



Mr. H. Dudding's Lincoln shearing ram, some of whose sheeps have been exported to Spain. See letterpress.

Our English Letter

Farming Prospects—Winter Spraying of Fruit Trees—Imports of Fruit—London's Meat Supply—Items

London, Jan. 23, 1907.
THE OUTLOOK

There is very little moving in any part of the country and it will be some time before farming matters take on a new lease of life. The severe weather at the close of the old year was quickly replaced by a return to milder and moister conditions; with the lengthening days, however, it is probable that we shall get colder and more misty weather.

A Cornish friend has sent me an interesting note on conditions in the West of England. It is somewhat early, he writes, to say much about the prospects for this season. We have had a good downfall of snow—quite the heaviest since 1891—which will do some good to the land. Beef has been selling at a low price for some months past, but trade has now slightly improved. Store cattle are fairly cheap and cows and calves are selling well. Hay has advanced in price and farmers can now get £1 per ton in the stack. As far as market gardening is concerned, and it is a big industry in West Cornwall, the season has opened very well for the broccoli trade and after the severe weather "up country" we should have a good season. Last season over 30,000 tons were raised, so your readers will understand what a good season means to us. The planting of early potatoes will soon commence. The principal varieties cultivated include May Queen, Jersey Flutes and Duke of York.

WINTER SPRAYING OF FRUIT TREES

The winter spraying of fruit trees with alkali wash has been found to be very effective in this country. Mr. F. V. Theobald, the expert at the South-Eastern Agricultural College, recommends the process for two purposes: (1), to remove moss, lichen and rough bark from young trees; (2), as a means of destroying the aerial form of wood aphids and the hibernating quarters of such insects as codling maggot, thrips, apple blossom weevil, carvings, etc. At one time it was thought to have an in-

jurious effect upon the eggs of the apple sucker, mussel scale, aphid and red spider eggs, but it is now known that it does not effect them.

The wash need not be employed in an orchard every year; once in every three years will suffice. It must be used only on dormant wood and is best sprayed over the trees early; as soon as the buds show signs of bursting it is too late to spray. The two main constituents, namely, caustic soda and carbonate of potash, vary in strength. The former ranges from 60 to 98 per cent. carbonate of potash from 40 to 85 per cent. Experiments over some seven years have shown that the lower percentage is sufficient to make the wash effective.

IMPORTS OF FRUIT

The fruits which enter most largely into commerce are those which can be gathered before they are dead ripe, such as apples, oranges and bananas, and those which dry without decay-

ing, such as raisins, currants, figs, etc. The chief feature of the fruit trade of recent years has been the great increase of bananas, especially from the West Indies and Central America. The most important fruit in the United States is the apple, the average crop for the last few years being 133 million bushels. Apples are also the most important fruit in Canada, but your exports are far behind those from the United States, although the gap is rapidly diminishing. U. S. exports to great Britain are 1,954,500 cwt., Canada's 1,383,900 cwt., Apples also reach our market from Australia, Portugal, Belgium, France and Holland.

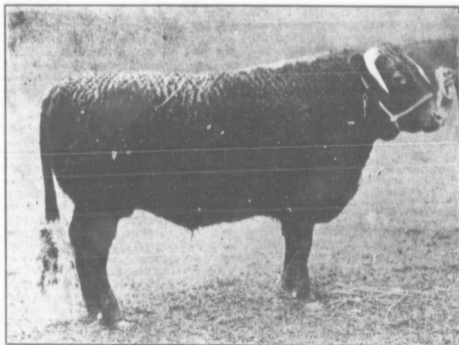
As regards the value of fruit imported into the United Kingdom, apples lead the way, being estimated at £2,322,000, but if weight be considered oranges come first, followed by apples, which are closely pressed by bananas.

LONDON'S MEAT SUPPLY

The meat delivered at the Central Market, Smithfield, London, last year was a record in point of quantity. The total deliveries at the Central Markets amounted to 421,927 tons, or an increase of 6,521 tons over 1905. Of the total supplies products from the United Kingdom amounted to only 20 per cent., the figures being United Kingdom 86,794 tons, Australian 104,570 tons, North American (English killed) 72,623 tons, North and South America (American killed) 109,325 tons, and Continental 48,602 tons.

ENGLISH SHEEP FOR SPAIN

Amongst recent movements of importance to the sheep industry is a notification that there has been selected from the world-wide known flock owned by Mr. Henry Dudding a consignment of Lincoln longwool sheep for Spain, on account of the government of that country. It is singular how history repeats itself, for reference to the records of another longwool breed, the Cotswold, shows that in 1437 the King of Portugal, who was brother-in-law of the King of Castile, applied to the then King of England for liberty to import some Cotswold wool, and then we learn from Stowe that in the year 1464 King Edward IV. sent a present of Cotswold lambs to Henry of Castile, and four years later twenty ewes of the same breed, accompanied by four rams, were shipped for John



The best Devon steer at the Smithfield Cattle Show, 1906.