

On the Land

GENERAL.

Of the 431,794 tons of meat sold at Smithfield last year, not more than one-fourth was produced in the United Kingdom.

Cows do not like unnecessary noise or delay; commence milking at exactly the same hour every morning and evening, and milk the cows in the same order.

A cow must have the capacity to consume and digest large quantities of food. About 60 per cent. of the feed goes to maintain the body. Some cows are so weak in capacity they can use little more food than that necessary to sustain the body.

It has been argued that by selecting dairy cows according to record forty animals could be kept to give the same quantity of milk as sixty. This would mean that there would be fewer men's wages to pay, to say nothing of the economy effected in the cost of food.

Mr. F. D. Alburn, secretary of the Kansas Board of Agriculture, calls attention to the fact that in 1892 there were 37,651,239 beef cattle in the United States, and the population was about 63,000,000. In 1912, when the population had increased to over 100,000,000, the number of beef cattle had fallen to 37,260,000.

The farmers of New South Wales have been vying with one another in bringing forward the biggest potato. No sooner has the championship been claimed for one district, than a representative from another comes along to claim the record. At Orange, for instance, the centre of the great potato-growing west, a farmer led off by displaying in town a potato weighing 4½ lb. Another promptly went better with one turning the scale of 6 lb 2 oz. His triumph was fleeting. Mr. P. Murphy, of Ammerdown, immediately came along with a specimen weighing 8 lb 2 oz. Mr. Murphy has smashed all records, and he waits complacently for a challenger.

At Addington last week the entries of stock were not so large as the week before, and the attendance was also smaller. There was a good sale for store sheep, ewes being firmer. The entry of fat lambs showed a further reduction in numbers and a depreciation in quality, and were mostly bought by graziers. Fat sheep opened a little easier. Fat pigs showed no change. The entry of fat lambs totalled only 1106, as against 1586 for the week before. Best lambs made 16s 6d to 18s 9d; and lighter, 14s 9d to 16s. The yarding of fat sheep was also somewhat smaller, and the quality was not up to the high level of the previous week. The range of prices was:—Extra prime wethers, to 35s; prime, 21s to 26s 9d; others, 16s 6d to 20s 6d; merino wethers, 21s 9d to 23s; prime ewes, 18s to 23s 9d; medium, 15s 6d to 17s 6d; aged and light, 14s to 15s. A representative entry of fat cattle came forward, the yarding totalling 208 head, against 228 at the previous sale. Steers realised £9 2s 6d to £11; extra, £13 10s to £16 15s; heifers, £7 7s 6d to £10 7s 6d; extra, to £12 5s; and cows, £6 5s to £8 10s; extra to £12 15s. There was a fair entry of fat pigs. Choppers realised £3 10s to £6 15s; heavy baconers, £3 8s to £3 15s; and lighter sorts, £2 15s to £3 5s (equal to 5½d per lb).

There were small entries of fat sheep, lambs, and pigs at Burnside last week. The competition for fat lambs, pigs, and cattle was good. There was a small yarding (2114) of fat sheep, with only a few pens of extra prime wethers. At the commencement of the sale prices showed a rise of about 1s a head on last week's rates, but towards the close prices receded to an equivalent on last week's values. Quotations: Extra prime wethers, to 30s; prime wethers, 24s to 25s; medium wethers, 20s 6d to 22s 6d; light wethers, 17s to 17s 6d; prime ewes, 21s to 24s; medium ewes, 17s to 20s. There was an entry of 180 head of fat cattle made up of medium to good quality bullocks and heifers. Competition was good, and prices were on a par with late sales. Best bullocks, to £14 2s 6d; good, £11 10s to £12 10s; medium, £10 to £11 5s; light, £8 10s to £9 10s; best heifers and cows, to £12 2s 6d; good, £8

10s to £9 10s; medium, £7 to £8 5s; light, £5 to £6. Only 1000 fat lambs were offered, and consisted mainly of light and medium-weight lambs. Owing to the presence of northern graziers competition was keen and prices were firm at last sale's rates. Best lambs, to 19s 6d, good lambs, 16s to 17s. There were only 25 fat pigs forward. Owing to the small yarding there was keen competition, and prices ruled very firm. Thirty-two stores were offered, there were few buyers, and prices were slightly easier.

SILAGE.

Grasses or fodder plants for silage (says the *Journal of Agriculture*) should be cut when they are in the most succulent stage, or when approaching full bloom. Maize should be allowed to stand until the cob is formed and is in its dough stage. Crops for silage should not be allowed to wilt in the sun, but crating and stacking should proceed as soon as possible after cutting. To commence, cut six swaths from the boundary fence. This will provide the first layer for the stack. After clearing up this, the work can be laid out so that each day a sufficient quantity, and a quick run to the stack, will be provided. There are two kinds of silage—viz., green and brown. For green silage the temperature required is from 130 to 140 degrees Fahr.; for brown silage the temperature may be allowed to rise to 160 degrees, but this form of silage is not recommended. Should a greater heat be attained the silage would be of little value. If the temperature does not reach 120 degrees the product would be what is known as 'sour' silage, which, though wholesome, is not usually considered so satisfactory as 'sweet' silage, especially when intended for fodder for milking-stock. A cubic foot of silage should weigh from 45 lb to 56 lb. The silage will be greatly improved by the addition of salt, in the proportion of 1½ lb to one ton of the green material.

FARMERS' WOOL CLIPS.

On the subject of preparing wool clips for the market Mr. H. Jackson, wool instructor for South Australia, says that while the large stations are noted for the get up of their clips, the farmers' clips were generally marketed in a very crude state. It was more profitable to class wool before sending it to market. The worsted manufacturer utilised long wools, the woollen manufacturer the short wools, and neither wanted a mixture of the two. The dealer bought up poorly classed clips cheaply at the sales, classed them, and re-sold at a profit which the farmer would have reaped had he classed his clip. After being skirted, it was sorted into long and short wools. These classes were again sorted into light and heavy wool, as the light wools, when scoured, yielded a higher percentage of clean wool and commanded a higher price. Mr. Jackson explains that classing was largely a matter of 'matching' the fleeces, and thus making each class as even as possible. The buyer, finding the wool in a certain clip even, could then bid with confidence, knowing that the bulk of the class would be of the same quality as the small amount he was able to inspect.

FOUND AT LAST.

This man in Australia certainly has found a reliable cough cure. He writes:—'I had to pay 1/8 Customs duty before I could get it, so that the bottle cost me 3/6. If it cost a pound a bottle I would take good care not to be without it. Why don't you advertise it in Australia? Baxter's Lung Preserver would beat all the cough remedies sold here.'

Every day we are receiving many letters just as enthusiastic as this. There is no doubt that Baxter's Lung Preserver is the finest cough remedy in New Zealand to-day.

It cures by building up the system generally, and helps Nature to throw off the cold. If the lungs are diseased Baxter's Lung Preserver makes new tissues, and so strengthens them that you can go through the severest winter without a cold.

Get a bottle to-day and keep it ready at home. It costs only 1/10 at all stores and chemists.

N. D. Stubbs

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