

becomes law in anything like its present shape the mutuals will be depressed, and the said stock company, for a while at least, be lifted up, and then the farmer may look out to have to pay heavy premiums like as in the old time, for it is impossible for a stock company to make money and deliver dividends at the rates that mutual companies now charge for insurance. To show the animus of its originators, section 10 provides that, for a mutual even to convene the annual meeting your Directors have now the honor of addressing, it would cost this company in postage alone the sum of \$1,810, drawn from members' pockets, and for what? Your Directors will not suggest the answer."

If proof were wanting that farmers will never get that justice which they have an undoubted right to claim, the foregoing extract would supply the want; but, till our Canadian farmers learn that union is strength, they will ever be at the mercy of unprincipled politicians who care only for their own interests. Surely there must be but few counties in Ontario that do not contain at least one farmer sufficiently qualified both by ability and education to discharge the duties of a legislator in a creditable manner at least in the Provincial Legislature, and, wherever such a man can be found, the farmers generally should support him independently of his political sentiments, and not allow themselves to be led astray by every specious stump orator who may endeavor to distinguish himself at public meetings. Even the agricultural laborers in some parts of England are combining together to secure the return of at least one member in each electoral district, and why should not our farmers go and do likewise. I would suggest that you should endeavor to procure some information respecting the constitution and mode of working of the Farmers' Granges in the Western States, which are rapidly extending, and at present bids fair to exercise a controlling influence in the States where they exist at the next Congressional elections. In a recent number of the *Toronto Globe* I observed a statement that some rich Englishmen and Canadians, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Christie, had visited Kansas with the view of selecting land there. I believe the Hon. Mr. Christie has for several years been acting as agent for a Kansas land company, in which he has an interest, and seeking to induce immigrants to select Kansas for their future abode instead of Canada, thereby, as much as in him lies, hindering the settlement of his own country and assisting to build up a foreign country at the same time he holds the office of Senator of the Dominion. The hon. gentleman may be loud in his professions of loyalty, but actions speak louder than words, and he would act more consistently if he were to pack up bag and baggage and be off to Kansas himself. The Province had better have twenty open enemies than one traitor in the camp.

The fall wheat in this part of the country is nearly all secured in good order. It is a little infested with midge and weevil as it was last year, but not enough to do much harm. I have also heard complaints of the spring wheat being troubled by these insect pests, but I do not anticipate much damage, as the wheat is ripening. The crops are generally good and of excellent quality. Peas are nearly secured, and, generally speaking, a good crop, as are also barley and oats. Potatoes promise good returns. The potato beetles are more numerous than last year, but have not done much injury. The beetles are rather sluggish, and not soon provoked to bite, but the bite is poisonous, and is said, in some instances in the States, to have resulted fatally. The remedy is to lay a leaf of tobacco moistened with water on the bite, and keep it moist. This will neutralize the poison, and no ill effects will follow. The early rose potato does well here. Where can any of the late rose variety be obtained in the fall?

E. J.

[This essay on Canada thistles was awarded the premium from the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* by the committee appointed for the purpose. We propose to make use of the several essays in a future number. The writer of this essay will please correspond with us.]

HOW TO DESTROY THE CANADA THISTLE.

Mr. Editor,—Having always lived in a community infested with the Canada thistle, and having witnessed with much interest a multiplicity of experiments having for their object the extermination of this pestiferous plant, I proceed to offer you the result of my

observations. It must be extremely irritating to those who make laborious efforts to rid themselves of this pest to witness the carelessness of his less thoughtful or indolent neighbor in letting them propagate seed for the multiplying of the species. It will be impossible for the careful farmer to rid himself of them until the law for the "Prevention of the Spread of the Canada Thistle" is vigorously enforced.

There are several methods of destroying them which are only practicable where they exist to a very limited extent, most common of which is, and, perhaps, as effectual, the following:—Cut the root about six inches into the ground and apply salt to it. This will, no doubt, kill them, but, as I before intimated, it is impracticable where they exist to any great extent. The cheapest and only method of banishing them from the soil where they exist in wholesale quantities, if the term may be used, is summer fallowing. Immediately after harvest "skim" plow the ground, repeating the operation in about three weeks, and, three weeks later, plow deep. This will suffice until frost sets in. The succeeding season plow before the thistles show themselves above ground, and repeat the operation several times during the season, not allowing the plant to appear above ground. The ground may, when the weather is warm and the growth consequently rapid, need plowing once in two weeks. By this system not only are the roots of the old plants killed, but any seed which may be in the ground will, by the frequent pulverization of the ground, germinate, and will also be destroyed before they have made any material progress. I have seen this system tried, and can therefore with confidence testify to its efficacy. The principle upon which it depends is that plants in order to live must have air and be exposed to the action of the sun, for there is no nourishment in earth, air and water as they are but must undergo a digestive process similar to the food which we ourselves take into our bodies before it can nourish the plant, and this digestive process cannot be carried on in plants without the action of the sun. It is as impossible for the root to live a year without the stem and leaves as it is for the stem and leaves to live without the root, as neither can by any possible means obtain proper nourishment alone, and must, therefore, perish. Of course there is a wise and beneficent provision in the "God of Nature's" law by which the roots of biennials may live through winter in a hibernating manner similar to the bear, but could no more live through the summer without food than the bear.

I am aware that there are many who will object to the system because they have tried it and failed; but, if they have, the fault has not been in the system but in themselves, in not properly carrying it out. Others may say it is too expensive to them. I put the question:—Is it not more expensive to go on year after year raising crops of half grain and the other half thistles than to take one year to the thorough eradication of them from the soil.

The Greatest Cattle Sale of the World.

CAMPBELL'S SALE OF SHORT-HORNS.

Good reader, did you ever purchase a cow? No doubt many of you have purchased and owned fine creamers which you valued very highly. Possibly you may have invested from \$50 to \$150 in something what you considered very fine stock for dairy and breeding purposes, but we do not believe that any of our friends ever before heard of

A COW VALUED AT \$10,600.

A cow for which this sum was paid was included in Senator Samuel Campbell's herd of pure bred Short Horns, which was sold at public auction at New York Mills, two miles from Utica, recently. Senator Campbell's prize cow is known as

THE 5TH DUCHESS OF GENEVA.

It is a beautiful creature, red and white, was calved July 28, 1865; got by 3rd Lord Oxford and is recorded as "22,200" in Coates' Herd Book.

THE WINNER OF THIS PRIZE

was T. Davis, of Gloucestershire, England, one of the three famous English stock breeders and fanciers, who were present at Senator Campbell's great sale.

THE OBJECT OF THE PURCHASE

was to restore to England the valuable blood which this breed contains, and which Senator Campbell was fortunate in being able to purchase a few years ago for a price of about

\$10,000. We are informed that Lord Skelmersdale and Messrs. Davis and Berwick were determined that the 8th Duchess of Geneva must go back to England at all hazards, and that

MONEY WAS NO OBJECT

to prevent the carrying out of this plan. The Englishmen had powerful competitors in the persons of a number of

CELEBRATED KENTUCKY BREEDERS,

who "saw" their \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000 bids and called them at the rate of \$5,000 a bid each time. The Kentuckians desired this cow as much as the Englishmen, but John Bull's persistency and well filled bags of sovereigns carried away the prize. It was a most exciting contest.

THE GREATEST EVER KNOWN,

and it is not surprising that the exclamation—"\$40,000 for one cow"—was heard in the streets at almost every turn in the afternoon and evening.

THE ATTENDANCE

to witness this sale was exceedingly large. The curious from Utica flocked thither, and together with buyers from England and far-off sections of our land, made an assemblage which must finally have numbered fully 1,500.

A GRAND FEAST

served in right royal style, about noon, put the gathering in the best state of after-dinner satisfaction, and sent smiles rippling all over their faces.

THE SCENE

at the opening was a novel one. The Senator had arranged everything possible which could add to the comfort and convenience of his guests. A miniature grand stand was erected at the south end of the enclosure in which the favorites were to be exhibited. On the north side was a private box for the Senator's own use. In the grand stand were several of the ladies of the Walcott and Campbell families, with a number of lady guests. All the ladies seemed as much interested as the gentlemen, and they were profuse in their compliments to "THE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES."

which were worth about their weight in gold. At the exterior of the enclosure were the English gentlemen mentioned above, and A. J. McGivern, Bedford, and other famous Kentucky breeders, with substantially built representatives from other States.

IN THE CENTRE

of the "bull ring" was a small stand on which stood the auctioneer, J. R. Page, of Sennett, Cayuga county, N. Y., who is a famous Short Horn breeder. He understands every point in cattle, and is a shrewd judge of cattle fanciers. In a quiet, easy way he drew out bids ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 at a time, and did not seem at all surprised, but he certainly did not expect to hear

THE HIGH FIGURES

which individual sales brought. Miss Middy Morgan, the celebrated lady stock reporter, sat at his feet taking notes and eating grapes. The cattle were led in by their keepers from the handsome and comfortable barns in which they have been cared for as tenderly as the most darling child in the country.

THE LORD'S COW.

Lord Skelmersdale paid \$30,600 for the 1st Duchess of Oneida, red and white; calved January 24, 1870; got by 16th Duke of Thorndale.

THE GOLDEN CALF

of this sale was purchased by Alexander, of Paris, Kentucky, for \$2,000. It was the Duchess of Oneida, red and white; calved April 7, 1873; (which makes it but five months old); got by 3rd Duke of Oneida.

WIFE OF THE MARK.

A funny story is told in connection with this calf. A butcher who has been buying calves for the lovers of veal in Utica at \$4, \$6 and \$8 per head got his eye on this plump, sleek creature without being told its value. Supposing it would be sold with the beef cattle, he called upon Senator Campbell and said he liked the looks of this calf, and was willing to pay a good price for it. Would the Senator give it to him for \$12? The Senator smiled at the offer but said nothing. That butcher was at the sale yesterday, and he was astonished.

A LITTLE CALF.

which followed its mother was valued by a Canajoharie butcher at twelve shillings when he first saw it. When it was bid off at \$1,300 this verdant butcher opened his eyes, put two extra turns of his shoe-string around his calf-skin wallet and stepped back from the ring.

We quote a few of the prices:—

8th Duchess of Geneva, red and white; calved July 28, 1865; got by 3rd Lord Oxford; dam 1st Duchess of Geneva, by 2nd Grand Duke, Duchess 71st by Duke of Gloster, Duchess 66th by 4th Duke of York, Duchess 53th by 4th Duke of Northumberland, Duchess 35th by Norfolk, Duchess 33rd by Belvedere, Duchess 18th by Second Hubback, Duchess 12th by the Earl, Duchess 4th by Ketton 2nd, Duchess 1st

by Comet, Duchess by Favorite, by Daisy Bull, by Favorite, by Hubback, by J. Brown's Red Bull. P. Davis, Gloucestershire, England, \$40,600.

10th Duchess of Geneva, roan; calved May 15, 1867; got by 2nd Duke of Geneva; dam 5th Duchess of Geneva, by Grand Duke of Oxford. M. Berwick, England, \$35,000.

1st Duchess of Oneida, red and white; calved December 15, 1869; got by 10th Duke of Thorndale; dam 8th Duchess of Geneva by 3rd Lord Oxford. Lord Skelmersdale, England, \$30,000.

3rd Duchess of Oneida, roan; calved March 19, 1871; got by the 4th Duke of Geneva; dam 4th Duchess of Thorndale by 3rd Duke of Airdrie. T. Holford, \$15,600.

White Empress, white; calved December 6, 1871; got by Royal Briton; dam Empress of Accomby by Lord Blithe. Simon Beattie, \$1,000.

4th Duchess of Oneida, red; calved January 18, 1871; got by 4th Duke of Geneva; dam 13th Duchess of Thorndale by 10 Duke of Thorndale. E. J. Bedford and Thomas McGibbons, Ky., \$25,000.

7th Duchess of Oneida, red and white; calved August 3rd, 1872; got by 2nd Duke of Oneida; dam 1st Duchess of Oneida by 10th Duke of Thorndale. A. G. Alexander, Ky., \$19,000.

8th Duchess of Oneida, roan; calved November 18, 1872; got by 4th Duke of Geneva; dam 16th Duchess of Geneva by 2nd Duke of Geneva. Mr. Berwick, \$15,000.

10th Duchess of Oneida, red and white; calved April 7, 1873; got by 3rd Duke of Oneida; dam 8th Duchess of Geneva by 3rd Lord Oxford. A. J. Alexander, \$27,000.

CHANGING A HORSE'S GAIT.

In Barbary pacing horses are held in such high estimation that the method of making a spirited trotter shuckle like a boat in a chop sea is reduced to a science. To make him rack easily a ring of lead covered with leather is put around each hoof, a cord from each weight ascends and is fastened to the saddle, from the rear next a strap runs horizontally from the fore to the hind foot on both sides. Being rather short it is impossible to make a long step. Restraint compels the animal to adopt a new gait to progress at all. As soon as a practice is established of going ahead thus tethered the desirable amble is fully and permanently accomplished.—*Spirit*.

IMPORTATION OF BEES.

Another modern improvement in apiculture is the importation and breeding of superior bees. Bees, like larger stock, deteriorate by in-and-in breeding, and may be improved by cross-breeds. There are inferior and superior breeds of bees, just as there are of poultry, swine, sheep, cattle and horses. For a few years past Italian bees have been largely imported, and though it may seem an extravagant thing to give five or ten dollars for a queen bee—a little insect only about an inch long, it is no more so than to give a hundred dollars for a superior bull calf or ram lamb. The Italian cross has greatly improved common black bees, by giving them a dash of fresh blood, as stock-breeders would express it, and by imparting to them desirable qualities. The Italians are a hardier race; "busier than the little busy bee" we have known from childhood; more prolific, more beautiful in appearance, and less inclined to sting.—*American Bee Journal*.

LIGHT AS A CURATIVE AGENT.—The statement has been made that Sir James Wyllie, late physician to the Emperor of Russia, having attentively studied the effects of light as a curative agent, in the hospital of St. Petersburg, discovered that the number of patients who were cured in rooms properly lighted, was four times those confined in dark rooms. This led to a complete reform in lighting the hospitals of Russia, and with the most beneficial results. In all the cities visited by the cholera, it was universally found that the greatest number of deaths took place in narrow streets, and on the sides of those having a northern exposure, where the salutary beams of the sun are excluded. The inhabitants of Southern slopes of mountains are better developed and more healthy than those who live on the northern sides, while those who dwell in secluded valleys are generally subject to peculiar diseases and deformities of person, these different results being attributed to the agency of light.

—The value of printed books exported from Great Britain in the last seven months was £471,633; in the like period last year was £442,755.

—A baby was found in a railroad depot in Boston recently, and on its dress was pinned a card, which stated, "This baby belongs to Mr. Dane, of Lowell. I took it in a fit of insanity." Mr. Dane was summoned by telegraph, the baby was recognized as his property, having been stolen from his house a short time previously, and it was speedily returned to the maternal arms of the sorrowing Mrs. Dane.

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