

Agricultural Intelligence.

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Origin of the Elmira Farmers' Club.

That those of our readers who wish to organize a farmers' club for the purpose of mutual improvement, in their special business, in their own vicinity, may learn from others' experience, we condense from the *Advertiser* an account of the origin, organization, and history of the Elmira club, one of the most successful, pecuniarily and intellectually, ever organized in the country.

Just four years ago, a few farmers assembled in a wagon shop one evening, by the light of a single candle, and proceeded to organize a club, or society, for the improvement of their methods of farming. There had been no public notice given of such a meeting, only a little casual talk at the market, or on the street. There were barely ten men at the first organization, but from the first meeting reporters from the city press were invited to report their talks and the club thus became noted. It now numbers over one hundred members, has a large, new, central hall, belonging to the club, with the first floor arranged suitably for the residence of a janitor's family, the rent of which rooms will keep the hall warmed, lighted, and in perfect cleanliness. From the beginning this club has carried out each year some gigantic enterprise of benefit, not only to the Elmira farmers, but to those of the whole northern States. In 1870 it held a grand trial of haying implements, on the farm of Mr. Hoffman, its President, which was equal to it did not exceed, the great Auburn trial of 1868. In 1871, a trial was had of all kinds of implements for working the soil. In both these years the trials were witnessed by large crowds of farmers who came from far distant sections of the country, to learn from actual trial just what machinery they needed in their business. In 1872, the anniversary of their organization was celebrated by a re-union at the house of one of the members. In 1873, a trial of haying and harvesting tools was held on the farm of ten. Diven, at which the reapers and mowers were worked in every conceivable manner possible, thus "giving lessons" on these machines to the thousands of farmers present. In 1871, a library was started, which now contains twelve hundred volumes, free to members, subject only to the conditions needed for their preservation.—*Country Gentleman*.

The cattle plague is extending to an alarming degree in some parts of Switzerland. The latest information shows that it has broken out afresh in several cantons, more particularly Berne, Neuchatel, and the Grisons. In the canton of Friburg, where it had disappeared, it has again attacked several districts at once; and in consequence of its virulence in the Vaud, a large number of cattle have had to be destroyed. In the latter canton all cattle fairs and markets have been suppressed until further orders.

NO MORE ARAB HORSES.—So great has been the demand for Arabian horses for exportation to other countries, that the breed has become scarce in many parts of the empire, and with a view to preserving it from extinction—in the provinces of Bagdad and Syria—exportation has been prohibited for the next seven years.

A NATIONAL STUD.—The Government of Quebec has granted \$5,000 annually in favor of a National Stud about to be organized with a capital of \$60,000, divided in 600 shares, under the management of Mr. Bonnemante, a distinguished French agriculturist, Knight of the Legion of Honour, residing in Canada or the last twelve months. In consideration of this annual Government grant of \$5,000 for five years, or \$25,000, the company must keep on hand 30 imported stallions, to be disposed of for the season, in the month of May every year, to the highest bidder. The whole scheme has been printed in pamphlet form, which is sent free on application to Mr. Bonnemante, Montreal.

A MEETING of the Highland and Agricultural Society was recently held within the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, for the purpose of considering the regulations, and premiums of the Inverness show next year. Sir K. McKenzie, of Garloch, presided, and there was a large attendance. Mr. Menzies stated that the date of the show was fixed for the 28th, to the 31st July, and the premiums would be \$3,620 above last show at Inverness. This increase, he said, was not owing to the Aberdeenshire agitation, as when that meeting took place, the premium list was being adjusted. The premium list was agreed to. It was resolved to hold the competition for the \$150 premium for the best thoroughbred stallion at Inverness on the 20th March.—*Farmer (Eng.)*

The Hon. M. H. Cochrane is reserving for future use as a sire in his herd at Hillhurst, Compton, Canada, a red bull calf by Royal Blithe, from Vesper Star, described by Mr. Cochrane as the best of his six exceedingly good members of Mr. Bruere's famous Vesper family, which ranks now on both sides of the Atlantic as a bull-breeding family of the first class. The other five Vespers at Hillhurst are Star of Braithwaite, Vernal Star, Royal Star, Star Flower and Statira. Vesper Star is own sister to Mr. Bruere's Brilliant Star and Beautiful Star, from Star Queen. The Vespers, deriving their blood, in the recent generations, from Booth bulls bred at headquarters, combine the Waraby wealth of flesh with the great milking properties always carefully cultivated at Braithwaite.—*Bell's Messenger*.

During the year 1873, the list of governors, and members of the Royal Agricultural Society, of England, has been increased by the election of 1 governor, and 351 members, and diminished by the death of 5 governors, and 128 members, the resignation of 163 members, and the removal of 15 members by order of the Council. In addition to this changes, the Council have to record their sense of the loss which not only this society, but the whole world of science, has suffered by the death of one of its honorary members, Baron Liebig, whose chemical discoveries, especially in relation to the production, and utilization of food, have been of the utmost importance to agriculture. The Society now consists of 77 life governors, 59 annual governors, 1,594 life members, 3,949 annual members, 12 honorary members, making a total of 5,991, and showing an increase of 46 members during the year 1873.

THE FROZEN MEAT FAILURE.—Mr. Harrison, who came over in charge of the frozen meat on board the Norfolk from Melbourne has explained that the failure was directly owing to the imperfection of the means by which it was carried out, an imperfection which was discovered only when it was too late to remedy the defects. He holds that the most practical and efficient means is by a combination of ice and salt. He points out that the difference in price between meat in Australia and England would allow for a considerable cost of preserving, but he maintains that the cost by his process is extremely low. He has stated that his freezing apparatus on board the Norfolk was calculated to last 120 days; but shortly after he was on board he found defects at the very points which should be efficient. The men who were employed to fit up the apparatus when the ship started had not always been sober, had scamped their work, and had so concealed these defects that he could not at once detect them. During the first 37 days of the voyage, in the coldest part of the year, he lost 20 tons of ice, and with what he was able to save when he became aware of the defects he was able to maintain 90 degrees of cold for 39 days, including the run from the tropics, but his difficulty was through the loss of the brine.—*Mark Lane Express*.