

GREAT SALE OF SHORT HORNS.

We copy the following from an English Agricultural paper, showing the almost fabulous prices paid for animals; they are known as the Didmarton Herd, the property of Mr. Stiles Rich. About 2,000 people were present, including some of the most noted breeders from various parts of the country. "The cows and heifers averaged £75. 12s per head; the bulls £88. 5s each; the total amount realized by the sale was £4,036. 4s, or an average of upwards of £720 stg. per head throughout. The highest figure reached, was for a bull calved October, 1866, called second Duke of Collingham; knocked down to Lord Dunmore, after a spirited competition between his lordship and Lord Fitzhardinge, at 650 guineas. Another bull went to the agent of the Viceroy of Egypt, at 140 guineas, and a cow 5 years old was bought by Lord Fitzhardinge for 360 guineas. Another 4 years old by Mr. Hoster for 205 guineas; another 4½ years old by Mr. Larken for 120 guineas; and two others at 100 guineas each, by the same purchaser.

HILL, OR LEVEL CULTURE.

The questions of hill, or near level culture, have each their advocates among farmers; but those who are in favor of constructing the old fashioned, large, conical hill, for corn or potatoes, are diminishing in number rapidly, wherever nearer level culture is once introduced. What advantage there can be in hilling corn or potatoes, we are at a loss to see; on the contrary we see many disadvantages, especially on dry, and well drained land. It makes extra labor, tends to increase the effects of drouth, as it exposes more surface to the influence of the atmosphere, and increases arefaction at times, when all the moisture contained in the soil is required for the support and sustenance of the plants. The conical hill conducts the rain from the roots to the centre between the rows of hill, very little being retained within the range of the fibrous roots, by which the nutriment is taken up by the growing plants, and without which they would immediately languish and decay. The hilling is further disadvantageous, as every fresh layer of earth over the roots causes a new set to start out, to the detriment of the old, which soon lose their vitality, and become worthless. The energy of the plant is thus exhausted, without increasing its means of support. The constant hilling would keep the plant making roots half its natural life, if it did not entirely kill it; besides the cutting off, and destroying many roots. The same objections may be made to the high hilling of potatoes, with their long clinging roots, and the little fibrous roots around the vine to give growth to the top.—RURAL AMERICAN.

GRASSHOPPER.

During the last few years the ravages of this pest has attracted considerable attention among scientific men. On this continent they have swept over large tracts of country, stripping every field in their march, leaving

them as destitute of vegetation as the desert. The labors of the husbandmen in Kansas were consumed, and bare fields attested their powers. Last year their march reached the Red River Settlements, and the claims of its suffering inhabitants were made known in every Canadian village. Was it not for the noble and generous response, death from starvation must have ensued. Their course is ever onward, and the spared section of this year cannot tell how soon its turn may come. We copy from one of our exchanges—"Adelaide Observer," Australia, the following means practised in that distant colony, and commend it to the attention of thoughtful men. He says:—"I see that the grasshoppers are committing great depredations in various parts of the colony, and as I know a simple way of destroying them when they do come, which I have practised in South Australia for years (where in some seasons clouds of grasshoppers come as thick as flakes of snow in a snow storm), I send it to your valuable paper, as it may be of great use to gardeners and others who suffer most by their visitations. The plan is to sow borders or rows of the common larkspur in gardens; in vineyards it might be sown between the vines. The larkspur has a very pretty flower, and the leaf is so green that it attracts the grasshoppers at once, and when eaten, it is sudden death to them. I have seen them lying dead by thousands under the larkspur borders in the gardens in Adelaide."

WATERING HORSES.—Horses should never be kept so long without water that they will drink largely when they get it. Give it to them often, and they will never injure themselves with it. Nothing is more common than to hitch a team to the plough, and make them work half a day without a drop. What man would submit to such treatment? If the plough is started at seven in the morning, water should be given before ten; and again in the afternoon by four o'clock. Even if half an hour is consumed, more work will be done in a day. The objection that horses on the road should not "be loaded with water" is not valid. A horse weighing 1,200 will not be much encumbered additionally by twenty pounds of water while the distention will give him additional strength. Every farmer knows that when he himself undertakes to lift a large log or heavy stone, he can do more by first inflating himself with air, and not unfrequently he loses a button or two from his pantaloons in the operation. Some degree of inflation by water will add to a horse's strength in a similar manner. In driving a horse on the road at a natural gate of nine or ten miles an hour, I have frequently had occasion to observe that he was laboring with perspiration until I let him drink freely, when he ceased to sweat, and evidently travelled more freely. Don't be afraid to give your horses water; the only danger is in making them abstain too long in which case care is needed.—COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

The Hon. David Christie, of Paris, announces a sale of eight Durham bulls, to take place on the 10th of June. We hear that Mr. Millar's loss on his imported grain, amounted to near \$3000. We purchased some from him, but would commend those that have purchased the Black Tartar oats, whether from him or

from us, to examine the growing crop closely, as there are some seeds resembling mustard in it. We have previously cautioned those we have supplied, and would only supply in small quantities.

The government are devising plans to wrest the power now in the hands of the Board of Agriculture from them.

The grain crops of this western section are looking very promising. The Winter Wheat never looked better. The cold and backward May, just passed, will tend to shorten the hay crop. The apple crop in this vicinity will be very short this year; very few apple trees show any blossoms at all; all other fruit crops bid fair to be good. Cattle and sheep are now thriving well; no disease of any kind heard of among them. A kind of diphtheria has attacked horses in London Township; we have heard of but two deaths from it. The Artillery horses brought good prices; fat will sell.

SPRING SHOW.—The annual spring show was held at Lucknow, on Thursday, April 29th, 1869, at which a fine breed of stallions and bulls were on exhibition to compete. The prizes are as follows:—STALLIONS, 1st prize, R. Hadwen, Lucknow, \$8; 2nd, Peter Donohue, Wawanosh, \$6; 3rd, Jas. Spears, Ashfield, \$4. BULLS, 1st prize, Edwin Grant, Wawanosh, \$6; 2nd, Jas. Campbell, do., \$4. The above prizes appeared to have been awarded to the satisfaction of all those who profess to be judges of animals.

FRENCH FARMING.—Two great "revolutions" in French farming have taken place within the last fifty years. The first was that in "rotation" of crops. An old three course was followed, consisting of the division of a farm into two portions, one being in meadow, the other was sub-divided into equal parts, one of these was under grain, the other fallow, that is, remained unproductive once in every two or three years. A root crop, generally potatoes, has superseded the fallow. A five course rotation, comprising roots, wheat, clover and oats, is the favorite at present. The second revolution, dating some thirty years back, has been in manuring, that is, the employment of artificial or chemical manures, as adjuncts or complements to that of the farm yard.—LETTER FROM FRANCE.

TEST SEED CORN.—An Illinois correspondent of the "Prairie Farmer" says:—"No ear of corn should be accepted as good until one or more germs have been examined with good eyes. The difference between a sound and a damaged germ can readily be determined by comparison. The former will be light-colored, firm and bright; while the latter will be dark-colored and soft. Both ends of the germ should be examined, as sometimes the point which is to form the root will appear sound and bright, while the other end or point, which is to form the stalk, will be damaged: which I believe to be the case this year in some localities, caused undoubtedly by frost or freezing last fall, before the corn was properly matured."