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EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

The Annual Show of this important Society was held at Gloucester, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of July, and, upon the whole, it has been pronounced by several competent authorities as equal to most of its predecessors: in Implements it was superior to any of them. As there are several particulars belonging to this great national gathering that will interest many of our readers, we propose laying before them as detailed an account as our limited space will permit, for which we are principally indebted to the elaborate and carefully prepared Report of the *Mark Lane Express*.

After considering the relative advantages and disadvantages of the site chosen for the show, and the satisfactory results which were found to obtain, the *Express* observes:

“Still the Gloucester Meeting was not without some little difficulty or so to contend against; and the worst of these came in the way of a prejudice. It had been announced some time since that the Society was at last going to act up to its original intentions, and that a show of breeding stock would become what it professed to be. Pigs that could not stand, and sheep that found a difficulty in respiration, were no longer to be considered as in the height of condition. An animal, it was judged, should have something of a constitution as well as a character; and that when he was purchased for the express purpose of improving a breed, he might be really found capable of doing so. Nothing has brought the Agricultural Society into so much ridicule, nothing has tended so much to retard that common feeling of esteem and respect it is now coming to be held in, as the systematic manner in which the procreative powers of prize animals were thus abused. The Council or Directors of the Society, though of course fully cognizant of the evil, were

long before they could gather courage sufficient to grapple with it. To the late Lord Ducie, indeed, the credit is almost entirely due of having in his official capacity unhesitatingly denounced the practice. He followed this up, too, by taking the several opinions of those practical men who had acted as judges of stock at the different meetings. These were found so far to agree with him, that a plan was submitted for disqualifying any over-fed beast from coming into competition for the prizes offered by the Society.

It is only right to say, that however well the world at large might be inclined to welcome this, the breeders themselves have thus far taken it by no means so kindly. As one gentleman stated in the *Mark Lane Express* of last week it has been looked on by many as the only “death-warrant” of the Society. We hear that very many animals were kept at home, with the fear of this wholesome regulation before the eyes of their owners; although we believe their apprehensions must have extended the limit of the prohibition far beyond where it was actually taken. In the yard, still, there was very gratifying evidence of what this mere announcement, of itself, had effected. You came upon lively pigs; active, healthy-looking sheep; shorthorns with something of an outline; and Devons whose beautiful symmetry was allowed to develop itself fairly and honestly to the eye of the spectator. It would be wrong, however, to record the effect of this prologue as altogether general in its action. There were many old offenders yet at their old tricks of pampering; and many that, we must add, again escaped unpunished. One of the first “sights” that attracted the visitor, on entering at the bottom of the yard, was a white breeding sow, with a litter of pigs at her side, in such a hopeless state of obesity that the jury at once rejected her. With her, in the same condemned list, were associated a couple of rams, which, like the Romans of old, preferred taking their meals in a reclining position, and could by no means be induced to get upon their legs. These, though, were very rare exceptions: in fact, as we have heard, there was considerable difficulty in persuading the juries to disqualify anything; and any improvement which was observable—and there was a considerable advance in this respect—was far more attributable