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A Review of the Shorthorn Sales of 1875.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN SHORTHORN SALES.
Comparing the tables of the results of sales in the past year in Great Britain and America, it appears that the total amounts realized at these sales were almost the same for both countries. The returns from which we make the comparison refer only to the sales of "pedigree shorthorns." We learn from these returns that the sixty-five sales held in Great Britain yielded a total of £228,088 16s. 6d., and the fifty-seven sales in America amounted to £204,790 6s. 10d. Each of the American sales amounted, on an average, to £3,593, and each of the English sales to £3,509; but the advantage does not rest with the Americans in the average price of the animals, for, though the number of sales in England was eight more than in America, the number of animals sold was only ten more in England. The 3,589 shorthorns sold in America averaged £79 each, and the 2,549 sold in Great Britain averaged £87 each.

FARMERS' SALES OF SHORTHORNS.
Fancy shorthorns, we have been told, are not farmers; none but the aristocrats and speculators have anything to do with these sales and extraordinary prices. It may be rather hazardous for a mere farmer to touch such extreme figures, he might, if he got his hand in, get his fingers burned; but it is worthy of note that the largest total realized at any one sale of shorthorns in 1875, was at a sale of a farmer's herd, when 84 animals belonging to the late Mr. Torr, a Lincolnshire farmer, realized the sum of £42,919 16s. The highest price given was 2,160 guineas; the average for the whole lot was £510 19s.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SALE.
The most successful sale of the year was that of the herd of Lord Dunmore, of Scotland, when 39 animals fetched the large sum of £26,223 15s., giving an average of £672 8s. for each animal, one of which fetched 4,500 guineas.

Agricultural Prospects in England.

The year 1876 did not at its entrance present very bright prospects to the English farmer. The area sown with wheat in the fall was less than he had prepared for—much less than usual. The season of seeding was one of great disappointment. The ground was prepared for the reception of the seed, but the sky continued heavy and lowering—no October or November dry furrows; the rain kept falling, not a heavy pour, but drizzling, soaking, day after day; and the wheat that should have been growing in the ridge as New Year's Day arose, was still in the granary. And as the farmer looked back at the departed year, he remembered that it had been "a backward spring, a wet summer, a disappointing and unsatisfactory harvest and a difficult autumn for field work."

But never despair; if not the language of the farmer's life, it is the more expressive language of his daily acts. He is easily discouraged. The coming spring and summer may more than make amends for the unfavorable winter. A May and June favorable for growth and a July dry and warm may bring to the husbandman heavy sheaves and full barns. Last year's harvest weather was just what was most wished for—dry days and warm sunshine, and the greater part of the crop was well saved, so that all was not gloomy. The harvest of 1876 may be as bright and richer in the increase of the crops. At present the prospects there are such as to lead us to expect a good market and brisk demand for the products of our Canadian farms.

The Weather.

We are all astonished at the unprecedented mildness of this winter. Up to the time of writing, Jan. 19th, it has been a succession of warm or mild days, with rain and but little frost. In some instances the buds have started. Daphne mazareon, a very early flowering shrub, showed its blossoms on the 17th of January, within half a mile of this office, at the St. James' Park Nurseries.

We do not consider this weather as good for man or beast as colder weather, with our usual amount of snow, would be. The wheat crop we do not consider injured up to the present time, but we fear there will be damage done to some of the fruit trees, as the starting of the sap and the sudden frost may split some of the bark and bad results may follow.

Farmers in back settlements have not been able to market their produce. Lumbering and teaming in general has been almost impossible in many places. We all hope for a few weeks' sleighing before winter leaves us. The mild weather may be a blessing to many a poor family, as it has spared the wood pile and the meal barrel. Butterflies have been caught in this vicinity, and rye was sown on New Year's Day.

An Open Winter—Mild Weather.

It behooves farmers to be on their guard during the open winter. The mild weather should not tempt them to let their cattle forage along the roads or in the fields for that supply that should be given to them in the yard and stables. It is bad management; it is the reverse of profitable. We have never known farm stock come out so well from mild, open winters, when they are permitted to be abroad the great part of their time, as in the hard season when heavy snow and deep-binding frost made it a matter of necessity to keep them in comfortable houses, well supplied with good food. A sufficiently warm temperature is necessary for man and beast, and so also is the avoidance of too great humidity. Open winters produce more bad colds and dangerous complaints of chest and lungs, than seasons marked by deep-binding frost and heavy snow storms. Such seasons are apt to produce similar effects in cattle. Long exposure to the great humidity of an open, rainy winter or spring, and the frequent changes of temperature weakens the constitutions and reduces the condition and wastes the flesh of any domesticated animal. Saving the fodder and stinting the cattle that need it, forcibly illustrate the pithy saying—"Losing the sheep for the pennyworth of tar." Every ounce of flesh that cattle lose from want of care or insufficient good food in winter, will need as much food twenty times told to restore it in the summer; and, worse still, some cattle are permanently injured by such treatment. Guard against open winters. To guard against severe winters no advice is needed; our duty then is self-evident.

Breeding Farm Horses.

In view of the great demand for horses in Europe and the high prices paid for useful animals, it may be worth enquiring—Might not some of our larger Canadian farms be advantageously diverted to breeding horses? The demand in Europe for really good horses is steadily increasing. But we speak now of breeding farm horses, not the high-mettled thoroughbred nor the heavy Clydesdale. The horse we would have for farm purposes should possess much of the spirit and activity of the thoroughbred, with somewhat of the strength of the English dray horse. He would be a horse for general purposes, competent to do a heavy day's work with the plow or harrow; to bear his part in fetching loads of produce to market, and, if necessary, as a family horse in the farmer's carriage. It was said at a meeting of the Scotch Farmers' Club that "at no period has the value of work horses been so high as at the present time, and this may be attributed chiefly to the great demand for them and to inadequacy of the supply." The number of horses in Great Britain used for agriculture, though augmented by 35,295 over the previous year, seems yet by the great prices paid to be far short of the requirements of the country.