

The Clydesdale Stallion Show.

The annual show of stallions was held on Wednesday 26th Feb'y. in the cattle market, Glasgow, Scotland. The number of entries was 81, compared with 64 in 1872, 63 in 1871, and 30 in 1870. Originally established for the purpose of enabling the Glasgow Agricultural Society to select a good stallion to travel their district, it has gradually grown in dimensions, as provincial Societies in all parts of the country adopted the practice of sending deputations to Glasgow to make choice of a horse for their respective localities. In this way nearly £800 were competed for in direct premiums. As this was the largest, so the show may be considered the best ever held by the Western Society. It was last year a subject of general complaint, not in Clydesdale only, but all over the country, that too much of the best blood in Scotland had been bought up by foreigners and colonists and withdrawn from the country. This was borne out on Wednesday by the fact that few aged stallions were exhibited, the majority being three and four-year-olds.

The Glasgow Agricultural Society had first choice of the 81 entries, and *Crown Prince* was made their choice. He is a dark brown five-year-old horse, bred by Mr. G. Brown, Shields, New Galloway, his sire being Mr. Muir's Champion. As a yearling at the Glasgow summer show he gained the first prize, and afterwards injured his hock against a stake. Barring this blemish on the hock, which, however, cannot affect his stock, *Prince* is an almost model Clydesdale. Large in size, he possesses a beautiful head, with fine broad chest, great girth round the heart, a strong back, capital rib, and sound feet. *Crown Prince* was secured last year by the Mid Calder Society, which awarded their £50 premium to Mr. H. Andrew's *Highland Chief*, a bright bay three-year-old with good barrel, long quarters, and fine hocks, although a little plain in the fore legs. The Marquis of Londonderry's tenantry in the Castle Eden district, Durham, gave their £50 premium to *The Swell*, who stands 17 hands high, and has great bone and substance. *The Swell* was eventually purchased by the Marquis of Londonderry for £300. Mr. Wm. Crawford's (Acholter Bute) *Luffy 4th*, a bay six-year-old, of prepossessing shape and style of moving, was sold to Mr. Joseph Fearon, Whitehaven, for £500; and Mr. James Kerr, Lochend, Kilbowie, sold his *Victor*, a grand ribbed, well coupled brown, four-year-old, to Mr. Greig, for £400, for the new Cornwall Stud Company. —*Mark Lane Express*, 6th March.

Look to your Cellars.

It is a practice of many farmers to lank up their cellars tightly in the autumn leaving no ventilation and no chance for the effluvia arising from decaying vegetables to escape, excepting through the cracks in the rooms above. Is it any wonder that scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles and small-pox prevail where such is the practice? If the children are sick and die, do not call it a dispensation of Providence, or lay the blame upon the cold winter, but look to the cellar, whence the trouble springs. If there are rotten fruit, bins of decaying potatoes, turnips, cabbages, musty barrels, and all manner of disagreeable odors, do not forget that they breed disease, and do not wonder whence the scarlet fever and measles can come from; but set to work and rout out all the foulness which lies under your feet. Take the barrels out of doors; wash them and let them dry; bury in the barnyard all decaying vegetable matter. Look to the pork and beef barrels; keep them sweet and clean. Commence the work in the morning when the sun shines warm and bright; remove all the banking, take out the wadings, throw open the hatchway, and let the fresh air blow through every part. Carry out every box, barrel and movable thing, and sweep the bottom thoroughly; and not only the bottom, but the sides and the rafters. Do you think they are clean? The foul air, the lightest air, is settled there, pressing its way upwards into your rooms, and sowing the seeds of diphtheria and typhoid pneumonia and fevers of all kinds. So take a thick broom and scrub down every part; give the sides a similar treatment, and clean the whole cellar thoroughly; do not leave one sprouting potato or onion; all the vegetables are better in the barn than in the cellar now. To be sure, it is not easy work; but neither is it easy to watch by the sick bed, to see our loved ones suffer, to have no rest night or day, and finally to robe them for the grave.

Make whitewash with one peck of unsacked lime and boiling water enough to thin it; add to it four pounds of copperas and three pints of flour starch;

make it thin enough to spread well, and yellow with the copperas. Wash every rafter, stone, and crack or crevice at the sides or overhead, and see how sweet the place will become, and what a scapegrace of mice and rats will follow. Throw bits of copperas in the corners, lay them on the shelves, and purify every part of the cellars with this cheap disinfectant, which is also disagreeable to the rodents. Don't delay, because your own health and the health of your wife and children depend upon it. A family living over a foul cellar is more liable to be afflicted with illness than a city family living in a tenement building. With plenty of pure air, water, and exercise, farmers ought to keep the evil imp, disease, from their midst; but foul cellars, iron stoves, small sleeping rooms, are fast making country villages as unhealthy as the crowded city. —*Country Gentleman*.

East Lothian Agriculture.

The disastrous season of 1872 has dealt a blow to the agriculture of East Lothian, from the effects of which it will take years to recover. The individual losses, especially in some districts of the country, are enormous; losses which, owing to the high farming practiced now-a-days, are simply unprecedented. To illustrate these, we give a few particulars.

There are twenty-five parishes in East Lothian, which are estimated from the valuation roll of the country, to yield an annual rental of about £230,030, and when we state the actual loss *in money*, from the deficiency of crops in 1872 to be at least £500,000, your readers may form some idea of the position in which our farmers are placed by what can only be termed a national calamity. The half of this large sum has been lost by potatoes, which is sufficient to cause serious doubts regarding the prudence of continuing to practise a system of husbandry whereby such a risk may be incurred. There are 566 occupiers of land in the county, and the extent of soil in cultivation may be taken at 105,000 acres. Of these 566 occupiers there are over 200 who grow a mere fraction of potatoes and their loss is trifling when contrasted with those who farm in the potato and wheat growing districts. This extensive potato cultivation is caused entirely by the rent at which the land has been let. The great failure of the potato crops which occurred in 1845-46, did not affect the East Lothian farmers in the least. Potatoes were only grown to a small extent; in fact, merely for home use. We had no means of exporting our produce in those days, unless by sea. The opening up of large southern markets totally changed the aspect of affairs. The demand for land has been increased very much, also rents in many instances to a pitch which could only be paid under favorable seasons.

The prospects for 1873 are not good. Very little winter wheat has been sown, and the small quantity which is sown has suffered from too much rain. The acreage under potatoes must be much less than usual, because it will be impossible to get seed; and the expense must deter many from running such risk, which, after the disasters of 1872, may only be characterized as a species of agricultural gambling. The wheat crop in East Lothian has suffered more than elsewhere. For illustration, the produce of two acres in one of the best districts (which appeared before it was cut to be a much better crop than the average of the county) realised £10 15s., or £5 7s. 6d. per acre, a sum which would scarcely pay seed and labor. Every one knows it was wet weather which made such havoc with our crops. The rainfall in East Lothian during 1872 was 44 inches. Of this, over 5 inches fell in September, a season when farmers gratefully accept a minimum supply. The average rainfall for the last 40 years was 24 inches. —*London Gentleman's Magazine*.

Of all dreary places, deliver me from the farm houses which many people call home. Bars for a front gate, chickens wallowing before the door, pig pens elbowing the house in the rear, scraggy trees never cared for or no trees at all, no cheering shrubs, no neatness, no trimness. And yet a lawn and trees and a neat walk and a pleasant fence don't cost a great deal."

WHEN TO SKILL WHEAT.—A Wisconsin farmer who evidently believes in figures, has sent the *Western Farmer* a statement concerning his sales of wheat the past 8 years, from which it appears that commencing with 1865 his wheat has averaged him a fraction over \$1.29 per bushel; the sales made from September to January averaged \$1.22 5-7ths per bushel; while the sales made from January 1st to July 31st, averaged \$1.36 1/2 per bushel—a difference of 14 cents per bushel

in favor of holding wheat, provided the shrinkage and waste does not eat up that amount. It would be interesting to know the average cost per bushel of producing and marketing that wheat for eight years.

Australian papers state that meat preserving is still carried on to a moderate extent only. So much has now to be paid for sheep that the business is not so profitable as it was when the meats were selling at a lower price than at present in London. The fact appears to be that the times are so good with the squatters that they have no wish to part with their stock. The grass is abundant on the runs, and the condition of the animals excellent. Large numbers of store sheep are also sent up, it appears, to the north, where country abandoned several years ago is now being re-stocked. In 1871, preserved meats of the value of £356,109 were exported from Victoria; in 1872, of the value of only £253,342.

VENTILATING ROOMS.—Inasmuch as warm air always tends to ascend, the old methods of ventilation were all founded on the idea of withdrawing the warm air from the upper part of the room and letting the cold air in near the floor, and this, too, in spite of the fact that carbonic acid, which is the principal impurity in the air of inhabited rooms, is much heavier than common air, and consequently descends instead of rising towards the ceiling. An enterprising inventor has lately patented a method of ventilation in which the old system is entirely reversed, the cold air being let in at the upper part of the room, while the warm air, with its contained carbonic acid and other impurities, is drawn into an outlet-flue through an opening near the floor.

The Irish agricultural statistics for 1872 have been issued. From the various tables furnished it appears that, compared with 1871, wheat shows a decrease of 16,242 acres, oats of 14,323 acres, barley of 2085 acres, and bere and rye of 1560 acres, potatoes of 66,632 acres, vetches and rape 1290 acres, flax, 34,667 acres, and meadow and clover 29,114 acres. In beans and peas there is an increase of 869 acres, turnips 19,429 acres, mangold and beetroot 2999 acres, cabbage 6317 acres, and carrots, parsnips, and other green crops 1334 acres. The returns of live stock for 1872 when compared with 1871 show an increase in the number of horses of 2650, of cattle 80,781, and of sheep 28,692; and a decrease of pigs amounting to 236,037. The total estimated value of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs this year is £37,117,517, being an increase of £282,781 when compared with 1871. The number of mills for scutching flax in each province in 1871 was, in Ulster 1391, in Leinster 40, in Munster 35, and in Connaught 33; making a total of 1499.

PROTECTION OF SMALL BIRDS IN BRITAIN.—Some of our readers will be interested in being reminded of the Act for the protection of certain wild birds during the breeding season, which passed last session of Parliament, and will come into operation on the 15th of this month. The second section provides that:—"Any person who shall knowingly, or with intent kill, wound, or take any wild bird, or shall expose or offer for sale any wild bird recently killed, wounded, or taken, between the 15th day of March and the 1st day of August, in any year, shall, on conviction of any such offence before any justice or justices of the peace in England or Ireland, or before the sheriff or any justice or justices of the peace in Scotland, for the first offence be reprimanded, and discharged on payment of costs and summons, and for every subsequent offence, forfeit and pay for every such wild bird so killed, wounded, or taken, or so exposed or offered for sale, such sum of money, as, including costs of conviction, shall not exceed five shillings, as to the said justice, or justices, or sheriff shall seem meet, unless he shall prove to the satisfaction of the said justice, justices, or sheriff, that the said wild bird was or were bought or received on or before the said 15th day of March, or of or from some person or persons residing out of the United Kingdom. Provided, nevertheless, that every summons issued under this Act shall specify the kind of wild bird in respect of which an offence has been committed, and that not more than one summons shall be issued for the same offence." The third section makes it lawful for any person to require the name and place of abode of any individuals offending against the Act, and a penalty may be inflicted for refusing or giving wrong name or address. The following, among other birds, are included in the schedule to the Act:—Blackcap, chaffinch, cuckoo, flycatcher, golden-crested wren, goldfinch, greenshank, hawfinch, hedge sparrow, kingfisher, landrail, martin moor (or water) hen, nightingale, nightjar, owl, peewit, plover, redpoll, redstart, robin redbreast, snipe, swallow, swift, titmouse, wagtail, warbler (reed or sedge), wheatear, woodlark, woodpecker, woodwren, wren, wryneck. —*Scottish Farmer*.