

Our English Letter

London, Sept. 16, 1907.

The season continues to drag along in a most trying and dispiriting manner. The summer, if the weather we have experienced can be dignified by such a name, has been a deplorable one. The absence of sunshine and the frequency, rather than the volume of rain, have combined to delay harvest. I know personally of cases where hay was cut during the third week in June and it is still in the fields. As regards harvest prospects, I will let some farmers speak for themselves. Writing from East Yorkshire, a well known sheep breeder says:

"The season has been a most disappointing one on account of the little sun and warm weather we have had. Harvest is general now and the crops are bulky. Straw will be plentiful, but I am afraid the yield and sample will not be as good as it ought to be. Wheat has come most slowly to harvest and will have to be cut greener than is usually the case. Barley has ripened much quicker this season, oats are a heavy crop but very much laid in most places. Cattle and sheep have fed well lately and lambs are doing much better. Prices have been rather lower lately, but I expect some improvement shortly."

So much for the northern part of the country, and I cannot do better to show readers how general this weather has been than to relate what a Cornish farmer—right at the other end of England—says about prospects:

"The harvest is from two to three weeks later than last year, and fine, settled weather is needed to finish off. There is a bountiful supply of straw with all crops, and both oats and barley seem to be well kernalled. The latter is rather badly stained owing to so much rain a few weeks back. Wheat is rather a poor crop with regard to grain. Many fields are but little better than chicken corn. Some of the late planted crops, however, will provide a fair sample. Harvesting the crops this season will cost farmers a lot of extra expense, as many of the fields are badly laid and tossed about. There is a good supply of grass everywhere, and cattle and sheep are looking well. The hay crop has been good in this neighborhood, and it has generally been saved in good condition."

This is a sad state of affairs, and there does not seem any probability of the weather improving.

BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES AND PROSPECTS.

Messrs. Weddel & Co., in issuing their annual review of the trade in colonial dairy produce, provide us with a very good "tip" as to the probable trend

of prices during the coming winter, and their remarks should not be allowed to fall upon deaf ears. So far as climatic and other conditions prevail there is every indication of large supplies of butter during the coming winter. In the butter exporting countries of the Northern Hemisphere the supply of fodder is much larger than last year, so that it is reasonable to expect an increase in the milking herds, especially in those countries which carry on winter dairying and supply British markets with butter, such as Denmark, Russia, Sweden, Holland and France. In Siberia at present the hot, dry weather is adversely affecting the make, but it is not enough to cause a serious falling off in winter butter. Canada is exporting considerably less than last year, but as receipts from you were only 2,000 tons during the last three months of 1906, and none at all from January to July, the deficiency will not be much felt.

In the United Kingdom, conclude Messrs. Weddel, the most favorable circumstances exist for an increase in the milking herds and the consequent augmentation in the make of butter this winter. On the other hand trade is everywhere so prosperous that the consumptive demand is certain to be well maintained.

Turning to the outlook for cheese, it appears that there are

no indications at present of any great shortage in the make of cheese. The Canadian season is late and consequently the production to date not equal to last year, but even if there should be a deficiency it will be made up by the very large increase in the United Kingdom and Europe.

To sum up, considerably lower prices are to be expected for both butter and cheese than have prevailed for the past twelve months.

ARE THE BEST MILKERS PEDIGREE COWS?

Nowadays great attention is paid to the increase of milk by breeding and although it is admitted that this may be accomplished, we are frequently met with the information from one or another that the best milkers in a herd and frequently the winners in competitions are cross bred, or to use a more exact term are not pedigree. Pursuing the question further down, on cross-examination we generally found out that the animals although not pedigree were purely bred.

Where is the difference? Simply in the fact that one lot have not been registered, whilst the pedigree ones have all been entered. A great point arises here. The owner of a first class herd of milking cows, when asked if they were pedigree cows, replied: "No, but I have used pedigree bulls for generations, in fact in some cases for a period of 40 years." When this has

been the calves have kept the real requirements of the words as be.

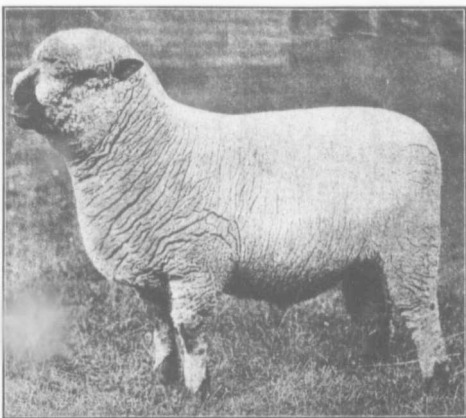
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The Western London, O to the us character. had a very on the fin only by cl were met. visitors we ing to the days many tend the E exhibits al were quite years, while improver The exhibi grains, cere tables were showed li the severe Western Or buildings ad ience and a exhibition a are to be co enterprise. The Western be a catalog feature which will soon at of the Execu have always ure, and this of fast per together with t parade and drew large of stand each af ther permit hibits were at the interest of ors nowhere la

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London has with strong exh 1907 did not pro the rule. Not classes well fill purpose, Roadst particularly the s This year a m could be seen in a bred classes. In fine harness team of E. Tingman a Maplewood, and London, were of character.

In Shires, the fe heavier and strong in aged stallions,



An excellent specimen of the Shropshire ram. He was a winner at the leading English shows this season.