carcass to live weight was from 66.59 per cent., given by Sir Walter Gilbey's fourth-prize heifer, to 64.49 per cent., made by the second-prize heifer. This animal, however, gave the highest average daily gain both alive and dead; i. e., 2 pounds 0.30 ounces, and 1 pound 5.24 ounces, respectively.

The butchers' reports of this section included 19 head; aggregate live weight, 25,889 pounds, and carcass weight 17,383 pounds, showing a percentage of carcass to live weight of no less than 67.14 per cent., the average daily gain being 1 pound 7.18 ounces alive, and 15.56 ounces in the carcass.

The average daily gain of these animals ranged from 1 pound 14.50 ounces alive, to 1 pound 1.32 ounces. The highest average daily gain of carcass weight was 1 pound 4.48 ounces, given by the second-prize Hereford; the remainder of these heifers ranged down to 10.48 ounces. The range of percentage of carcass to live weight for these nineteen heifers is worthy of note, for, out of them, twelve gave a percentage of carcass to live weight exceeding 65 per cent., six exceeding 60 per cent., and one only, the lowest percentage of carcass weight of the whole lot, just under 60 per cent.

The marked difference between the percentage of carcass weight shown between these two lots of heifers is of the same character as last year: i. e., those fed specially for exhibition alive showing the higher percentage, but the average daily gain of

those specially fed for slaughter works out higher than the other. Why this should be the case, is somewhat difficult to understand; but, owing to the small number entered in the carcass class, it is evidently owing to the fact of the very high average daily gain given by the second-prize animal in that class, and the same reasons are doubtless the cause of the average daily gain of carcass weight shown in the slaughter class being in excess of that for those reported above by the butchers.

Japan Wants Sheep.

Dr. Issa Tanimura, special envoy from the Japanese Emperor is now in the United States to investigate the sheep and wool interests, and the American Sheep-breeder publishes a very interesting interview, from which we quote:

"In the past, on account of the Buddhist religion, a Japanese who liked meat would have to procure it secretly, and cook it and eat it in some isolated spot where he would not be discovered in satisfying his appetite for a forbidden joy. To-day, even, the older people still cling to Buddhism, and shrink with horror from those who violate the ancient doctrines by eating meat. But the younger generation is growing to like meat, particularly mutton, and the next decade will see us a nation of meat-eaters. Meat-eating goes with the new aggressive spirit of progress and modern ideas.

"The farmers are also becoming more scarce, so that the supply of vegetables is less. Formerly, all Japanese farmed. They wore no hats, and only cotton clothing, being vigorous and healthy. But since Europeans have come to Japan, the people have taken to the cities, adopted mechanical, commercial or professional business, and deserted the farms. The Japanese war caused a great increase in the desire for meat, as the soldiers brought back a taste of it from the frontier. Beef is now eaten very largely, and America is the best place to get it from. We have tried Australia, but in crossing the tropics the flavor of the meat is spoiled. Our meat has come largely from foreign countries. Mutton has lately been introduced. There are only 3,000 sheep in Japan, and our people do not know how to feed them. Lamb and mutton is so little known that most of the Japanese will not eat it, but the sheep that are killed because they get too old are cut up and mixed with beef. The people do not know the difference between the two meats, and eat the sheep in this way. But if the mutton is properly prepared, I think they would prefer it to pork or beef, for the Japanese seem to like chicken immensely, and of the meat of quadrupeds named, mutton and lamb approach chicken the closest.

"We want Americans to found the sheep industry on broad lines in Japan. We want you to teach us how to raise sheep.

"Asaka, our great manufacturing city for woolen goods, is crying for more wool. Our manufacturing interests would, of course, develop with the sheep industry in our country."

Use of Peavines from Pea Canneries.

In the early history of pea-canning the peavines were treated as a waste product, the disposal of which involved considerable difficulty and expense. Most commonly, they were thrown out in piles to rot, the resulting manure being used for fertilizer.

During recent years the peavines have risen to the dignity of a by-product, from which the factories derive considerable profit. They are now utilized for silage, or fed to stock in a fresh state, or cured for hay. They make a silage superior in value to corn silage. They may be preserved in silos the same as green corn, or they may be put up in large stacks in the open air. If these stacks are well put up, and the vines are well tramped, decay will only affect the surface to a depth of a few inches.

The United States Department of Agriculture has recently made an extensive investigation of this subject, and published the results in a circular. The peavines can easily be cured by spreading them on sod land. Peavine hay is said to be better than clover hay.

Both the hay and the silage are excellent feeds for dairy cows. They are also satisfactory feeds for beef cattle, horses and sheep. The hay frequently sells at \$3 to \$5 a ton.

In some cases the peavines are hauled away from the factory by the growers who supply the peas; in other cases they are sold in a fresh state; and in still other cases the factories either ensile the vines or cure them for hay.

Great Britain's exports of high-class stock last year comprised over 2,700 head of cattle, about 7,000 sheep, and 700 pigs, valued at over three-quarters of a million pounds. These figures do not include the large shipments of Clydesdale, Shire and Thoroughbred horses.

