

Southampton's herd, and a selection from Mr. Faulkner's. Beside these, nine high-class sales are announced, in addition to the show and collection at Bingley Hall.

Farming as an Occupation.

"Mr. Smith has sold his farm." Indeed, why? "Oh, his two sons have left him, refusing to follow the occupation of a farmer." Such is the announcement one hears, ever-and-again, and most frequently from quarters where competence and comfort, if not considerable wealth, have been achieved by the father. Why should this be? Agriculture, as it is the original and natural, so also is it one of the highest and most independent occupations a man can follow. In England, Scotland and Ireland, it is the most aristocratic of pursuits. Princes, lords, and "first commoners," are not only among the most prominent of British practical farmers, but constantly contribute essays, letters, and speeches in promotion of the agricultural cause. The late Prince Consort's farm at Windsor, is a model of first-class husbandry in its various branches, and one it would be profitable for many here in Canada to imitate, even at a far-away distance. But in Canada the observation is constantly heard from farmers' sons, that farming is not a "genteel" occupation. It is a great mistake to suppose that it is the particular occupation of a man that makes him either of good manners or worthy of respect. We all know men in every position of life who by their uprightness of character and ability in their particular pursuit, dignify their occupation and win respect and esteem from all around them. No doubt farming in Canada, as elsewhere, is a laborious life, and demands from the man who aspires to great success, zeal and vigilance, from January to December; and perhaps it is just from the necessity for this toil and vigilance, that farming becomes distasteful to so many young men. But let it never be forgotten that constant industry and perseverance are quite as necessary to success in every other pursuit as in farming; and the chances of failure in the battle of life infinitely greater. Brain work is vastly more toilsome, more wearing, to body and mind than physical labor. It seems very easy for the judge to sit on the bench hearing evidence and then deciding—but it is perhaps the most laborious of tasks when conscientiously performed. Every word uttered by the numerous witnesses and counsel must be noted and remembered, and weighed accurately—the mind is kept on the stretch for hours—every point of the law must be recalled before the decision is given—and when the court rises, the judge gladly seeks his home exhausted in mind and body. And so it is with the merchant, and tradesman, and master mechanic, and the rest of the human family. Toil is the lot of all humanity; and the happy lot, for the longer one lives the more strongly he feels, that the happiest life is that in which there has been constant, useful, remunerative, daily occupation. No more pitiable object can be found in Canada than the man who has no regular occupation, and walks about seeking how he can kill time. He may have as much money as he likes—he is a burden to himself,—and in nine cases out of ten, to all around him.

Agriculture as an occupation, is healthful, regular, independent, and far more remunerative, taking the average of those who follow it, than any other calling. Look all over the western peninsula of Canada, that but thirty years ago was a dense forest, and tell us where in all the world you can find a body of men of one occupation who have raised themselves in that short space, from nothing, to such comfort, and prosperity, and thorough independence as have the 100,000 farmers, who sit there now under their own vine and fig tree reaping the fruits of their early toil.

We readily admit that careless, sluggardly, discontented farming is a hard life; but the sluggard

will have that whatever he follows or wherever he goes. Agriculture rightly pursued furnishes constant, pleasant, elevating, employment for the mind as well as the body. The study and management of the soil, of the atmosphere, of plants, of fruits, of flowers, of cattle, of birds, of insects, are all of them directly connected with farming, contributory to success in its pursuit and most enjoyable. Moreover a thorough knowledge of agriculture, scientific and practical—that knowledge which is gained by perseverance, industry, enthusiasm and ambition—not only leads direct to wealth in Canada, but opens the door to the highest positions and the highest usefulness to his country, that a young Canadian can aspire to. Agriculture is the basis of our whole national fabric; and who would not rather be the foremost farmer in Canada—leading the van in all useful improvements, striving to elevate the system of agriculture, and rousing all around him to new life and progress, and success—than be the richest man or the highest official in the land?

One word to farmers and farmers' wives. With all the admitted folly of the young fellows in being carried away by the delusive seductions of town life, might not something be done to make home more attractive? Might not the surroundings of daily life, the internal economy and outward adornment of the homestead, be in some things improved? Might not the hours of labor be advantageously all round somewhat shortened? Might not the juveniles have fixed remuneration for their labor and some incidental interest in the success of their work? Might they not be encouraged to have specialties of their own, such as fine breeds of the various minor domestic animals and fowls? Might not pleasant evenings be culled out oftener, with friendly visitors around the tea-table, and books, music, magazines and fun to fill up the happy night? We know well that in thousands of farm-houses throughout Canada, all this and more is done now, and done well,—but is there not yet room for advancement on ten thousand farms?

Horse Supply in England.

A curious debate has just occurred in the House of Lords on the apprehended short supply and falling off in quality of horses in Great Britain. Lord Roseberry brought up the subject, and stated that horses were becoming scarcer and dearer, whilst in the opinion of competent judges they were also becoming less fit for the services required of them. They went earlier into hard, fast work, and were in consequence more quickly used up. They are exported in large numbers, 1741 having been thus lost during 1872; whilst during the last fifteen years 60,000 were estimated to have been sold to foreign markets, about 14,000 of which went to Germany alone. As a result of this continual drain fully one-half the horses in London were now required to be imported from Germany. More than one-half the cattle purchased for the autumn military manoeuvres came from the continent, causing an average loss of £10 stg. when sold after their three weeks' campaign. In the event of war Lord Roseberry computed that 8500 horses would be required for the artillery and cavalry forces; but he was assured that even at double the present regulation price, 3000 horses could not be obtained in three months. The horse, said his lordship, was the adjunct of commerce, the implement of agriculture, and the engine of war; and it was a serious thing that England should be losing its position as a horse-breeding country, and should be dependent for its supply on foreign nations.

Lord Portsmouth, who had been a master of hounds for 23 years, bore strong testimony to "the extraordinary scarcity of horses."

Mr. Chaplin held very similar language. In the district of Clydesdale hardly any horses were bred now in comparison with what used to be, and it was

moderate to say prices had doubled. Dealers from all parts of the country asserted that there were more horses left unsold after a fair, some years ago, than are offered for sale at the beginning now; and the French agent who travelled through the country in 1872 writes that nine years ago five horses were to be found for sale for every one in Great Britain at present. This is the burden of all the agricultural societies in the country:—"Our breeders have been tempted to sell their best horses for transportation. There is a lamentable want of sound, strong, thorough-bred stallions in the country." The Cleveland mares, from which have usually descended our best coach horses, and from whose daughters, by thorough-bred horses, and again crossed by blood, have sprung all our best hunters, are nearly extinct; in fact, the foreigners have got them all. The carriage horses are bought from the foreigner. The price within a few years has risen 70 per cent., and there is no probability of a lower figure being reached, as when farmers can get 45s for a lamb they are not likely to speculate in breeding horses.

Earl Granville accounted for the rise in the price of horses by the increase of wealth and luxurious living. He said he preferred the strong, sinewy animals that drew such carriages as those of the Duke of Richmond, to the handsome cart-horses that drew his great grandfather's coach at the rate of five miles an hour. But side by side with these despised cart-horses were the roadsters who did their ten miles an hour with the regularity of clock work; and it should be remembered that without the "cart-horses" there would not have been the foundation for the production of the present beautiful breed of horses. But breeding upwards has been so much the rule that, while horses are models of shape and full of spirit, they are wanting in substance, and brood mares of the old stout, enduring type are nowhere to be found.

In Canada we have made great progress in the breeding of horses, and in no country in the world could animals be found combining so happily speed, and stay, and endurance. It is impossible to drive along a country road without seeing one span of horses after another pass which would be equal to any purpose for which a horse is required, short of racing against thorough-breds. There will happily be no temptation with us to fall into the mistakes which have been committed in England. On the contrary, it may be worth our while to consider whether we could not profitably export horses to Europe. There is a great demand for the very sort of animals we could supply. Italy goes to England for horses, and it would be nearly as cheap to send a horse from Toronto to Liverpool as from Hull to Civita Vecchia.

Tenant Farmers in Parliament.

The election of Mr. James W. Barclay, of Aberdeen, as M. P. for Forfarshire, Scotland, adds another to the list of tenant farmers who have managed to secure an entrance to the first legislative body in the world. His opponent, Sir James Ramsay, was like himself, a liberal, and a landlord of much local influence, but not so pronounced on the questions of hypothec and the game laws as Mr. Barclay, hence the preference of the farmers for the latter gentleman. Mr. Barclay recently made his maiden speech in the House of Commons, on the motion for a select committee to enquire into the working of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and was much applauded by both sides of the House for the practical sagacity of the views he enunciated. He showed very clearly that in Aberdeenshire, the system of slaughtering animals laboring under pleuro-pneumonia had been eminently successful in almost exterminating the disease. He stated that the total value of cattle and sheep of England and Scotland, amounted to at least £115,000,000, or probably double the value of the registered shipping of the United Kingdom.

This stock supplies annually, food to the value of £45,000,000. The value of the imports of foreign cattle, Mr. Barclay estimates at only one eighth of the home supply, or something under 12 per cent. of the whole production. He also estimated that an animal attacked even by the foot-and-mouth disease loses nearly 10 per cent. of its value.