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farms, it is only necessary to state that ten years ago, fifty-four of his horses, offered for sale at public auction, brought an average price of \$1,090. The King, before his accession to the throne, gave personal attention to the business of his farms, but since that event the cares of state had so multiplied he had less time to devote to the affairs of the farm, but he seldom failed to attend for one day, at least, the principal live-stock shows, and the gate receipts were always liberal on the day His Majesty favored the show with his presence. And but a few days before his death, he made a motor-car tour of his farms, accompanied by the trusty manager, Mr. Beck.

Dual-Purpose Cattle

(OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE)

Mr. Duthie, of Collynie, gave an address on dual-purpose cattle at the dinner of the Irish Shorthorn Breeders' Association during the Dublin show. Mr. Duthie claimed: "That if there was a dual-purpose breed of cattle on the face of the earth it was the Shorthorn. They could be made to pay either as milk or beef cattle. Let them not consider the scranky bare beast as a type of animal to give milk."

The dual-purpose cow has been much discussed on this side lately, and while some very good milk records of Shorthorns have been published, no new facts of importance have been adduced. It has not been demonstrated the best beef qualities and supreme dairy qualities can be combined in the same animal. Under English conditions where the milk is sold for direct consumption, apart from its fat test—so long as it is above the legal standard, and where beef also sells well, the dual-purpose cow does prove profitable. But where butter or cheese is the first consideration, as in Wisconsin for instance; or beef, as in many Western sections, the special purpose animal has rather the advantage over the dual-purpose one.

The sale of a portion of G. W. Tyser's Oakfield herd of dairy bred Shorthorns was fairly satisfactory. Bulls and cows sold well, but heifers were not in much demand. Only one outstanding price was reached—100 gs. for the five-year-old cow "Royal Lady" sold to G. Taylor, of Crawford. The fifty-one head sold averaged nearly £30.

SHORTAGE IN ARMY HORSES.

Our "under-horsed" army is the theme of much discussion, and various schemes are recommended to overcome the shortage. The deficiency is said to be something like 120,000 horses, and if it became necessary to mobilize the army at short notice the situation would be a grave one.

At a meeting of the Bridlington Agricultural Club, Mr. Wickham Boynton claimed that no one would enter upon the breeding of army horses at the prices offered at present. What the government ought to do was to make it worth people's while to breed light horses, and they would breed them. The first step would be to increase the price the war office was prepared to give for horses.

The prices should be raised to £50 for good four-year-olds, and to £35 for three-year-olds in autumn, and proportionately higher prices for officers' horses.

It was also suggested that the King's premiums for stallions should be increased, and a scheme of free service to mares be instituted.

Sir Walter Gilbey, in the *National Review*, strongly advises breeders to invest in the breeding of Hackneys, and advice from such an authority carries great weight. In spite of the advent of the motor car he believes that carriage horses of quality and breeding will command high prices for many years to come.

In his own stud Sir Walter adopts the open-air system of rearing, the mare and foal being kept in a large paddock with only a shed for shelter. Hot stables and clothing are entirely out of place in carriage horse breeding—sound and hardy stock should be the aim of the breeder.

The Wharfedale Agricultural Show at Otley has been unfortunate for years in regard to the weather, and this year's show was no exception—cold, heavy rains being the accompaniment.

Shorthorn cattle are always a leading feature.

and some fine animals were shown. A promising red bull calf, "Riby Swell," owned by Henry Dudding, took the medal for the best male, and the reserve went to the Dublin winner, Mr. Harrison's "Mintmaster." Some grand Shires were entered, but the display of Hackneys was not up to the usual Otley standard.

TAXING LAND VALUES.

Mr. Fels, a prominent American resident in England, has taken considerable interest in the agitation for taxing land values. Certain attacks have been made upon him, and in a most interesting letter to the *Press*, in reply he says: "I own some 2,400 acres in four different counties of England. My experience has convinced me that the land system generally injures the farmer and laborer, the builder and lessees of land. The price of land is generally too high, and so are the rents. The rents are often drawn from the farmer's interest and wages, and even from his capital."

"I don't believe that badly-fed, badly-housed, badly-clothed, and poorly-educated laborers can produce the most that can be produced from the land. I don't believe that farmers with too little capital can produce the most, and if the total production is less than it might be the landowners get less than they might get."

"Let the producing classes have a free hand in producing without the experience of being denied the use of land, and trackrented. The system of taxing improvements, and not taxing unused land is bad in two ways. It hits the man who should be encouraged to improve, and lets off the man who should be hit. I demand as an immediate reform that farm buildings, machinery, and all other improvements in urban and rural districts should be entirely relieved from the burden, and that a tax on all land values should take their place."

"This is a good business proposition, and I invite all improving landowners and capitalists to consider it."

High prices ruled at a recent sale of farm lands in a prosperous part of the county of Chester. In all some 585 acres were sold, with the various farm buildings, for £33,815. Even pasture land averaged £60 an acre, and an 18-acre dairy farm sold for £1,110. By far the largest portion of the land sold was bought by the Cheshire County Council for the purpose of dividing into small holdings.

FRAUD IN CHEESE.

A strong indictment has been made before the Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture on what is said to be the growing practice of selling Dutch cheese as genuine Cheshire. This Dutch cheese is put up the same as Cheshire cheese so far as external appearance goes, and is somewhat similar in internal texture. Such cheese are branded on the cheese cloth, and when this is removed there is nothing to indicate the origin of the cheese, and the claim is made that this cheese is often sold as Cheshire. The substitution is profitable to the retailers, as the Dutch cheese is made in three qualities—which are termed respectively half-meated, three-quarter meated and full-meated. The prices vary according to the class from 35s. to 60s. per cwt. wholesale. The inferior qualities

of Dutch cheese often fail to give satisfaction to customers, but it is the Cheshire cheese which suffers in reputation because such cheese has been bought as Cheshire cheese.

The competition of Canadian and New Zealand cheese is acknowledged to be fair and straight, but there is a strong protest against what is termed a system of fraud and unfair competition of Dutch cheese, of which some are certainly part skims.

FREE COLONIAL WHEAT

Farmers' associations are taking action on the new aspect of the tariff question caused by Mr. Balfour's declaration in favor of free Colonial wheat.

The National Farmers' Union has passed a resolution to the effect that the interests of agriculture in all its branches should be safeguarded in the event of Tariff Reform becoming the law of the land. Farmers want to know what will be their position from a business point of view, not from the political aspect, and they are not enamored of the new proposals. F. DEWHIRST.

FARM

Topics for Discussion

In recognition of the fact that valuable hints always are obtained from men engaged in actual farm work THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has adopted the "Topics for Discussion" column, in order that our readers may see an open channel through which they may inform their brother farmers as to practices that are worth adopting and warn them against methods that prove unprofitable. Not only do we wish our readers to discuss the topics announced for the various issues, but also we desire that they suggest practical subjects on which it would be well to have discussion.

This notice appears under the "Farm" department, but the questions dealt with cover all branches of the farming industry. Letters should not exceed 600 words and should reach this office 10 days previous to the date of issue. They are read carefully and a first prize of \$3.00 and a second prize of \$2.00 awarded each week. Other letters used will be paid for at regular rates to contributors.

June 8.—Give your opinion of satisfactory fencing for prairie Canada. Which do you prefer, ready-made rolls or wire stretched and braced as put up? Discuss size of posts, distance apart, bracing of corner posts and other particulars incident to good fencing.

June 15.—Give directions for handling a flock of hens in summer when it is necessary to close them in to avoid damage to crops.

June 22.—Describe how to build an implement shed. Particularize as to dimensions of a building to house the implements on an average sized farm; state where you would locate it, how you would build it, and what would be the probable cost.

June 29.—What do you consider to be the farmer's place in politics? How can he best use his influence for the good of agriculturists in particular and the people in general? Please do not discuss



HOW PIGS WERE WINTERED AT OTTAWA EXPERIMENTAL FARM