

### Scarcity of Horses in England.

Mr. A. G. Church, the general manager of the London General Omnibus Company, publishes some statistics which go to show that there is a scarcity at any rate of the horses required for working London omnibuses. The average price paid by the company last year was \$25 per horse in excess of that paid in 1871. Here are Mr. Church's figures:—In the last 12 years the London General Omnibus Company (Limited) have purchased 12,024 horses for their business; the average prices in each year have been as follows:—1861, 25/13s.; 1862, 25/2s. 7d.; 1863, 23/9s. 7d.; 1864, 23/18s.; 1865, 23/15s. 7d.; 1866, 23/17s. 9d.; 1867, 23/11s. 4d.; 1868, 23/5s. 10d.; 1869, 23/17s. 9d.; 1870, 21/3s. 8d. (\$121); 1871, 27/18s. 5d. (140); 1872, 32/17s. 8d. (\$165). Mr. Church proceeds: "Until 1870, the company had not purchased a single foreign horse, and had found no difficulty whatever in obtaining as many horses as they required, exclusively from the English and Scotch markets. From that date, owing, no doubt, chiefly to the demand arising from the continental war, the supply gradually decreased, and in the early part of 1871 it almost entirely failed, notwithstanding an increase of fully 33 per cent. in the price offered. At the present time, and during the past 18 months, the company have, with very few exceptions indeed, obtained all their horses from France, and many of the English dealers who formerly supplied them with horses have been entirely driven out of the trade through their inability either to procure horses in the United Kingdom, or adapt themselves to the foreign trade. I believe that on inquiry it will be found that in London, at the present time, the number of working horses is very greatly below that of any previous time during the last 10 years."

### Show and Sale of Bulls at Perth Scotland.

On March 12, the annual sale of pure bred stock and show of short-horned bulls took place at the Perth Auction Mart, and the success which attended it was very great, as might have been expected. The stock was of a very superior quality, being almost exclusively pure bred. The show was the largest and best of its kind in Scotland; and the attendance of agriculturists was exceedingly numerous. The competition was very keen. The judges—Messrs Campbell, Kinellar, Easton, junr., Torry, and John McLaren, late factor to Lord Kinnaird—awarded the first premium, a silver cup, value ten guineas, to Mr. Arklay, of Ethiebeaton, for the rich roan "Prince Alfred," which was sold to Mrs. McGowan, Callander, for 55 guineas. The second prize, a silver cup, was gained by Mr. Lyall, Old Montrose, with "Royal Dane," which was sold to Charles H. Drummond Moray, Esq., at 38 guineas. The third prize was gained by Mr. Arklay with the red bull "Ivanhoe," which was sold to Mr. Langland, Balkmuck, Dundee, for 54 guineas. About twelve o'clock the sale began, and was ably conducted. The bidding was spirited. The animals sold at prices ranging from 13½ to 55 guineas. During the whole time of the sale the mart was crowded with buyers and others from all parts of the country. The entries for the sale comprised 55 pure bred yearling short-horn bulls, 6 two-year-old short-horn bulls, and 4 short-horned heifers, also 12 well-bred yearling short-horned bulls. —*North British Agriculturist.*

### Value of Agricultural Papers.

At the last fair of the Oregon State Agricultural Society Col. David Taggart delivered an address, in which he bore testimony to the value of agricultural papers as follows:—"There are one or two points I would like to impress forcibly upon your minds. Every farmer in Oregon, every farmer in the United States, and every farmer in the world ought to take at least one agricultural paper, and read it, and make every capable member of his family read it. Every man who owns or cultivates a rod of ground ought to take one. Frequently a little paragraph of half a dozen lines will be worth more to him than twenty years' cost of the paper. It is a great help to any man to have the benefit of other men's experience to add to his own, and that in precisely what he gets by reading excellent papers. And not only this, but he is likely to get the experience of the brightest and ablest farmers in the country, for these are the men who usually contribute to them. They have done more for the improvement of farming than even exhibitions. I will venture to say if there were no such publications you would have no such agricultural societies, and no shows. The farmer is sure to get behind who does not read them."

### Sir John Lubbock's Pet Wasp.

From the *Daily Telegraph*, London, England.—One of the most curious attendants this year at the gathering of the British Association in Brighton, was a little gentleman in brown overcoat, with black and yellow nether garments, wearing a sharp sword poisoned at the tip. We are inclined to think that, next to Mr. Stanley, this visitor might be called by far the most remarkable and best worth attention among all the assembled notorieties. It was Sir John Lubbock's pet wasp; and the respect which would naturally be paid to any friend of the benevolent *sergent* who has given London its new holidays, was really due to this insect on its own account. Captured in a nest of soft grey paper in the Pyrenees, the wasp was the very first of its species that had ever received an education. Sir John exhibited it to the members of the Association with just pride, as a proof of what kindness and patience can effect upon the most unpromising creatures, and even Mr. Forster might have wondered to see it come out of the glass bottle when it lives, yet sugar from its master's fingers, allow him to tickle its striped back; and fly round and round his head, returning always to its home in the bottle. At first, says its distinguished educator, it was "rather too ready with its sting," but now it never thinks of unseathing the tiny rapier at its tail, and nobody who saw the insect could doubt that its nature had been greatly changed.

### Planting Trees for Shelter.

Mr W. Roy, Owen Sound, writing to the Fruit Growers' Association, says, "I have planted a few trees for shelter, but not half as many as I ought to have done. I consider planting for shelter of great importance in our climate. Let every man who has a garden and orchard plant shelter trees, and plant abundantly of Norway Spruce and Hemlock, either detached, in groups, or in hedges. These two varieties are always 'a thing of beauty,' in summer or winter. Don't overlook the Austrian and Scotch Fines. Although of slow growth, our children will rise up to bless us for planting them. The Arbor-Vita makes a fine hedge and is very easily transplanted. There is no difficulty in getting it to grow."

It is high time the people of Ontario should turn their attention to beautifying their homes. What a powerful influence such attractions have in refining the family, and inviting the affections of our sons and daughters to the old homestead.

### A Plague of Butterflies

Is a rare occurrence. A short time ago, however, the town of Florence was invaded by a prodigious quantity of these insects. All the distance of the Langarno between the Piazza Manin and the Barriera and in all the adjacent streets the passage was almost obstructed by an extraordinary quantity of butterflies that had swarmed in such thick clouds round the gas-lights that the streets were comparatively dark. Fires were immediately lighted by order of the Municipality and by private citizens, in which the butterflies burnt their wings, so that half an hour afterwards one walked on a layer formed by the bodies of the butterflies an inch thick!!! They were of a whitish colour, and some of the streets appeared as if covered with snow, at least so say the Italian papers. —*Nature.*

At a late meeting of the Herefordshire Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. Duckham informed the members that the following returns were an incomplete estimate of the animals affected by and died from the foot-and-mouth disease in Herefordshire:—Attacked—cattle 29,202; sheep, 86,885; pigs, 6231. Died—cattle 1619; sheep, 1287; pigs, 1377.

The salmon fishings on the Tay adjoining Newburgh have greatly improved during the last fortnight. For the last week 155 salmon were landed on Mr. Dunn's stations on the Tidal Waters; thirty-three on the "Little Bank," seven on Crombie Point, and six on the "Haggis." Many of the fish were upwards of 30 lbs. each. Prices have slightly improved in the London markets. —*Farmer 17th March.*

The arrangements for the show of the Royal Horticultural Society, of England, which takes place at Bath this year, are progressing favorably. The schedule of prizes will be shortly published, and will be far in excess of any previous exhibition of the Society. Applications will be made with a view to induce the Prince and Princess of Wales to inaugurate the opening on the 24th of June, and there is probability of success.

An application for a rise of wages to the amount of 20 per cent. by the Warwickshire farm-laborers has been refused by the farmers. Another great spring strike is therefore considered imminent, says the

*Daily News.* The Union offers to accept arbitration. At a meeting of laborers held on Monday, at Leamington, Mr. Arch in the chair, a letter was read from the London Trades Council disowning the reported attempt to form another union.

TO PROTECT LEATHER FROM THE ACTION OF AMMONIA IN STABLES.—Long continued observations show that harness and other leather exposed to the action of ammonia continually given off in stables becomes weak and rotten sooner than other leather. Even when care is taken to protect them with grease this takes place. Prof. Artus recommends the addition of a small quantity of Glycerine to the oil or fat employed in greasing such kind of leather, asserting that it keeps it always pliable and soft.

GENERAL TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GEORGE HOPK, FENTONBARRS, SCOTLAND.—A number of gentlemen have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of presenting Mr. Hopk with a testimonial "for his eminence as an agriculturist, his high personal character, and his public services during a long period of years in the promotion of wise and beneficial improvements." Circulars are being issued both to the members of the Highland Society and the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture. Parties desirous to subscribe may communicate with either of the two honorary secretaries, Mr. Alexander Tod, St. Mary's Mount, Peebles, and Mr. James Melvin, Bonnington, Ratho. We are informed that the secretary and treasurer, Mr. Howard Blyth, has already received a number of subscriptions, varying in amount from 5s. to 10 guineas. —*North British Agriculturist.*

HOGARIE GREILEY'S BARN.—Mr. Greeley says: "My barn is a fair success. I placed it on the shelf of my hill nearest to the upper (east) side of my place, because a barnyard is a manufactory of fertilizers from materials of lesser weight; and it is easier to draw these down hill than up. I built its walls wholly of stone, gathered or blasted from the adjacent slope, to the extent of four or five thousand tons, and laid in a box with thin mortar of little lime and much sand, filling all the interstices, and binding the whole in a solid mass, till my walls are nearly one solid rock, while the roof is of Vermont slate. I drive into three stories—a basement for manures, a stable for animals, and a story above this for hay, while the grain is pitched into the loft above, from whose floor the roof rises steep to the height of 16 or 18 feet. There should have been more windows for light and air; but my barn is convenient, impervious to frost, and I am confident that cattle are wintered at a fourth less cost than when they shiver in board shanties, with cracks between the boards that will admit your hands. No part of our rural economy is more wasteful than the habitual exposure of our animals to pelting, chilling storms, and to intense cold. Building with concrete is still a novelty, and was far more so ten years ago, when I built my barn. I could now build better and cheaper, but I am glad that I need not. I calculate that this barn will be abidingly useful long after I shall be forgotten, and that had I chosen to have my name lettered on its front, it would have remained there to honor me as a builder long after it had ceased to have any other signification." —*Utica Herald.*

SOURCES OF MEAT SUPPLY.—The London "agricultural" correspondent of the *Independence Bidge* writes that the more the question of food supplies is considered in England, the more does the conviction grow of the necessity of large importations of live cattle. Sources of supply have been sought in Buenos Ayres, in Australia, and in the pampas of South America. But the experiments have failed hitherto, owing to the greatness of the distance. The United States are therefore reverted to, and the enormous capacities of the western and south-western districts for rearing cattle are being closely examined. In Texas the herds are innumerable. North of that State are the vast pasture grounds of the Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and the Wyoming. Texas cattle are very bony, but, crossed with Durhams, produce a fleshy animal, the meat of which is excellent. Experiments of this sort have been tried in Nebraska, and yielded the best results. Breeding by selection is being cultivated there. Now all these animals may be brought by railway in three days to Quebec, Boston, and New York. Arrived there, there are no great obstacles to their transport by sea. The voyage is short, there are none of the inconveniences of a torrid temperature, and steamers constructed with due regard to ventilation could convey large numbers without injury to the health of the cattle. Such is the plan proposed by one of those Englishmen, who in their own travels are not alone occupied with their own amusement, but are thinking of what may benefit their country. Not only England, but all the industrial countries in which meat is becoming dear and scarce are interested in the subject.