

Farming Affairs in Great Britain.

(From our English Agricultural Correspondent.)

TWO GREAT HORSE SHOWS.

The last week in March and the first week in April we had the greatest show of horses ever held in London. The Shire Horse Show was a remarkably successful one. The entries numbered 447, as compared with 410 last year. The first show of the Shire Horse Society was held in 1880, with only 110 entries, and that just held was the largest ever got together. The general standard of quality, too, was very high. The champion prize was won by the Earl of Ellesmere, of Worsley, Manchester, with Vulcan (4155), a magnificent six-year-old stallion, by Shaw's Cardinal (2407), dam, Jessie by Sir Colin (2407). The numbers are those of the Shire Horse Herd Book. Vulcan won, not only the first prize in his class, £20, but also the fifty-guinea champion cup given for the best stallion in the show, the twenty-guinea cup given for the best stallion in the three classes for horses three years old and upwards, and the Elsenham Challenge Cup, value 100 guineas, to hold for one year. The last cup has to be won two years in succession by the same exhibitor in order to be retained permanently. Apart from this, however, the horse won prizes to the amount of £93 10s. There were many other first-rate stallions, and a splendid lot of mares. After the show a sale by auction was held, and some high prices were made. Two realized 250 guineas each, and twenty-three were sold at prices ranging from that amount down to 100 guineas. The average for eighty-two stallions and colts was £80 19s. 10d. Only eight were sold at less than 40 guineas, and not many below 50 guineas. For 38 mares and fillies the average was £62 3s. 5d., the top price being 175 guineas. Much higher prices than any of those made at the auction were obtained by private sale. The two-year-old stallion, Marmion, belonging to Mr. Freeman, was sold for 1,000 guineas, while Lord Wantage paid 800 guineas for the champion two-year-old stallion, Hailstone Conqueror. Mr. Sutton Velthorpe refused 1,000 guineas for his first-prize mare, Blue Ruin. Never before was business so brisk at a cart-horse show. The Shires are the rising breed of cart horses, and a great export trade is done in them. It is said that two thousand were exported last year. The other great London show was held last week, being a combined exhibition of thoroughbred, hackney and Yorkshire coaching stallions, and hackney and hunter mares. The entries of stallions numbered 251, and those of mares, 133. The thoroughbred stallions competed for twenty-five prizes of £200 each, offered by the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding and the Royal Agricultural Society for horses to travel in specified districts of Great Britain and serve mares at low fees. It was a magnificent show; but too many of the thoroughbreds were declared unsound on strict veterinary examination. No doubt if the offer of liberal premiums should be continued, useful breeding will be stimulated, and hereafter we shall have a larger number of sound, and, in all respects eligible, horses at the annual competitions.

MANURES FOR GRASS LAND.

A full report of the important experiments in the manuring of grass land, carried out by Mr. Martin J. Sutton, near Reading, during the last three years, has just reached me. The experiments were commenced in 1886, six plots in

several fields being dealt with in various ways. In the following year twelve more plots were added in each pasture. Manure was applied to five of the first six plots in 1886, not in 1887, but again in 1888, the same dressing being used on the same plot. On eleven of the other plots manure was applied in 1887, and not in 1888. Taking the pasture which gave the most trustworthy results (some of the rest having had the crop injured by dry weather in two years out of the three), I show in the following table the weight of hay obtained during three and two years, respectively, in two cuttings each year, and the net profit during the period, after allowing for the cost of the manure, and comparing the value of the hay from the manured plots with that from the unmanured plot in each set of experiments:—

EXPERIMENTS DURING THREE YEARS.									
Plot.	Manure per Acre.	Produce in Hay.			Net Gain per Acre from Manures.				
		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	S.	D.		
1—None.		5	15	1½					
2—1 cwt. sulphate of ammonia.		6	9	0	1	6	9		
3—1½ cwt. nitrate of soda.		6	14	¾	2	5	6		
4—3 cwt. superphosphate, 2 cwt. kainit.		6	19	3	3	6	3		
5—1 cwt. sulphate of ammonia, 2 cwt. kainit.		6	9	¾			18	0	
6—3 cwt. superphosphate, 1 cwt. nitrate soda, 2 cwt. kainit.		7	0	1½	2	3	0		

TWO YEARS' EXPERIMENTS.									
Plot.	Manure per Acre.	Produce in Hay.			Net Gain per Acre from Manures.				
		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	S.	D.		
7—4 cwt. basic cinder, 1 " nitrate soda.		4	5	1½	3	5	3		
8—10 tons farm-yard manure.		4	9	2	2	3	0		
9—5 cwt. desiccated cotton cake.		4	1	0	1	14	0		
10—3 cwt. Peruvian guano.		3	15	1½	1	4	9		
11—None.		3	3	3					
12—4 cwt. basic cinder, 2 " kainit.		3	19	0¼	2	10	9		
13—4 cwt. gr. coprolite, 2 cwt. kainit.		4	1	¾	2	16	0		
14—10 cwt. cyrum.		3	12	1		19	0		
15—1 cwt. nitrate soda, ¾ " muriate of ammonia.		4	18	1½	6	1	0		
16—3 cwt. dissolved bones.		5	0	0¼	6	6	6		
17—3 " boned bones.		4	2	0¼	2	15	9		
18—3 " raw bone meal.		4	7	0	3	15	6		

In the first set, for three years, it will be seen, the greatest bulk of hay for the whole period was obtained by means of two dressings (in 1886 and 1888) of the manures applied to Plot 6; but as these cost more than those applied to Plot 4, the latter gave the greatest profit. In the second set, for two years, the best result in both weight of hay and profit, were secured by the use of one dressing of 3 cwt. of dissolved bones. It is very satisfactory to find that phosphatic manures have given the best results. In the year of manuring, manures containing a great deal of nitrogen, such as nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia, usually force the greatest bulk of grass; but their effect is not lasting, and in the following year there is likely to be less grass than where no manure was applied. Besides, they deteriorate pasture by causing the coarse grasses to grow profusely, so as to smother the clovers and other plants of fine quality. On the other hand the phosphatic manures often produce the greatest effect in the year succeeding that of their application, and they stimulate the growth of the clovers.

THE CROPS OF LAST HARVEST.

The complete Agricultural Produce Statistics for 1888 were issued the other day by the Agricultural Department. As I gave the areas of the several crops in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE

for January, it is not necessary to repeat them, but it will suffice to give the following table, in which I have compared the yield per acre in 1888 with the official "ordinary average," and with the average for the period during which the official returns have been collected:—

Crops.	YIELD OF CROPS IN GREAT BRITAIN.		Over or Under in 1888.		Compared with five yrs. Ave.	
	Five Yrs. 1888 average.	Ordinary average.	Bush.	Tons.	Bush.	Tons.
Wheat.	23.46	23.80	-0.34		-0.34	
Barley.	22.40	22.40	0.00		0.00	
Oats.	28.24	28.24	0.00		0.00	
Beans.	28.68	28.68	0.00		0.00	
Pears.	23.48	23.48	0.00		0.00	
Potatoes.	6.11	6.11	0.00		0.00	
Turnips.	12.71	12.71	0.00		0.00	
Hay from clover, etc.	17.11	17.11	0.00		0.00	
Hay from permanent pasture.	1.38	1.38	0.00		0.00	
Hops.	1.28	1.28	0.00		0.00	
* Three years' average.						
+ Four years' average.						

It will be seen that the comparison shown in the last column is much more favorable to the harvest of 1888 than that shown in the last column but one. In other words, compared with the mean of the returns obtained up to the present time, seven out of the eleven crops show a surplus, instead of only one as compared with the "ordinary average." The explanation may be either that the ordinary average is set too high for some crops, or that the harvests of the period during which the official statistics have been obtained have been, as a whole, below the true standard in productiveness. In Ireland the harvest was much better than in Great Britain, several of the crops being an average.

NEW SEED WHEATS.

Having watched with great interest the experiments in the artificial crossing of wheats carried on for six years by Messrs. Carter & Co., of High Holborn, London, I am glad to see that they intend to offer some of their selections for sale next autumn. Year after year I have carefully examined these new cross-bred wheats, and have been delighted with the appearance of some of them. That they are genuine crosses there is ample evidence to prove, the dissimilar characteristics of the male and female parents being often combined in an unmistakable manner. What pleased me most, with a view to their value for Canada, and especially for Manitoba and the North-west, were some new spring wheats. Last harvest two new varieties sown as late as the 12th of April—very late for this country, where March is considered quite late enough for spring wheat—ripened only a few days after the crops sown in autumn, and the heads were very fine, while the grain was of a goodly size and plump in form. Knowing the vast importance of wheat that will come to harvest early, though sown late, especially for the coldest districts of Canada, I have taken a special interest in the particular varieties above referred to. It is solely with a view to the interests of my Canadian readers, and not at