

## Our English Letter

### A Remarkable Shorthorn Sale—Big Prices—Canadian Bacon—Farming Prospects

LONDON, May 19, 1906.

What, in all probability, will prove the greatest event of the Shorthorn year, took place on the 3rd inst. when the famous herd of Shorthorns bred for so many years at Ruddington by the late Mr. P. L. Mills, was sold by auction. Ruddington Hall is near the ancient city of Nottingham in a district famed for the richness of its pastures and the fertility of its soil. The sale was a red letter one; for the best lots, bids were very quick and substantial, and included in the company were quite a sufficiently large number of Argentine representatives to start a small colony. Notwithstanding this several of the best lots were retained at home, the great bull King Christian of Denmark, though running the sand out at 800 gs. (\$4,600) was purchased by a new breeder near to his old home.

A great deal of attention was paid to the strains in blood, or, in other words, to the descent of the animals. Some remarkably good animals that were not altogether bred upon acceptable lines were knocked down at under three figures sterling, whilst others of far less apparent marketable value, apart from breeding, realized far into hundreds of guineas each. There were some fine cows of the Waterloo and Duchess lines eagerly competed for. On the whole, the Bates descended ones appeared in most favor; these were largely infused with Scotch blood, but their progeny can soon be brought back to the milking type and characteristics of their early ancestors. The whole of the cattle appeared extremely healthy and the number of young calves was sufficient evidence that they were as healthy as they looked.

Some of the bulls were a little disappointing, indeed a good number of them lacked style; some in the way of general appearance, others in the matter of carriage, and it is no matter how symmetrical or full of quality an animal may be, if he lacks the ability to show gaiety and style of carriage he loses a great deal. It was probably on this account that a great number of the thirty-eight bulls catalogued failed to reach \$500, a good number being sold at less than half of this amount. White animals were not sought after, one of the best quality bulls of the sale falling at a very low figure. The best bull in the sale was undoubtedly King Christian of Denmark, half brother of Ruddington Prince Christian, who fell to the bid of Mr. Millar (Buenos Ayres) for 1,100 gs. (\$5,500). Both in color, coat and general appearance he was a most fascinating bull, with every prospect of landing on a far higher plane than some of the bulls that have been purchased at far higher prices this spring for export across the Atlantic.

Amongst the cows and calves some remarkable prices were chronicled. Countess Farewell 5th by Best of Archers, though set in years old, has proved herself such a wonderful breeder that she drew from Mr. Carsares for South America, the substantial bid of 600 gs. (\$3,000); she had been a great prize winner, too, and came into the ring in fine bloom and health, with a splendid daughter of six weeks' old at foot. This high-bred young calf was sired by Violet Victor—also included in the sale—who is a big and heavily fleshed bull that for symmetry, coat and color (dark

roan) was all that could be desired. With these qualifications, and the fact that the young lady capered about the ring in the highest of spirits and showed herself to the best advantage secured for her the fabulous price of 400 gs. (\$2,000), which Mr. Carsares had to pay ere he could take her with her mother to the new world. It is not often that such a price is paid for a six-weeks old calf.

The average of the entire sale was just over \$762 for 115 head sold, and was a very fine one; though in comparison with the great New York Mills sale or that of Aylesby Manor, when a dozen Booth-bred animals left the railway station for the home of their ancestors at a thousand guineas each (\$5,000), it appears very simple. Nevertheless, such a sale as at Ruddington shows in what esteem the British Shorthorn is yet held.

#### CANADIAN BACON.

Attention is called by the Grocer to the expanding nature and wide development of the trade in Canadian bacon. The most remarkable of all the imports into the United Kingdom last year were those of bacon from Canada, showing as they do the greatest increase of any from other parts of the world, and this had a restraining influence on the London market in keeping it from unduly rising, at first through the stationary, but subsequently contracted supplies from the United States and Denmark. The official figures referring to our imports show:

	1905	1904
	Cwt.	Cwt.
Denmark .....	1,471,687	1,723,884
United States ..	2,755,233	2,806,108
Canada .....	1,191,390	829,883
Other countries ..	80,650	102,131
Total .....	5,498,960	5,452,311

In every case, with the exception of Canada, it will be seen there was a decrease, but the huge increase of 361,507 cwt. from that source made up for all deficiencies, and left a net gain of 46,649 cwt. That this was not a merely temporary or fitful expansion is clearly proved by the fact that our receipts for the first three months of this year were on the same enlarged scale.

#### First three months of

	1906	1905
Denmark, cwt. ....	343,075	368,983
U. S. cwt. ....	908,101	885,124
Canada, cwt. ....	255,021	161,301
Other countries, cwt. ....	12,512	19,573

Total .....

Here again Canadian bacon stands out prominently with an augmentation of 94,320 cwt. above the supply of last year, and so helps to secure a net gain of 84,417 cwt. on the total arrivals. These are significant figures which cannot be refuted, and strongly indicate that the production, distribution and consumption of Canadian bacon are increasing at a faster rate than those of any cure. True, as an exclusive trade it falls a long way behind that of the United States, but it certainly does afford astonishing evidence of vigor and vitality.

#### FARMING PROSPECTS IN ENGLAND.

Farming prospects are not equal to this time last year, much of the spring corn is planted, but in anything but a good seed bed. In consequence, all of it has not germinated as there has

not been sufficient rain to soften the rough ground. In some cases oats and barley are not finished, other crops look well, but would be vastly improved by more genial weather. The prospect of a good hay crop gets worse and worse, day by day, and unless we get warm rains and warmer nights there will be little grass for mowing or grazing, and stockkeepers will be put to their wits end to keep the animals alive, let alone improving them in condition.

#### ITEMS.

The weather of the past few days has been of a most extraordinary character, a difference of 23 degrees F. in two days. Night frosts have been frequent, and one hears all sorts of alarmist reports about the damage done to fruit trees.

The enormous business done in Australian rabbits is hardly realized by the majority. In 1905 over ten million rabbits were landed from Victoria in London alone, this lot were valued at £263,000, while in addition twelve million skins were worth another fifty million sterling. This shows what value the rabbit is to some portions of the Australian Commonwealth.

Our summer show season begins next week, but success depends largely upon the weather. As regards stock exhibitions prospects there is every reason for congratulation. Anything at all good can be easily and quickly sold.

A. W. S.

#### An Englishman's Opinion.

We thank you for sending so regularly THE FARMING WORLD. We like it very much, and we wish you every success. We also wish that friends in Canada would kindly think of their relations in England, and have THE FARMING WORLD sent to them the same as our dear friend has done for us.

We sincerely hope the motor car nuisance will be stopped. The motor car has killed a lot of people in this country. This makes a lot of very bad feeling between the rich and the poor.

R. HESTER.

Worminghall Thame,  
Oxon, England.

#### Appointments to the O.A.C.

Rev. Dr. C. J. S. Bethune, of London, Ont., has been appointed Professor of Entomology at the Ontario Agricultural College. For many years Dr. Bethune has been editor of the Canadian Entomologist, and has made a reputation in that science. He is one of the charter members of the Royal Society of Canada.

Mr. J. E. Howitt, of Guelph, has been appointed demonstrator at the college to succeed Mr. Jackson, who has just gone to New Zealand.

#### Breeding Snakes for Their Skins

Snakes, according to the prevailing popular notion, should be killed at sight as utterly useless and positively dangerous creatures, but in Australia they are now being systematically reared for the sake of their skins, which have a considerable commercial value in London, Paris and New York. Snake skin is the fashionable material for slippers, belts, bags, purses, card cases, jewel boxes, dressing-table accessories, etc. Rabbit trappers supplement their means considerably by catching young snakes and extracting the poisonous fangs. The blacks are also expert snake catchers. To them the snake is an agreeable article of diet.