

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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the system—that one competent judge who knows his business, and who knows he knows it, can do more work than two or three, and do it in less than half the time, and quite as well, if not better. We have seldom heard a complaint of a single judge being too slow, but we recall many occasions, where, with a committee of two or three, the spectators, the cattle and their attendants were wearied by long waiting for a decision, and the remark has been made that the animals and the men gave evidence in their appearance of having aged under the operation. The objection has been made to a single judge that the man chosen may be prejudiced in favor of a certain family or type of cattle, and may in close competition give the benefit of a doubt, if not more, to his favorites. That class of man is more likely to be accepted under the dual system, on the presumption that his colleague will counteract such a tendency, and our opinion is that a man of pronounced prejudices would be more likely to work for the preferment of his favorite type, if associated with another man, by endeavoring to persuade his partner to agree with him, since he would not have to assume the responsibility alone, but would have another to share it, or on whom to shift it, while if he were acting alone, he would feel the full weight of the responsibility, would be more careful to do exactly what he believed to be the right, and would more clearly realize that his personal judgment and honor were at stake, and that the eyes of breeders who are as good judges as he are watching his work and will form a pretty correct estimate of his competency and his honesty as well. It may be objected that men competent to act singly are not plentiful, but to this the answer is that it takes twice as many to make a competent bench of two, and thrice as many to make a reliable committee of three, and if there are enough good men to fill the bill in the latter cases, there should be little difficulty in finding one who can be trusted.

### Australian Frozen Meat Trade.

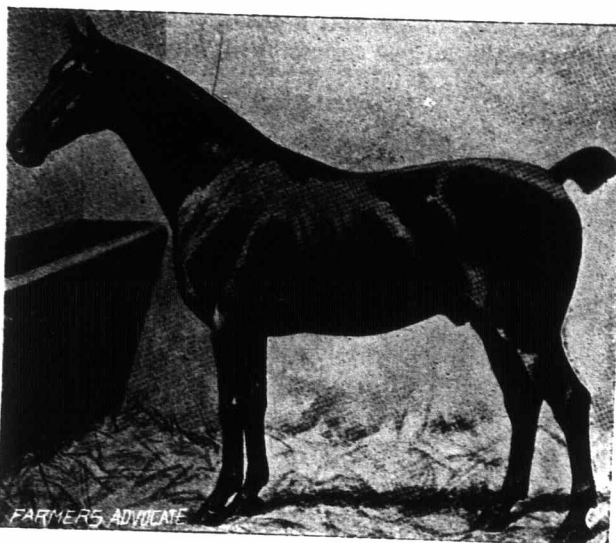
Since frozen beef and mutton from Australia come into competition with the meats from Canada, a glance at the situation as it is referred to by Mr. John Cook, of Melbourne (who has for years been intimately connected with the export meat trade), in a conversation with a representative of *British Refrigeration*, will be of interest.

Owing to three years of severe drought in Victoria, the sheep stock has been reduced from 60,000,000 to less than 40,000,000, with a very poor lambing season this year. In Queensland the late seasons have been patchy, but in New South Wales the weather has been less unfavorable, so that, on the whole, Mr. Cook considers the total number of sheep and cattle will be nearly maintained.

Regarding the system of Government inspection, Mr. Cook expressed his utter opposition to Government inspection, except for the purpose of preventing the treatment of stock found to be unsound or diseased. He finds that it has a restricting influence upon the trade, and that the Government inspectors have neither the skill nor the knowledge possessed by those who make it their business to freeze and export meat.

Regarding trade with the East, Mr. Cook considers its expansion will be very slow with such countries as Japan, China, and India. As to the present moment, there is a fair business being done in supplying the American troops in the Philippine Islands with beef.

As to the practicability of establishing a direct frozen meat trade between Australia and Manchester, Mr. Cook claimed to have sent experimental shipments direct to Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow, with only moderate satisfaction, owing, perhaps, largely to the severity of their



HACKNEY STALLION, GRAND CADET 4797.

Winner of champion prizes at the Royal, the Highland, and the Notts Shows.

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competition in the matter of price and the excessive freight charges.

Mr. Cook, on being consulted on the practicability of changing Australian frozen beef to a chilled beef trade, expressed the opinion that the prospect of a trade in chilled meats between Australia and the United Kingdom are very remote. Firstly, the voyage of 50 to 60 days is too long to admit of the meat being kept sound in a chilled state, and in the second place, Mr. Cook holds to the opinion that freezing does not in any way injure either beef, mutton or lamb; but we believe it is really a case of "Hobson's choice"—that or nothing—with the Australian. Furthermore, the larger space required for the carriage of chilled meat, and the greater attention it would require on the voyage, would necessarily increase the rate of freight beyond the enhanced price received. The few experiments that have been made have been complete failures, and Australian exporting and freezing companies are entirely opposed to any changes in the direction of chilling as contrasted with freezing.

Australia is competing successfully with Argentina in sending fortnightly shipments of frozen meat to South Africa, which Mr. Cook considers will be only a temporary market, since there is a probability of the Cape herds becoming restocked within a few years. Shipments of live cattle have been tried to that country, but with losses by mortality during the voyage of some 60 per cent., so that Mr. Cook reasonably concludes that the frozen will always beat the live cattle trade between Australia and the Cape.

### STOCK.

#### Our Scottish Letter.

THE HIGHLAND SHOW, A GREAT EVENT.

We have been having a great week of agricultural enthusiasm in connection with the show of the Highland and Agricultural Society, which has just been held in Edinburgh. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales is President for the year, and he attended the show during most of two days—Wednesday and Thursday—when enormous crowds entered the field and took part in the proceedings. There has never been an agricultural event like this in Scotland, and during the four days that the show lasted the drawings amounted to about £10,195 10s. 6d. The third day (Thursday) established a record, the drawings for that one day amounting to £5,033 15s. 9d., of which £4,236 15s. 5d. was paid at the gates. The Prince was guided during his visits by Sir John Gilmour, of Montrave, Bart., the famous breeder of Clydesdales, who is chairman of the Board of Directors for the current year. The weather throughout has been superb—a good job, as with wet weather the ground on Prestonfield, where it was held, would have been little better than a morass. However, all's well that ends well, and 1899 will forever be memorable in the history of the National Agricultural Society of Scotland.

The feature of this great exhibition has been

THE HORSE SECTION,

and especially the *Hunting and Hackney* departments. Strenuous efforts were made by gentlemen and organizations interested in these breeds to have a large entry, and extremely liberal prizes were offered. The pick of the hunting stables of England, Scotland and Ireland were sent forward, with the result that Scotland was shown to be far behind in this class of stock. The best hunting horse in the country, Mr. G. J. Kidston's Passionist, which has frequently led all the shows in the country, failed to get a ticket, and champion honors went to a lovely chestnut gelding named Gendarme, from Mr. T. D. John's stable at St. Lagan's, Cardiff. This is a very handsome, sweet, well-trained horse, but in common with others we had a great fancy for a gray gelding named Tatoo, owned by Mr. J. J. Morebray, Naemoor, Dollar. He is up to a heavier weight than Gendarme, but is, perhaps, scarcely as fast. All the same, he would probably sell for quite as much money as the champion, weight being a supreme point in a hunter. The Hackney classes filled splendidly, and both championships went south, Sir Walter Gilbey taking the male championship with his renowned London winner, Hedon Squire, and Mr. Harry Livesey, Rotherfield, Sussex, the female championship with that lovely mare Orange Blossom, the champion of the Royal, and frequently first as well as champion at the London spring shows. In the Roadster class the supreme honors went to another Welshman, Mr. Arthur Evans, Bronwylla, for his very fine mare Sonata; and the pony championship also went south to a Yorkshire lady for a mare named Love Letter. Lord Londonderry, who is leaving his famous stud farm in the Island of Bressay, Shetland, bred almost all the prize-winning animals of this miniature breed, and secured the championship with a sweet but stout little pony stallion named Gondolier—a tiptop one and a great favorite on the parades.

In the *Clydesdale* section the entries were numerous and the display more than an average. The best classes were the younger ones, especially that for yearling fillies and colts—and, indeed, the three-year-olds and two-year-olds of both sexes were a very fine lot. The weakest class, taking away the first prize winner, was that for aged stallions. The older mares were a level and highly-creditable lot. The championship in the male section went to Mr. John Pollock's famous horse Hiawatha 10067, which won the Cawdor cup in 1898 and 1899, and was brought out for this show in great bloom. Hiawatha is a distinctly Scottish horse; that is to say, he possesses almost in perfection the qualities of feet and limbs which Clydesdale judges will insist on. First prizes in all the other classes for stallions, and a very large proportion of the other prizes in the same classes, were won by Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, who exhibited strongly, and that with animals of outstanding excellence. Their winning horses were the three-year-old Watchword, the two-year-old Drumflower, and the yearling Blacon Baron. Watchword and the last were got by the renowned breeding horse Baron's Pride 9122, and his gets formed by far the largest proportion of the firm's exhibits and of the prize animals. Drumflower is a son of Macgregor, and in a Canadian showyard would, we imagine, win "hands down" as the best horse exhibited at the show. He was bred by Mr. Robert Frederick, Drumflower, and is a horse of great substance and strength, with the best of feet, and being out of a Prince of Wales mare, he has good action. Amongst the females, the champion honors went to Mr. Herbert Webster's Glasgow champion, Lady Victoria, bred by Mr. Wm. Nicholson, Bombie; and thus for the first time she turned the tables on Mr. Smith's Empress, also bred at Bombie and out of the grandam of Lady Victoria. Both were got by Baron's Pride, as were nearly all the prizewinning animals in the other filly classes. Mr. Smith's first two-year-old from Blacon Point is named Jeanie Deans, and is a