

averaged per cwt., 6s. 10½d., a decrease of 3½d.; oats, 5s. 7½d., an increase of 1½d.; barley, 7s. 1½d., a decrease of 1½d.; potatoes, 2s. 10½d., a decrease of 6d.; hay, 3s. 1½d., a decrease of 1d.; grass seeds, 9s. 8½d., an increase of 10d.; and flax, 55s. 6d., no change. Most of the foregoing prices, of course, are influenced by the character of the season, whether favorable or not to big crops. With regard to wool, the upward tendency is shown to continue, 13d. per pound being returned as the average for the year, and this contrasting very markedly, indeed, with the 5½d. which ruled no further back than the year 1902.

THE LONDON DAIRY SHOW.

It was my privilege to attend, during the second week in October, the great annual exhibition held in London each year under the auspices of the British Dairy Farmers' Association. We have nothing like this fixture in Ireland. It was, this year, a wonderfully comprehensive exhibition of all kinds of British dairy produce, comprising not only typical representatives of leading milk- and butter-producing breeds, but also exhibits of the roots and feeding stuffs required for their use; of butter, cheese, cream, skim-milk bread, churns, separators, milk cans, carts, etc. A large number of Irish creameries competed, with great success, in some of the butter classes, winning several prizes. The quality of the samples from this side of the Channel fully upheld the reputation of Irish buttermakers, but in some instances the methods of packing were at fault—an important point which will need to have more attention from some of our producers. I noticed an extensive series of exhibits from New Zealand and the Australian Provinces, but I looked in vain for samples of Canadian stuff. The show lasted over four days, and during its progress there were unceasing milking and buttermaking competitions of great interest. A number of Irish girls from the Munster Dairy Institute, Cork, entered in the last-named tests, and it is to their credit that they succeeded in carrying off two first prizes, one second, one third, and a number of cards of high commendation.

PROMOTING HORTICULTURE.

A fruit and flower show of considerable dimensions, in conjunction with which was a conference on a number of phases of the fruit-growing industry, took place this week at Ballsbridge, under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland. It was one of the most practical things the Society ever attempted, and the success with which it was attended was therefore all the more encouraging. Close on 2,000 exhibits were tastefully staged in the fine Main Hall of the Royal Dublin Society's Show premises. The great bulk of these consisted of apples and pears, and they afforded a striking reminder of the fact that, as a fruit country, Ireland is capable of successful development. At the conference, which was probably the most important portion of the proceedings, some very useful addresses were given, the discussions introduced by expert authorities—dealing with the following topics: "The Varieties to Grow," introduced by Mr. F. W. Moore, Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; "Insect Pests," introduced by Professor G. H. Carpenter, B. Sc., Royal College of Science; "Fungi Diseases," introduced by Dr. G. H. Pethybridge, Royal College of Science; and last, but not least, "Methods of Packing, Grading and Marketing," introduced by Mr. I. W. Harper, the fruit expert brought from America by the Department of Agriculture. Among the visitors to the show was the Hon. John Dryden, who stated that he was pleased with the evidence afforded by the exhibition of the fruit-growing possibilities of Ireland.

"EMERALD ISLE."

"The Farmer's Advocate" is the champion of farmers' rights, and the most reliable, impartial and effective exponent of agricultural interests. And the subscription price is less than 3 cents a week for the 52 copies in the year, including the Christmas and other special numbers.

Everybody is now "knocking" the poor dummy director.

A Lesson in "Getting There First."

There are always a great class of people who get wise a little too late—their forethoughts come afterwards. Many of these are now lamenting that we have left American investors to capture the richest stakes in Cobalt, and they are urging our people to rush in yet and secure what can be got. Toronto Saturday Night hits the case off to a nicety:

"Those who are working up a boom in mining stocks tell us that Canadians are slow, and there is some truth in it. When silver was struck at Cobalt, our young men should have rushed in and taken chances; our capitalists should have come forward and made the purchases that were soon after made by New York men. Some of our people have managed very well, but of the aggregate wealth of Cobalt, most of it will fall into the hands of the widely-experienced mine owners who have headquarters in New York. They will pay a fortune for a mine, take several fortunes out of it, and should its ore give out, stock it and sell it on its reputation to the public. They will have prospectors all through the north; they will have agents in every camp, ready to lay down marked cheques to any amount to purchase profitable mining properties. They know their business from a to z, from grub-staking a lucky prospector to measuring the resources of a mine, squeezing the utmost value out of its ores, developing it sensationally, with loud and conspicuous secrecy concealing, yet exaggerating, the story of its

the lesson need not be lost upon us. We need alertness in farming, to induce us to try new ideas more promptly, especially inexpensive ones, as, for instance, alfalfa-growing, testing of dairy cows, the split-log drag, and dozens of others. In agriculture there is not such supreme necessity for getting ahead of the other fellow as in mining, but there is need for promptness in availing ourselves of good ideas, so as to increase returns speedily and reduce unnecessary or unprofitable labor as early as possible. Enterprise generally pays when combined with reasonably good judgment.

HORSES.

Crib Biting.

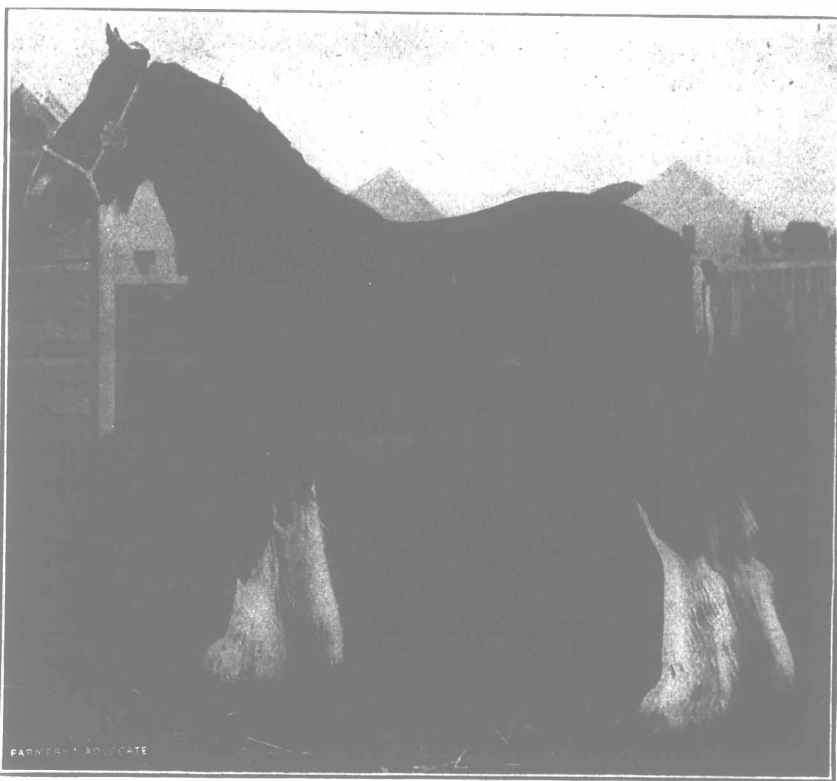
The eminent English veterinarian, Harold Leeney, M. R. C. V. S., writes on this subject in the London Live-stock Journal as follows: "Is it playfulness or vice, deliberate and premeditated, or involuntary? Many horsemen, familiar with the objectionable practice, will be surprised that the question should be asked, but in an age when only sympathy for criminals is shown for those who have 'materialized their thought-errors,' as an American author describes the inmates of gaols, we may well pause to ask ourselves if animals are really guilty of 'vice' at all.

"Solleysell, as long ago as the year 1664, compared it to the taking of snuff and smoking tobacco in men. While many have watched the act of windsucking with a feeling akin to disgust,

few have, perhaps, thought out the modus operandi. Even those who inhale cigarette smoke may not have done so, yet they are imperfect wind-suckers, who draw the smoke down into the pharynx, but stop short at swallowing it. To the many who have been through a veterinary course in the Army or one of the agricultural colleges, and have a general knowledge of anatomy, the explanation given of the act by the late Captain Hayes will be interesting: 'The exact process (of crib-biting) is that during a temporary interruption of breathing and visible contractions of the muscles on the anterior margin of the throat (sternothyroid, omohyoid, sternohyoid) the larynx and base of the tongue are drawn downwards, whereupon the upper part of the pharynx becomes filled with air, which, during the then following act of swallowing and return of the larynx and tongue base to their former positions, partly escapes forwards, or the whole may be swallowed, by which one or two champing sounds are produced—peculiar tones, like belching.'

The causes are various. Ennui has already been suggested, idleness being the parent of vice. The contemplation of a blank wall for hours at a time, in the long intervals between meals, must be anything but exhilarating to animals of highly nervous temperament, even if possessed of all the intelligence and powers of reflection with which they are credited by ardent lovers of horseflesh. To find amusement to while away the hours, they minutely examine the few articles within reach, licking the manger, the crib, the walls, nibbling the halter, or picking up and dropping the chain, and finding additional pleasure in the noise the latter makes. From playing with the mobile lips to cribbing with the teeth, and from biting to windsucking, is an easy transition, and the art, once acquired, is very rarely forgotten, although in abeyance when at grass or in circumstances unfavorable to its practice.

It is infectious, according to the popular acceptance of the word, young horses readily learning it from a companion, and in this way a large proportion in a stable will acquire the trick. That windsucking is hereditary is beyond doubt, and, curiously enough, it is more frequently transmitted through the sire than the dam. In this connection, the observations of Collin are of peculiar interest. He traced the descendants of a famous Anglo-Norman stallion, and found forty-five of them to be crib-biters, many of whom developed the habit at a remarkably early age, 'one foal at three months, two at seven and eight, five at from ten to twelve months, the majority in their second and third years, and one after three



Shire Filly, Dunsmore Picturesque.

First at Bath & West of England and Oxfordshire Shows, 1906.

wealth, and, at last, sensationally selling it on the stock market. They know their business, for they made the business what it is, and no mining camp, however wealthy, can upset for long the methods of the profession. But if Canadians have been slow, it will advantage us nothing to prove that we are likewise soft, easy, and green. If we did not get in on the wealth of Cobalt, it is not necessary to step forward and bear the losses and put balm on the disappointments of others who failed, like the rest of us, but who have bought mines that the experts have no fancy for, and that the agents of mining capitalists will not purchase."

This is correct beyond peradventure. Those who get into the Cobalt game at this stage are simply putting their gills into the speculators' net. A few may get through, and perhaps manage to help devour several companions, but the great majority will sooner or later furnish a nice fry for the astute fishermen of Toronto and Wall Street. "The Farmer's Advocate" believes that the lesson we Canadians should take from this Cobalt experience is to avoid "bucking" the foreign tiger over his prey, but be on the alert next time to beat him to the quarry.

That is the lesson for our capitalists. Farmers had better keep a respectful distance from speculations of that sort, no matter how good. But