

STOCK

Our English Correspondence

English farmers are much dissatisfied at the wholesale prices of milk, and claim that the high cost of mill stuffs and dairy cows leaves little or no margins. The public health authorities, too, are strict in their requirements, and these add to cost of production.

This is the time of year when many milk contracts are renewed, and the question of prices is receiving unusual attention, though the agitation has been proceeding for several years in a desultory fashion. The prices received by farmers for milk average about 6d. per gallon in summer, and 8d. for winter, and the margin for profit is certainly small. If contracts could be made on the basis of 8d. and 10d., there would be a reasonable profit. The greatest obstacle to getting an increase of prices is the lack of combination amongst milk producers. They are too prone to act independently, and this leaves them largely at the mercy of the middlemen, who are very closely organized. These middlemen retail the milk to consumers at 1s. 4d. per gallon, a price which leaves a large profit.

Dairy farmers must combine into associations, as is done in other industries, before they can successfully demand higher prices for their product.

BRASSEY'S OPINION OF CANADA

Lord Brassey, who has recently been touring in Canada, was quite optimistic regarding the Dominion in his presidential address at the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Leeds. Canada, he said, offered many opportunities to fathers with growing sons, and fruit farming was an employment specially suited to women. Canada is an excellent market for British goods. The consignments from Great Britain exceed those from all other countries. In 1909 they were valued at 87,000,000 dollars, against but 6,000,000 from Germany.

During the meeting there was a discussion on unemployment, and it was suggested that the hundreds of thousands of pounds spent at home on unremunerative or relief work might be used to place the unemployed on land in the colonies, and make them producers and not a burden to the community. At home, too, there are a large number of boys who go into what is termed "blind-alley" employment, which leads nowhere. At 16 or 17 years of age these boys are replaced by others, and are just the sort of material required in the over-sea dominions. The conference passed a resolution in favor of an imperial scheme of emigration and land settlement in order that men might find employment on the land, either at home or in the colonies.

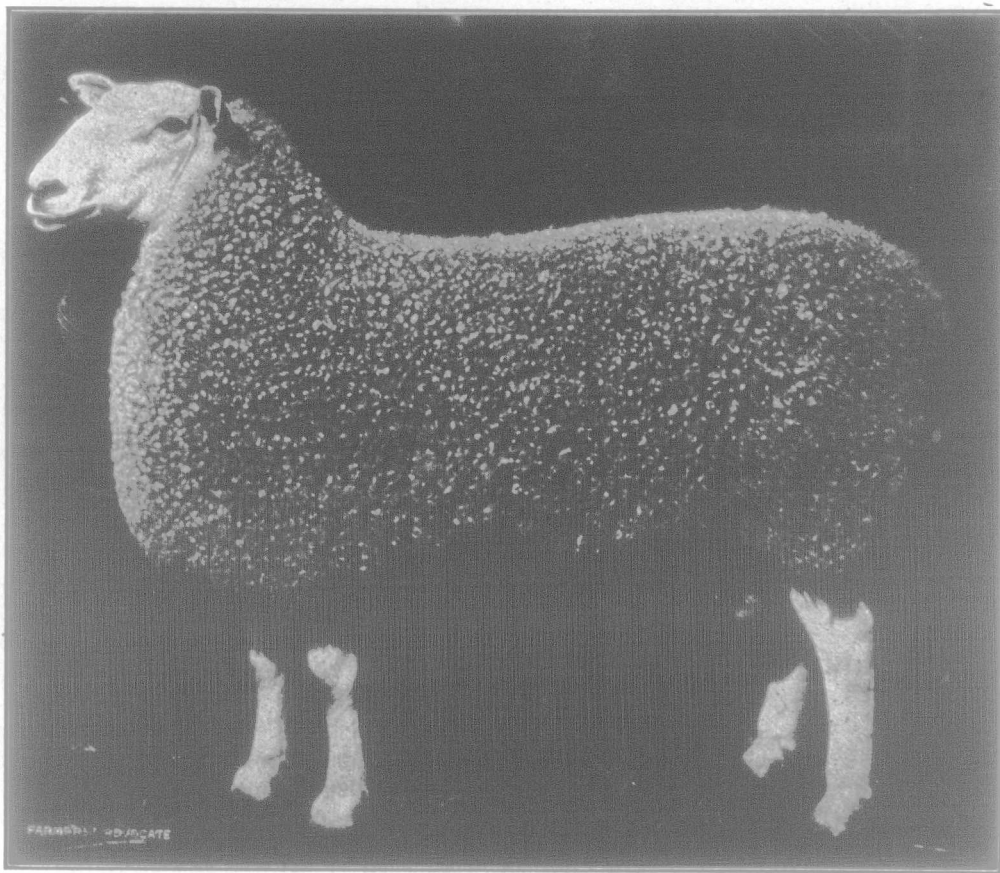
Once, again, an endeavor was made to reopen the question of the admittance of Canadian cattle into this country. A resolution was moved, and supported largely by delegates from Hull and Glasgow. The discussion was principally on the injury the exclusion causes to indirect interests, such as the users of tallow and hides. No action was taken, and a direct vote was burked by the moving and carrying of the previous question.

REPORTS OF SHOWS

Though the Kendall Show has a long history, the society being founded in 1799, there are no signs of faltering from old age. This year's show was well attended, and the collection of stock was well worthy of Westmorland. Sheep and cattle were the outstanding features. Some fine

Wensleydales were shown by Lord Henry Bentinck, and took most of the class prizes. Dairy cows were a capital class. A grand roan, Comely Gem, owned by Tom Hunter, took the Shorthorn society's prize. When milked she yielded 30½ lbs. of milk. Lord Rothschild bought her for his Tring herd. Some fine Shires and Clydesdales were shown, and Hackneys were an excellent class.

Altrincham, Cheshire, boasts the biggest one-day show in the kingdom, and this year's entries were a record, being 5,852 in number. The entries have doubled in the last fifteen years. Nearly every section showed improvement. Horses and dairy cattle were strong features, and dairy products made a tempting display. F. Miller's well known Shorthorn bull, Good Friday, was first in the open class for bulls over two years old, and won also in the country class. Another well known bull, C. W. Kellock's Gerome of Highfields, was second in both classes. Jersey de Knoop was the principal winner for Channel Island cattle. Sheep and pigs were not numerous, but of good quality, and there was a fine display of agricultural produce.



FINE TYPE OF BORDER LEICESTER RAM

That motor traction has made no impression on Shire horse breeding was evident from the grand display at the Ashbourne Shire Horse Show. The demand was never better, and prices are high. The brood mares were an especially strong class. For mares with foal at foot two famous winners at the Shire show, and other places, were in competition, both by the great Lockinge Forest King. These were Messrs. Whitley's Mollington Movement, and Sir A. Nicholson's Mollington Manners. The first named took first place and the Wainwright Cup, but there was little to choose between the two grand mares. First place for yearling entire colt went to F. E. Muntz's Umberslade Menestral. Sir A. Nicholson took first for colt foal, and the Ashbourne Cup.

A considerable portion of the famous Shorthorn herd owned by Harry Butler has been sold at auction. Considering that Argentine ports are still closed, good prices were realized. The 42 cows averaged £42 8s., and 6 bulls, £37 7s. The highest price was 100 gs., paid by the Duke of Devonshire for the three-year-old cow, Rose of France.

* * *

The dispersal sale of the late C. A. Scott-Murray's herd of Shorthorns at Hambledon brought out a large number of stockmen. Capital prices prevailed, 79 cows and heifers being sold for an average of over £47, and 12 bulls for £64 average. The top price of the sale was 320 gs., paid by W. F. D. Smith, for the bull, Hambledon General

15th. J. E. Potter, Ormskirk, bought the highest priced cow, Hambledon Oxford Duchess, for 200 gs. F. DEWHIRST.

* * *

The directors of the Manitoba Live-stock Associations are trying to induce horse and cattle breeders of the province to compete at the International Show at Chicago. The trouble is that Canadian breeders cannot hope to make many sales and the honors obtained are expensive. However, Canadians have won many honors in the past and a big exhibit from the Canadian West would do much to call the attention of stockmen to the prairie provinces as a stock country.

Butchering Sheep on the Farm

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Poultry and mutton are the only meats the farmer can retail. He can sell pork and beef of his own killing, but it must be at wholesale prices. Any farmer living near a small town may by killing in the evening deliver in the morning or the following evening one or two sheep or lambs with very little trouble. The price will average 14 cents per pound. The butcher does not like this, but actively assists the trade by sending his best stuff to the city and delivering to the local customers such as he cannot sell at Winnipeg. People who get tough, old cattle at from 10 cents to 15 cents over the block fight and beg for mutton and lamb. The farmer who goes after this trade can kill and dress a sheep or lamb in half an hour, then pulling a wool sack right up over the carcass, tying the sack above the rope and afterward pulling the whole high up out of reach of dogs, has his meat safe in any weather for two or three days except for loss in weight by drying out. At a rough estimate a town will take about a sheep per family every summer and the farmer never needs to cut smaller than occasionally cutting a quarter in two.

The same grass that produces a pound of beef will grow a pound of mutton and grow the wool on it. Flocks of from

ten to twenty are least bother. Big flocks have to travel too far from the buildings and are a nuisance unless one has fencing. The closer to town the less the wolves bother. The sheep is the only animal that can get all the waste stuff off the stubble. Every quarter section in grain has \$50 value in grain lost in handling and only sheep can get it all. Prairie fires can never get to buildings where sheep have yarded. Man. A. A. TITUS.

* * *

Recently, remarked an old live-stock man who lived through two transition stages in the middle West, from ranching to corn growing, and from selling corn to making beef and pork: "Some of these days this country is going to come to its senses with a jolt. We can't sacrifice our young stock in the way we have been doing this last year without somebody ultimately paying more for beef. The man who can weather this present combination of scarce feed and only average prices for cattle is going to come out to the good, and some of us will be wondering at our own shortsightedness. Cattle are going a lot higher and going soon. Make no mistake about that. In the West, population is increasing faster than beef production, several times as fast, and we will pay more for beef. The time to stock up is now; not next spring, or next fall, but right now. Young stock are selling for less than they are worth, and breeding stock are plentiful and cheap; cheaper, perhaps, than we shall see them again for the next ten years."