

Smithfield Fat Cattle Show.

The late Exhibition of this now world-renowned institution, proved far more successful than was generally expected. Notwithstanding the devastations of the cattle disease, and the alarm consequent thereon, the show in point of number of animals brought out for competition and their average quality, was not only better than could have been reasonably anticipated, under the circumstances, but was little, if anything, behind previous years. The entries of cattle were 223; of sheep 173; and of pigs 57.

The animals in all the departments were, with few exceptions, remarkable for that absence of excessive fatness, which has been so long a standing complaint against this Society in particular. Every British breed of importance was well represented; but the Shorthorns, although comprising several first rate characteristic animals, were not of so uniformly good quality, as the other principal breeds. It is worthy of remark that while the Shorthorns as breeding animals usually take the precedence at cattle exhibitions, it now and then happens that at Smithfield and other fat stock shows, they do not maintain their wonted position. The medal for the best ox of any breed was awarded, after much deliberation, to an uncommonly beautiful Highland steer belonging to the Duke of Sutherland. The next animal in competition was a younger ox of the Devon breed, owned by Her Majesty the Queen, which is described as superb. The sheep were of excellent quality, and the pigs, some of them perhaps too fat, were particularly distinguished for early maturity; clearly proving what breeding and careful feeding will effect within the circle of a year.

Corn for Fuel.

The *Whiteside Sentinel*, an Illinois journal, states that persons in some of the market towns in that State, and even the farmers themselves are using corn for fuel. A ton of corn is worth six dollars. A ton of coal at the R. R. stations costs ten dollars. If the farmer takes his corn in and draws out the coal, the cost of the latter will, on an average, be enhanced two dollars. Then a ton of coal will cost twice what a ton of corn will fetch, and it is estimated that two tons of corn will burn longer, and make as good a fire, as one ton of coal.

The low price of corn at the West is the result of the close of navigation, and the impossibility of sending it East by railroad. Should the Reciprocity Treaty be abrogated, the Western farmer will have to make fuel of the greater part of his surplus corn, because of the insufficiency of transportation facilities. It is after all an inconvenience to be 1000 miles from the seaboard, though your farm be of rich prairie-land.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—We gave some little account of this institution in our issue of Feb. 15, 1865. The following particulars respecting it are taken from a recent number of the *Country Gentleman*:—"The catalogue of this institution for 1865 shows 88 students to have been in attendance during the last college year. Of these there were 45 in the preparatory class, and 22 in select studies, leaving 21 in various stages of progress in the complete course of study. As many readers are already aware, there is no charge for tuition to the young men of Michigan, and those from other States only pay \$20 per year. The price of board is put as nearly as possible at the actual cost, and, toward this, credit is given for labour performed—all the students joining in one part or another of the farm work for three hours a day. The first term begins Feb. 28th, and the second closes Nov. 28th, leaving a winter vacation of three months. The institution is well endowed, and has a working faculty, while its facilities for instruction are fair, and in some branches, as in botany, unusually good. The size of the farm is 676 acres, near Lansing, Mich., where the Secretary, Mr. Sanford Howard, may be addressed for farther information.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Officers of Agricultural Societies for 1866.

ADDINGTON COUNTY SOCIETY.—John Percy, Esq., of Ernestown, President; Robert Madden, Esq., of Camden, First Vice-President; John Sharp, Esq., of Ernestown, Second Vice-President; J. Bell Aylesworth, of Newburgh, Secretary and Treasurer. Directors—Col. Hitchens, of Amherst Island; Peter McPherson, C. W. Miller, and Nelson R. Lapum, of Ernestown; Geo. Lake and Thomas Price, of Camden; and R. F. Hope, of Newburgh.

ERNESTOWN BRANCH SOCIETY.—Donald Fraser, Esq., President; Isaac F. Asselstine, Esq., Vice-President; S. J. Walker, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer. Directors—P. M. Clark, P. R. Davy, P. McPherson, N. A. Briscoe, Franklin Frallic, Ira S. Daly, Anson Stormes, Sheldon Stormes, and C. W. Miller, Esqs.

CAMDEN BRANCH SOCIETY.—J. N. Lapum, Esq., President; Andrew V. Price, Esq., Vice-President; John B. Aylesworth, Secretary and Treasurer. Directors—Thomas Price, Samuel Nugent, Geo. Lake, Thomas Scott, Peter Johnstone, Joseph Walker, Archibald McNielle, Joseph Connelly, and Robert Graham, Esquires.

LENOX.—Andrew D. Draver, Esq., Hamburg, President; Wm. Caton Richmond, First Vice-President; Geo. J. Smith, North Frederickburgh, Second Vice-President; Charles James, Secretary and Treasurer. Directors—Messrs. Tueman, Robert Dennison, Wm. N. Doller, Henry Huffman, Beeman, Amos Schermehorne, Jacob Scheyver, and J. E. Gansolus.

LOUTH.—President, J. W. O. Clark; Vice-President, M. Y. Keating; Secretary, J. J. Gregory; Treasurer, David Crow; Directors—N. H. Pawling, Robert Creamer, Abraham Martin, Henry Wismer, D. Davis, Simon Beamer, J. Martlock, and Eli Gregory.

BROCKVILLE AND ELIZABETHTOWN ELECTORAL DIVISION SOCIETY.—Wm. Rhodes, President; John Lawrence, 1st Vice-President; David Wylie, 2nd Vice-President; Charles Sibbald, Secretary; Christopher Fletcher, Treasurer.

Extracts from Reports of Agricultural Societies.

SOME of the reports of Agricultural Societies give particulars as to the crops in their several localities. It would be well if all did this, as they would form, collated, a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the state of the country. We give some of these crop notices which have come under our eye:—

ERASMUS.—"The wheat crop in the township, although the sample was good, may be considered far below an average, if not a failure, caused by the ravages of the midge, accompanied in many instances by rust. Oats and peas have been an average crop; barley, although short in the straw, has done well. Hay, fully up to the average, especially on new meadow. The turnips have been good in some localities in the township, while in others they suffered severely from a species of caterpillar, and an unusually foggy summer. Potatoes, below an average, especially early planted, while late planted did exceedingly well. Mangolds and carrots, although not extensively grown in the township, have done well."

PESLINCH.—The yield of fall wheat after threshing has been very irregular, varying from four to twenty-seven bushels per acre. This result is mainly owing to the destructive effects of the midge. Spring grain has proved much better, chiefly in peas and oats, which have been good in quality and yield. Potatoes and turnips were considerably affected by the dryness of the season, and the latter were considerably damaged by caterpillars."

Ice Manufactory in New Orleans.

A NEW ORLEANS paper gives a description of a new process of making ice adopted in that city at the Louisiana Ice Works.

In a strong iron cooler a given quantity of liquid ammonia is introduced; and by the means of a slow fire the ammonia gas is held in solution in the water. This gas is separated from the water, and is conveyed with a series of iron worms, which are surrounded by a constant current of water. The gas, running through the worms, becomes liquified by the action of the running water and the pressure of the boiler, and flows into a receiver.

From the receiver, the liquified gas flows into a series of worms, which constitute the refrigerator or

freezing bath, where, by a rapid evaporation, extreme cold is produced. To utilize this cold, the iron worms are surrounded by a strong solution of common salt, which absorbs all the cold produced in the worms. Placed in the spaces between the worms, are suspended forms or moulds of any size desired, filled with pure water. This water immediately absorbs the cold from the salt bath, and the result is the formation of ice. From the refrigerator the same gas which has produced the cold is pumped into a vase, when it is recondensed with liquid ammonia. This again goes through the same process as before, with but little loss.

Such being the case, it will at once be seen that the some ammonia can be used for an indefinite period, with only the loss of gas that may occur in breaking a pump, or by leakage. The temperature at which the ice is made is from 12 to 15 degrees below zero; but 40 degrees of cold can be easily produced by the apparatus. The apparatus now in operation consists of three separate machines, each producing 4,800 pounds of ice in twenty-four hours, and consuming two and one-half barrels of coke. The labour of twenty men is required for each apparatus, whatever may be its size. The only extra cost is fuel. So that the larger the machine the less the ice.

Australian Wool.

In the last number of the Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society, we find the following interesting particulars relative to Australian Sheep Husbandry:

"Australian sheep are never housed or protected, they are entirely dependent upon natural pastures for their subsistence. To illustrate pecuniary results of Australian sheep husbandry, I shall furnish you with the returns of the Messrs. Learmonth's flocks for the year 1861:

| | pounds. | lbs. oz. |
|--|-------------|-----------------|
| 12,155 old sheep sheared..... | 20,534 | per head, 3 3/4 |
| 6,924 six months' lambs..... | 12,306 | do 1 1/2 |
| 163 inferior rams (in grease)..... | 1,144 | do 7 0 |
| Wool, including tags and ends, sold in the London market for about 74 cents per pound, or..... | \$71,659 00 | |
| Seven hundred rams sold for breeding purposes, for..... | 20,000 00 | |

Yield of flock for the year 1861.....\$61,659 00

In Australia, lambs are dropped in Autumn (March or April, and shorn the next (Spring) October or November. The sheep on the Dredlow estate are washed in warm water at a temperature of 110 degrees, and afterwards thoroughly spouted. The Messrs. Learmonth annually sell for breeding purposes nearly all their best rams; and, as a consequence, the yield per head is diminished. Taking the difference in value of currency at time of sale, the Learmonth wool brought over one dollar per pound for the whole clip."

THE hop crop of Wisconsin last season is estimated to be worth \$2,000,000.

ON Christmas morning, every gable, gateway or barn-door in Norway is decorated with a sheaf of corn fixed on the top of a tall pole, from which it is intended the birds shall make their Christmas dinner.

A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE.—A St. Louis paper informs its readers that the anthracite coal found lately in Missouri looks like coal, feels like coal, and smells like coal—all the difference is that coal burns, and that will not.

SINGULAR DEATH.—A man named Moore lately died near Indianapolis, Ind., from nervous exhaustion caused by fear of hydrophobia, he having been bitten by a cow supposed to be mad, but in reality suffering from the complaint known among farmers as the mad itch.

CALIFORNIA WINES.—The extent of the California wine interest is comparatively little known in the Atlantic States. Every year increases the product immensely. The estimate for the present year is 350,000 gallons in Los Angeles County, 350,000 gallons in Sonoma county, and 307,000 in the remainder of the State, or 1,000,000 gallons in all—more than four times the product of the United States in 1860.

A NEW WASH FOR WOOL.—The French Minister of Commerce has addressed a circular to the principal cloth manufacturers, which demonstrates the advantages to be derived from the employment of bark of quillai in washing wool. This bark is known in France by the name of "Panama." The minister adds, that a trial of this bark has been made in the agricultural institution of Preskamen, in Prussian Silesia, with great success.