

Agricultural Intelligence.

New Methods of Slaughtering Cattle.

Many methods have been proposed, from time to time, to alleviate the suffering which the cattle given to us for our food must undergo while the vital spark is being released. The London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been making experiments in this direction, from the London Farmer's account of which we condense the following:—The various methods tried were Bruneau's, Baxter's, Sergeant's, Wackett's, and the "present London method," which is, of course, the pole-axe. The one in use by Mr. Cross (the butcher at whose establishment the trial took place) is a well-balanced, handy implement, wielded like a hammer, having a long peg or punch which penetrates the skull at one blow. The punch is very sharp at the edge, and hollowed out for an inch or less in a conical form, and is smaller at the point than at the base. Thus, whilst from the shallow concavity the skin and skull of the ox either drop out or are easily removed by the finger, the tapering point admits of the pole-axe being almost instantaneously withdrawn from the penetrated frontal bone of the animal.

All the other methods enumerated are variations of the same principle of piercing the brain. That of Bruneau, in use in the Paris abattoirs, is a mask of leather, having an iron ring in the centre, into which a loose peg or punch, with a flattened head like a nail, is inserted. The mask is attached to the face of the animal by straps buckled behind the horns and around the poll. A blow with a heavy mallet drives the punch inward, and death follows. In Baxter's method, the mask does not require strapping, as it is fixed on by springs on either side, just as spectacles are, and the punch is fixed, having a strong spiral spring intended to withdraw it after it has been driven home. Sergeant's implement is simply a modification of the pole-axe, having, with other objections, the disadvantage of being top-heavy. There only remains to describe the Wackett process, in which two implements are used, one being a hammer-like implement, containing a punch to be held in one hand, at rest on the forehead of the animal, and the other a wooden mallet by which the blow is administered. The punch is worked by a spring, as in Baxter's, to enable it to free itself from the skull.

Our cotemporary is not particularly struck with either of the systems. It says:—It cannot be affirmed that any of the above methods can be practised with greater facility than is now daily accomplished in our best slaughterhouses by the common pole-axe. In fact, the means of killing are to all intents and purposes the same—piercing the skull and brain. All that is attempted to be done by either method is only to perfect the same process of destroying—to secure precision and certainty of aim for the fatal blow. The masks conduce to certainty of aim from the blindfolding of the animal, as well as from the breadth of the mallet, and the large circumference of the punch-top to be struck. The objection is that much time is lost in fixing them. Wackett's method is open to the objection that both instruments are intended to be wielded by the same person. The handles are too short to be used by a single individual with vicious brutes. With a longer reach, and performed by two persons instead of one, the method has much to recommend it.

In the matter of detail, most of the implements were faulty. The majority were hollowed out too deeply, getting chokeful with bone and skin, which it took some time to extract, when with the ordinary pole-axe two or three bullocks might have been killed. By a peculiar oversight, also, most of the punches were larger at their extremity than at the base, and stuck in the heads of the oxen slaughtered, a very serious objection when a few seconds of time is an important matter. There does not hitherto appear to be any great improvement on the ordinary method.

New Granges of Patrons of Husbandry.

Since our last issue the following new Granges of Patrons of Husbandry have been formed in the Dominion.

Division Granges.

7. LUCKNOW.—W. Patterson, Master, Lucknow; John Taylor, Secretary, Kinloss.

8. BRANTFORD.—John S. Thompson, Master, Brantford; Geo. Bellachey, Jr., Secretary, Brantford.

9. TORONTO.—J. P. Bull, Master; A. H. Hughes, Secretary.

Subordinate Granges

123. MOUNT HOREB, County of Peel.—Eli Crawford, Master, Brampton; James Sinclair, Secretary, Brampton.

124. DALSTON, County of Simcoe.—Wm. Hickling, Master, Dalston; Joseph Drury, Secretary, Dalston.

125. ROSE HILL, County of York.—James H. Beynon, Master, Temperanceville; James Rogers, Secretary, Everaley.

126. MINESING, County of Simcoe.—Richard Dixon, Master, Minesing; John Johnston, Secretary, Minesing.

127. ARNOW, County of Bruce.—John Shier, Master, Arnaw; Benjamin Smith, Secretary, Arnaw.

128. MILTON, County of Halton.—George Brounridge, Master, Milton West; Henry Wilmott, Secretary, Milton West.

129. TREADWELL, County of Middlesex.—Wm. Murdoch, Master, Napperton; Charles Rapley, Secretary, Napperton.

130. EDMONTON, County of Peel.—John Cation, Master, Edmonton; John Watson, Secretary, Edmonton.

131. GRIMSBY, County of Lincoln.—D. Nixon, Master, Grimsby; Jonathan Carpenter, Secretary, Arkona.

132. ARKONA, County of Lambton.—Stephen Cornell, Master, Arkona; Jacob Wintermute, Secretary, Arkona.

133. CROWS HILL, County of Simcoe.—John Darby, Master, Barrie; Thos. Drury, Jr., Secretary, Barrie.

134. SNOWDROP, County of Huron.—John Jameson, Master, Lanesville; Joseph Bell, Secretary, Lucknow.

135. KELVIN GROVE, County of Lambton.—William Auld, Master, Warwick; J. Thomson, Secretary, Warwick.

136. BLOOMFIELD GRANGE, County of Kent.—Henry West, Master, Chatham; Francis Dolsen, Secretary, Chatham.

137. METCALFE VICTORIA, County of Middlesex.—S. W. Dell, Master, Strathroy; John E. Laughton, Secretary, Strathroy.

138. BURFORD GRANGE, County of Brant.—R. S. Gage, Master, Mount Vernon; W. F. Miles, Secretary, Mount Vernon.

139. TEEF BLUE, County of Middlesex.—Jacob Molmer, Master, Sable; Murdoch McDonald, Secretary, Sable.

140. RUSSELLDALE, County of Perth.—John Cole, Sr., Master, Russeldale; Richard Gill, Secretary, Russeldale.

141. KNOCK, County of Simcoe.—T. Connol, Master, Stroud; Wm. Hunter, Secretary, Craigvale.

142. MAPLE GROVE, County of Durham.—R. D. Foley, Master, Bowmanville; Richard Foley, Secretary, Bowmanville.

143. SOMERVALE, COUNTY OF PERTH.—R. H. Bain, Master, Fullarton; W. J. Phipps, Secretary, Fullarton.

144. TOTTENHAM, County of Simcoe.—George Nolen, Master, Tottenham; Robert W. Lowery, Secretary, Tottenham.

145. NELSON, County of Halton.—Abraham Stinson, Master, Nelson; David Sinclair, Secretary, Nelson.

146. PAINSWICK, County of Simcoe.—William H. Hewson, Master, Painswick; William Hunter, Secretary, Painswick.

147. NORFOLK, County of Norfolk.—Isaac Austin, Master, Port Dover; D. B. Palmerston, Secretary, Simcoe.

The Bingley Hall Sale of Shorthorns.

The Spring sale-show of shorthorns at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, has grown to be one of the great agricultural events of the year. When started in 1868, 45 animals were entered; in 1873, there were 176 entries; of 1874, 252; this year the number was 396. A feature of these sales is that no greater reserve than twenty guineas is to be put on any animal. The consequence is that no animals of ultra-fashionable blood are sent, but the sale has become a place where a tenant farmer may be certain of picking up good serviceable animals fit to go into company but the very best. Prizes amounting to £280 were distributed among the exhibitors. The best prize, £60, was taken by Colonel Lloyd Lindsay, M.P., for a bull exceeding ten and under twenty months old.

Among the principal purchasers were G. Fox, Esq., Harefield, Wilmslow, who bought Mr. John Hardy's cow Fauna Gwynne, at 235 guineas; Mr. Russell, New Zealand, who took twelve young bulls, several being prize winners, at prices from 40 to 120 guineas, the twelve costing nearly £1,000; Mr. Thornhill, who selected twenty bulls, all good roans with plenty of hair, at about 40 guineas each; Mr. Gordon of Invergordon, a very judicious, yet spirited buyer, who took some of the best heifers; also Messrs. Hope and Richardson, for Canada; Messrs. Farmer and Groom, for New Zealand; Earl of Warwick, Earl Beauchamp, Lord Calthorpe, Marquis of Anglesea, Lord Leigh, Lord Ernest Seymour, Lord Manvers, &c. With the exception of the Class 6, where the bulls competed for the £100 prizes, and were started at 50 guineas, and some inferior young calves, from six to ten months old, which should not have been sent, the whole sold remarkable well, though there were two or three fashion-

ably-bred young bulls picked up at much under their value. It is noticeable that a much larger number of the leading breeders attended the sale than usual, and several were also purchasers, amongst whom we noticed Messrs. Graham, Garne, Fawcett, Canning, Atkinson, Bult, &c.

The following is a complete summary of the sales:—

Class.	No. Sent.	No. Sold.	Highest Price.	Average.	Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	23	23	246 15 0	54 17 6	1262 2 0
2	9	9	46 4 0	36 10 4	328 13 0
3	19	18	94 10 0	39 16 10	717 3 0
4	30	30	79 16 0	36 7 4	1091 0 0
5	9	9	63 0 0	45 3 0	406 7 0
6	23	13	78 15 0	52 2 0	677 6 0
7	50	48	110 5 0	38 19 8	1871 2 0
8	71	68	120 15 0	38 14 3	2632 7 0
9	139	89	157 10 0	36 3 0	3217 4 0
	373	307	246 15 0	39 15 0	12203 4 0

Class 1 consisted of cows over three years old; Class 2 of heifers between two and three years; Class 3 of heifers between one and two years; Class 4 of bulls between 20 and 36 months; Class 5 of bulls over 3 years; Class 6 of bulls 10 to 20 months; Class 7 of bulls 15 to 20 months; Class 8 of bulls 12 to 15 months; and Class 9 of bull calves under 12 months.

The Short-Horn Society of Great Britain.

The following is the effect of resolutions passed at recent meetings of the Short-horn Society of Great Britain.—The Herd Book is to be published annually; the back volumes to be sold to members at one guinea per volume, (the publishing price), and at £1. 11s. 6d. to non-members; the price of entries to members to be for bulls 5s. each entry, and for cows with their produce 2s. 6d. each entry, and to non-members for bulls 10s. each entry, and cows with their produce 5s. each entry; pedigrees not accepted to be returned with the fees; the price of the current volume of the Herd Book to non-members to be £1. 11s. 6d.; entries of bulls may be made by owner or breeder; the number of crosses required in any bull before entry in the Herd Book to be five, and in any cow four crosses; the 400 entries of bulls sent to Mr. Strafford for entry in the last vol. of the Herd Book (vol. 20) to be accepted, their corrections being verified by Mr. Strafford; an advertisement to be issued at once setting forth these particulars, stating that the society is now prepared to receive pedigrees for insertion in the forth-coming volume of the Herd Book, and giving information as to forms, &c.

The numbering of bulls on the present system will continue until six figures are reached.

Residents in America, the Colonies, or on the continent of Europe, are to be eligible for election as members of the Society, and be entitled to its publications, but without the privilege of entering their cattle in the Herd Book.

Ayrshire Breeders' Association.

The Ayrshire breeders at their late convention at Albany, N. Y., perfected their organization. The annual meeting is fixed for the third Thursday in January. Twenty members are to form a quorum. Voting is to be in person or by proxy. The initiation fee is \$10, that figure having been carried after a vigorous attempt to make it \$15. Two classes of thoroughbreds are made eligible to registry—those imported or tracing to importation; and those in whose pedigrees a link is missing but which are believed to be pure-bred. In the first case the numbers to be numerals, in the second to be Roman capitals. No doubling of names is to be allowed, and the affix 1st, 2nd, 3rd, &c., shall only be given to the calves of the cow bearing the name used, and not to her grandchildren, or any other animals. Transfers of animals are to be recorded, and transfer books to be kept by the editor. A death record to be also kept by the editor of the Herd Book, recording deaths of animals and the causes so far as known. The breeder of an animal shall be considered as the one owning the dam at time of service by the bull.

After considerable discussion a proposition to accept Messrs. Sturtevant's North American Ayrshire register, they agreeing to add a supplement to the volume, was tabled. The Secretary of the Association is J. R. Stuyvesant, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

THE HORSE SHAMBLES of Paris supplied the public during the third quarter of the past year with nearly 630,000 lbs. of meat, the result of the slaughter of 1,555 horses, mules and asses.