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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



Vol. I.—No. 1. [Read as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, AUGUST 14th, 1885.

GRATIS.

"If 'twere done when 'tis done,
Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

CATERER

CHARLES D. STRAKER,
Three Crowns Hotel,
WEST MELBOURNE.

Caterer for the Victorian Racing Club, The National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and the Victorian Coursing Club.

Orders for Banquets, Feas, Dejeuners, Weddings, Suppers, on the Shortest Notice in Town or Country.

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(LIMITED),

Millers & Grain Merchants
AND
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS.

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Ballarat Flour Mills, Ballarat.
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at all the principal Railway Stations.

Jas. Fry & Company's Celebrated 5 Stars Flour.

Consignors of Wool and other Produce and Advances
made thereon.

Every description of Agricultural Machinery and Implements,
by all the best Melbourne Manufacturers and
Importers on sale on favorable terms.
Town Agents for transactions of every description of Farmers
business requiring Confidential Care
and attention.

Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
STORAGE ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS.

J. F. & CO. Limited are prepared to ship Wheat if desired
on Farmers' account for sale in London on
advantageous terms.

£80,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security.

J. B. SCOTT,
Britannia Bone Mills,
PORT MELBOURNE,

BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring
Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has
received from H. W. Emerson MacIvor:—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my
eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of
detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration
in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,
LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

LITTLE'S PATENT DIP.

The Best, Cheapest, and Safest Dip in the Market.
Used by all the noted Breeders of Sheep
in the Colonies.



(NON-POISONOUS)

REDUCED to 5s. 6d. per Gallon in Casks and 6s. in
Drums, making 1000 Gallons of Dip for 55s.

The Mount Dube and Erewhoun Flocks are dipped in this
fluid every season, and the Manager writes—"Out of 20,000 Sheep
dipped last season we did not find a single tick." To those who
do not dip, it will be found most useful for the following pur-
poses:—As a Cattle Wash, and for Mange, Canker "Grease,"
Cracked Heels in Horses, Ringworm in Horses or Cattle,
Thrushes in Horses' Feet; for washing Dogs, Ulcers, Wounds,
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Stings, &c.

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91 BOURKE ST. WEST, MELBOURNE, and
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RYAN & HAMMOND, Melbourne.
STRACHAN, MURRAY, SHANNON & CO., Geelong.
JOHN GRICE & CO., Kingston, S.A.
GRIFFITHS & WEAVER, Sydney.
Agent in Hamilton: P. LEARMONTH.

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STEAM

Hydraulic Hay Pressers, Chaffcutters,

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Baths Hotel & Bathing Palace,
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JOHN LANG,
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Sporting Costumiers.

Football, Cricket, Bicycle, Lacrosse Suits in stock or made to
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Instructions for Self-measurement on application.

WM. RADFORD,
Wholesale and Retail Tinsmith and Ironworker,
CALVANIZER, JAPANNER & COPPERSMITH,
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(Late Little Bourke Street East.)
Travellers' Scarborough & Deed Boxes, Baths, Tanks & Washing
Coppers, Cheese Tubs & Vats, Dairy Utensils, Colonial Ovens.

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DAVIS
SEWING MACHINE.**

GOLD MEDALS,
PHILADELPHIA, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE,
ADELAIDE, BRISBANE, & LONDON.

Surpasses all others. A Universal Favorite.
UNEQUALLED FOR RANGE OF WORK AND EASE OF
MANAGEMENT.

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HENRY BISHOP & CO.,
79 BOURKE ST. EAST, MELBOURNE,

Sole Agents for RIDGE, HUMBER, MATCHLESS, and
SANSAPPELL BICYCLES and TRICYCLES. REVER-
SIBLE PERAMBULATORS, with Bicycle Wheels and
Rubber Tyres.

Catalogues Free on Application.

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J. BARTRAM & SON,
8 QUEEN STREET, MELBOURNE.
Are cash Buyers of all Dairy Produce at highest market rates.
Consignment received.
Account Sales promptly rendered.
Advances if required.

Also, Sole Agents for
De Laval's Cream Separator
The Greatest of all Dairy Improve-
ments. From 15 to 20 per cent.
more and better butter. Highest
market value. Great saving in
space, time, labor and the number
of utensils. The construction is
extremely simple, and requires no
mechanical knowledge to keep in
working order. The cost saved in
less than a year. Can be driven
by horse gear. Full particulars
post free on application.



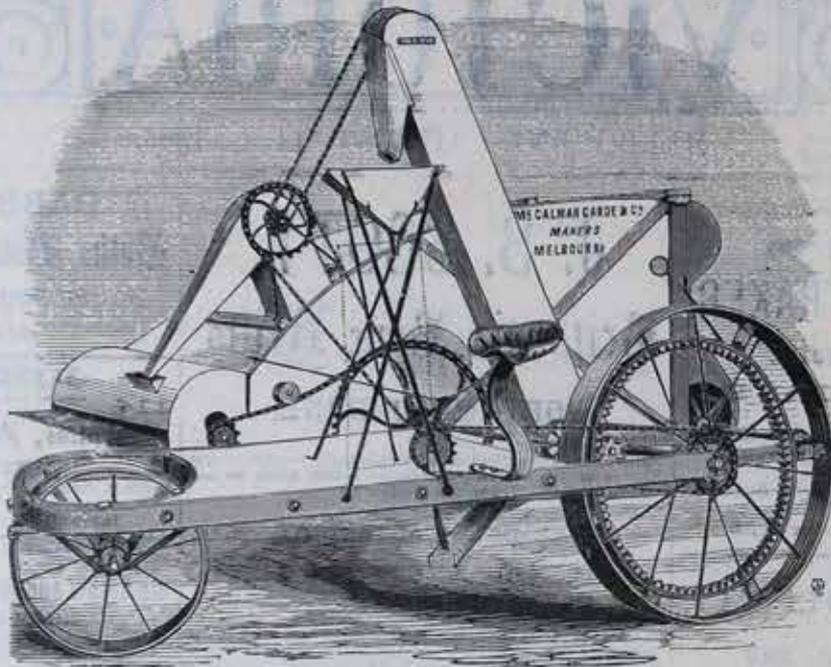
MCCALMAN, GARDE & CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF ALL KINDS OF

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Reg to inform the Farming Community that they are the SOLE MAKERS of the

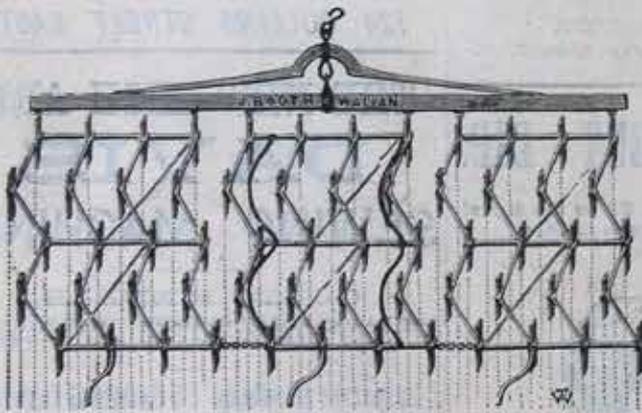
MCKAY'S PATENT COMBINED HARVESTER.



All Kinds of Implements kept in Stock to select from at their Manufactory,

BLACKWOOD STREET, NORTH MELBOURNE.

1 GOLD MEDAL.



5 SILVER MEDALS.

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Harrow Maker,
RAILWAY STATION, WALLAN.

HARROWS made to suit all kinds of soil, fitted with Iron or Steel Tynes.

These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tye cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum.

During the season 1884 and 1885 these Implements in competition with the leading Colonial-made and Imported Harrows, secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents throughout the Colonies.

Illustrated Catalogue and Price List free on application.

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RAILWAY STATION P.O., WALLAN.

ROBERTSON & MOFFAT, LARGEST Furnishing Warehouse

IN AUSTRALIA.

Furniture Showrooms—

16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 POST OFFICE PLACE.

The Most Extensive Works of the Kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

G. F. PICKLES & SONS' Carriage Manufacturing Coy, Limited.

HEAD OFFICE & WORKS, SANDHURST;

AND AT

5, 7, and 11 LATROBE STREET WEST, MELBOURNE.

On view at forthcoming Show, an Immense Variety of High-class Vehicles, comprising—Landaus, Broughams, Driving Phaetons, Victorias, Wagonettes, Single and Double-seated Buggies, Pony Phaetons, &c.

44 First Prizes Awarded during the Year 1884.

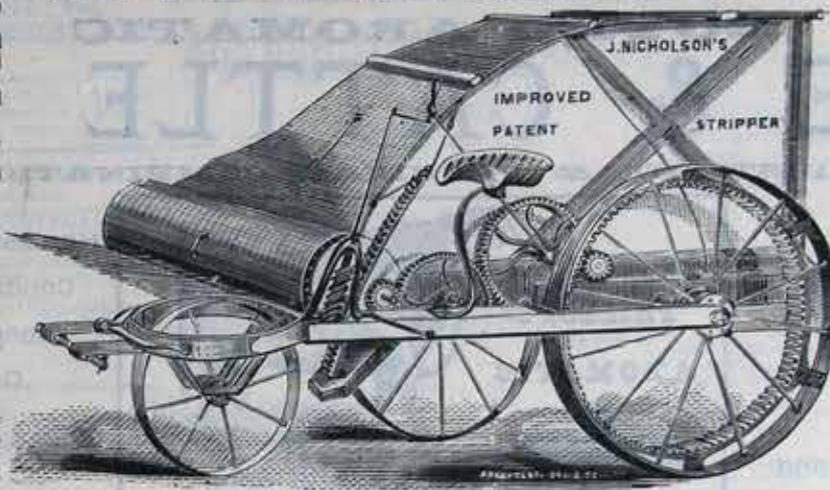
GEORGE M. PICKLES, Manager.

Illustrated Catalogue and Price List Post Free on application.

STRIPPER PRIZES.

FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1885
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Melbourne International Exhibition Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Champion Gold Medal, National Agricultural Show, Melbourne, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Grand National Show at Echuca, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Corowa, N.S.W., Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Shepparton Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sydney Show, N.S.W., 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, March, 1883.

JOSEPH NICHOLSON & CO'S



PATENT SPUR GEARING STRIPPER.

The Most Successful Harvester in use.

STRIPPER PRIZES.

FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, August, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1883
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Tatura Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Geelong Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Hobart, Tasmania, Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Longford, Tasmania, Show, 1883.
 GOLD MEDAL, Shepparton Field Trial, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Echuca Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.

Our **NATIONAL PRIZE WINNOWER**, fitted with the New Patent Fly-Wheel, has attained unprecedented success as a Grain Cleaner within the last few seasons, and obtained the following First Class Prizes during the last 12 Months:—

Corowa Show, 1885, Horsham Show, 1885; National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Champion Prize; Grand National Agricultural Society at Echuca, Corowa, Murtoa, Dimboola, Cootamundra, N.S.W., Numurkah, Cashel, Inglewood, Boort, 1st and 2nd, Rochester, Benalla Murchison, Sandhurst, Rutherglen, Shepparton, Gold Medal, and Field Trial.

WANT OF SPACE PRECLUDES US FROM ENUMERATING EARLIER SUCCESSES.

J. N. & CO. are also celebrated for their **PATENT REAPERS and MOWERS, SINGLE and DOUBLE SPEED MOWING MACHINES, DOUBLE and TREBLE FURROW PLOUGHS, IMPROVED HORSE WORKS, &c. &c.**

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For Horse or Steam Power.

CHAFFCUTTERS

With Tailing Elevators.

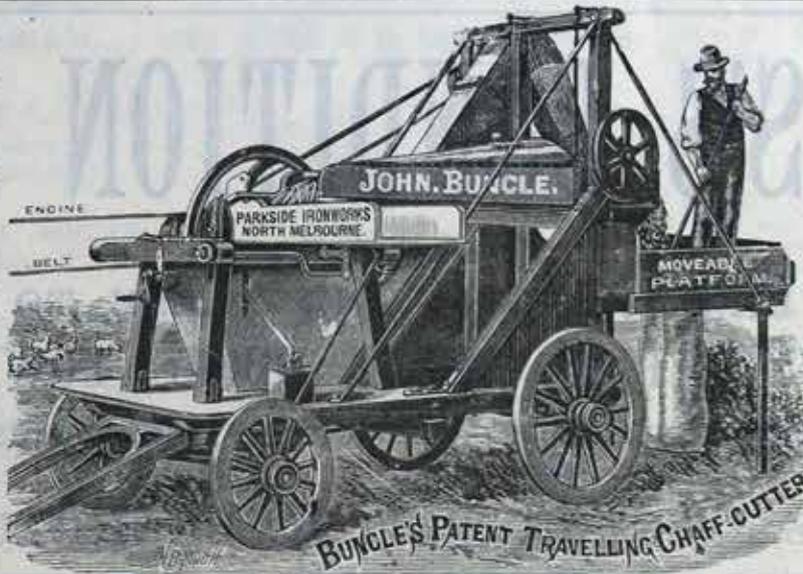
CHAFFCUTTERS

With Corn Crushers Combined.

CHAFFCUTTERS

With Chaff-bag Filling Machines

And all supplied with the latest new & improved Feed Rollers.



**HORSE WORKS,
 GRAIN CRUSHERS,
 BARK CUTTERS,
 DISINTEGRATORS,
 FIREWOOD CIRCULAR SAW BENCHES.
 CAST IRON CIRCULAR SAW BENCHES.
 For Wood Yards, Squatters, Farmers and General Use.
 TOBACCO CUTTERS.**

JOHN BUNCLE'S

Stand No. 9 on the National Agricultural Society's Show Ground, adjoining Flem. Racecourse

Particular attention is called to the advanced class of Machinery on this stand, conspicuous by two ornamental Gate Pillars of Hydraulic Freestone on the frontage from the main entrance by the road. Nearly every Machine is of an advanced type from those exhibited in previous years, as every attention has been paid to the advancing requirements of intending customers, and the collection includes—

Chaffcutters, Bark Cutters, Tobacco Cutters, Grain Crushers, Horse Powers, Cast Iron Circular Saw Benches, Firewood Saw Benches, Disintegrators or Bark Grinders, Disintegrators for pulverising Quartz, with sample of results after reducing about twelve tons of different kinds from Victoria and Queensland.

Other Machines designed or made to order by

JOHN BUNCLE,

At the Parkside Ironworks, Flemington-road and Wreckyn-street, North Melbourne.

CATALOGUES FREE ON APPLICATION.

W. H. HUNTER,
Saddle and Harness Manufacturer,
15 POST OFFICE PLACE; and
11 BOURKE ST. WEST, MELBOURNE.

Contractor to the Victorian Government.
Special Makes in Saddles for Farmers, Stockriders, and general
Station Work. Ladies' and Gentlemen's old Riding
Saddles and Harness taken in exchange.

DANIEL TOPP,
Late J. J. Walker, Wholesale & Retail
SADDLE AND HARNESS MANUFACTURER,
29 BOURKE STREET WEST, MELBOURNE.

Manufacturer of every description of Saddles and Bridles; Gig,
Carriage, Buggy, Spring Cart, Dray, American Express Wagon
Scotch Tandem, Leader and Outrigger Harness.
D. T. wishes to call particular attention to his Colonial-made
Rough and Smooth Bullockhide, Hogskin, Bush and Town,
Saddles, which for Shape, Price, and Quality, cannot be equalled.
TRADE SUPPLIED.

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Seed Merchant,
43 COLLINS STREET WEST.

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Grasses—Lucerne, White Clover, Red Clover,
Mangolds, &c.
FORWARDED on APPLICATION.

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(Late J. G. SACHS.)
Waggon & Lorry Builders,
WHEELWRIGHTS,
AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHS.
OPPOSITE HAYMARKET, ELIZABETH ST.,
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WOOL & GRAIN.
THE
AUSTRALASIAN MORTGAGE and AGENCY CO.
(LIMITED), with which is incorporated
HASTINGS CUNINGHAM & COMPANY LIMITED.
AUSTRALASIAN WOOL STORES,
COLLINS ST. WEST, MELBOURNE.

CAPITAL - £1,500,000.
(With power to increase.)

AUCTION SALES OF WOOL ARE HELD
Every Friday during the Season.
OF SHEEPSKINS, HIDES, and TALLOW every
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday throughout the year.
And of GRAIN every Wednesday during the Season.

Account Sales and Proceeds remitted with utmost Promptitude.

Annual Stud Sheep Sales
WEDNESDAY, 26th AUGUST.

DAL. CAMPBELL & CO.
(In conjunction with Messrs. B. HEPBURN & Co.,
of Ballarat) will hold their

Annual Sale of Pure Merino Stud Sheep
IN THE
WOOL WAREHOUSES OF THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN
AND MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY,
Collins Street West,

On WEDNESDAY, the 26th AUGUST,
The day following the Australian Sheepbreeders'
Association Show, when they will submit to PUBLIC
COMPETITION, Very Choice Selections of

RAMS AND EWES,
from the stud flocks of the following well-known breeders, viz.:
Messrs. Thomas Dowling & Sons, Jellalabad.
Hon. A. H. Wettenhall, Carr's Plains.
Mr. A. M. Campbell, Ellingerrin.
Mr. Peter McIntyre, Maxwellton.
Mr. Alex. Armstrong, Warrambine.
Mr. G. W. Thomson, Chalicum.
Messrs. W. Smith & Co., Hynam.
Messrs. F. L. Parker, Quiamong; and others.

**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

OF VICTORIA.

GRAND

Horse Parade,

To be Held on the

SOCIETY'S GROUNDS,

Adjoining the

FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE,

ON

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 1885.

Admission to the GROUNDS, 1s.

Grand Spring Show

To be Held on

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday.

19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd, August, 1885.

OVER £2000 TO BE AWARDED IN PRIZES.

All the EXHIBITS will be in the YARDS on
WEDNESDAY, and the Judging in the
whole of the Classes (excepting
Hunters) will be done
on that Day.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR will
visit the Exhibition on Thursday.

Admission to the Grounds, Wednesday,
during Judging, 5s.; Thursday, 2s. 6d.;
Friday, 2s.; Saturday, 1s. Members Tickets,
Admitting Bearer with Two Ladies, £1
Each.

SALES OF EXHIBITS

Will take place in the Yards on Friday.

Return Tickets at Holiday Excursion Fares

Will be Issued on the Railways from all Stations
to Melbourne, from the 14th to the 22nd
August, available for Return up to
Monday, the 24th the Month.

THOMAS PATTERSON,

SECRETARY.

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

The Journal of the National
Agricultural Society of Victoria.

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar,
Bourke Street West, Melbourne.

Business communications to the Publishers,
31 Little Collins Street East.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
requested to forward to the editor the dates on
which their respective exhibitions will be held,
also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
they are published.

AUGUST.

- 19 and following days—Queensland National
Agricultural Association, Brisbane.
- 19.—Edenhope.
- 19.—Nhill.
- 19 to 22.—National Agricultural Society of
Victoria, Melbourne.
- 20 and 21.—Stawell.
- 24 and 25.—Australian Sheep-breeders' Associa-
tion, at Goldsborough's, Melbourne.
- 26.—Kaniva and Lillimur Society, at Lillimur
North.
- 26 and 27.—Northern Agricultural Associa-
tion, at Singleton.
- 26 to 29.—Victorian Poultry and Dog Society,
Melbourne.
- 27.—Kerang.
- 27.—Rupanyup and Dunnunkle Society, at
Rupanyup.

SEPTEMBER.

- 2 and 3.—Donald.
- 2, 3, 4, and 5.—Agricultural Society of New
South Wales, at Sydney.
- 3.—Yarrawonga.
- 3 and 4.—Ballarat Sheep Show.
- 8.—Chiltern.
- 9.—Mount Wycheproof.
- 10 and 11.—Ovens and Murray, at Wanga-
ratta.
- 16.—Ararat.
- 16.—Charlton.
- 16 and 17.—Albury, N.S.W.
- 17.—Moirs Society, at Cashel.
- 17 and 18.—Hamilton.
- 17 and 18.—Echuca.
- 22 and 23.—Shepparton.
- 23.—St. Arnaud.
- 25.—Wedderburn.
- 29.—Numurkah.
- 30.—Rochester opens.
- 30.—Inglewood.

HORSE PARADES.

AUGUST.

- 18.—National, Melbourne.
- 21.—Boort.
- 21.—St. Arnaud.
- 25.—Mooroopna.
- 27.—Tatura.
- 26.—Shepparton.
- 29.—Melton.
- 29.—Murchison.
- 29.—Kyabram township.
- 31.—Rochester.

SEPTEMBER.

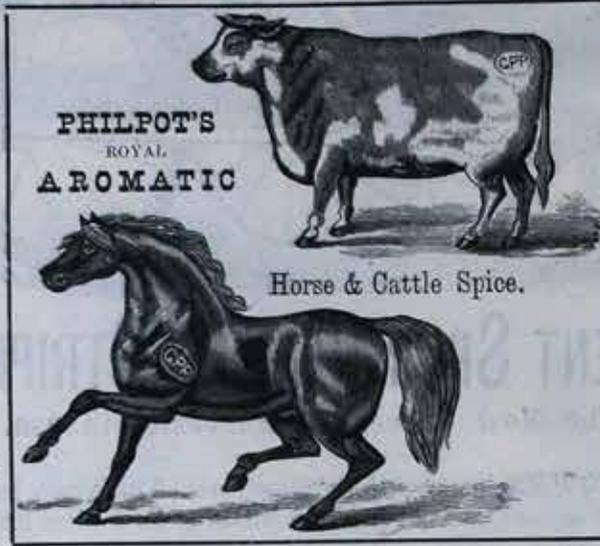
- 1.—Benalla.
- 1.—Seymour.
- 3.—Nagambie.
- 5.—Rushworth.
- 5.—Maddingley, Bacchus Marsh.
- 10.—Kyneton.

HORSE AND CATTLE FOOD MANUFACTURING CO. LIMITED, CASTLEMAINE.

ROYAL AROMATIC HORSE & CATTLE FOOD,

A DISTINCT & PECULIAR COMBINATION.

Proved and Warranted to be Effectual for giving Health, Flesh and Condition to Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Dogs, and POULTRY, and Warranted to Effectually Destroy Worms in Horses, Dogs, &c., &c.



Horses can be kept in Good Condition and Cattle Fattened at less cost than One Penny per day. TESTIMONIALS from Prof. Sample, Cobb & Co., and other well-known colonists, including some of the the most Extensive Breeders.

THIS FOOD possesses extraordinary tonic, condition, alterative and feeding properties, far surpassing that of any Artificial Food yet discovered. It increases the appetite, assists digestion, assures thorough assimilation of food, enables the animal to eat provender of an inferior quality, which would otherwise be considered useless, and, by mildly stimulating the action of the Liver and Kidneys, imparts to the coats of the Horses a fine healthy and glossy appearance. For Worms in Horses, Urinary Complaints, Swollen Legs, Skin Diseases and Impurities of the Blood, this FOOD is a certain remedy, and is a valuable addition to the ordinary food of aged horses whose digestive powers are impaired. The value of this FOOD, which is an important discovery, appears evident from the fact that the best prevention to contagious or other diseases is to keep the animal in good health and condition, which is more readily and certainly effected by giving the ROYAL AROMATIC HORSE AND CATTLE FOOD than by any other means. One great advantage in giving this FOOD is that no alteration is required in the work of Horses or care of Cattle.

We are prepared to send on any quantity at COST PRICE, provided we have no local representatives, in that case we would ask you to obtain it from them, as we make it a rule not to supply customers direct in districts we have representatives appointed.

Sold by all Stock Agents, Storekeepers & Chemists, &c., throughout the Colonies. Wholesale only from C. E. BROOME and CO., Grain Brokers and Agents, 1 Queen Street, Melbourne.

NORRIS'S CONDITION SPICE,

UNEQUALLED FOR GIVING

LIFE, HEALTH, AND FLESH TO

HORSES, CATTLE, PIGS, GEESE, DUCKS, FOWLS, DOGS, &c.

Wholesale - Terms on Application.

SOLD BY ALL GROCERS, DRUGGISTS & IRONMONGERS, OR MAY BE HAD DIRECT FROM THE PROPRIETORS.

Sold in Tins, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/- & 20/-

T. W. NORRIS & CO., CHAPEL ST., PRAHRAN, VICTORIA.

PRICE WILLIAMS,

FRANKLIN STREET, WEST MELBOURNE,

MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations. Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations. Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BELLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 3½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly, HUGH GORDON.

From Sir W. J. Clarke, stating that Lady Clarke and he would have much pleasure in being present at the opening of the Society's show.

Also from Colonel Sargood and Messrs. Service, Berry, Deakin, Levein, and Kerferd, accepting with pleasure the Council's invitation to the show, and promising to be present, if not prevented by stress of business.

From Secretary for Agriculture, stating that the questions which had been submitted by a deputation to the Minister of Agriculture had been considered by the Cabinet, and it had been decided that it would be undesirable to place the Society in a position, enabling it to borrow money on the security of the land granted for its use. There would, however, be no objection on the part of the Government to power being obtained to borrow money on the security of the revenue of the Society, and it was believed large sums had been raised on similar security by the Melbourne Cricket Club and Victoria Racing Club.

Mr. Munro suggested that the Government should be asked to provide the Society with a sum of £12,000 on the security of its revenue, bearing interest at 5 per cent., when the Hon. C. Young reminded the Council that the Government had already declined to advance the Society a loan on the security of the ground itself, so that they would scarcely entertain the proposal just made. He believed, however, that the Council should take further action to induce the Government to advance the Society a sufficient sum to enable it to provide for the present overdraft and complete the projected improvements.

Mr. Peek moved that the further consideration of the letter be postponed till the following meeting, so that the subject might be fully considered. Seconded by Mr. Munro, and carried.

Mr. Garton (on behalf of the president, who had given notice of motion), moved that Mr. James M'Kean, the Society's hon. solicitor, be elected an honorary member of the Society. Seconded by Mr. Brunton, and carried.

The Council then adjourned to the Monday following, a meeting to be called on that day if necessary.

Federation of Agricultural Societies.

THE first meeting of the Central Board, called the Victorian Board of Agriculture under the scheme for the federation of agricultural societies, was held at the office of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, on Tuesday, the 4th inst. Present—Messrs. Joseph Taylor (Bairnsdale), representing No. 1 District; H. S. Parfitt (Wangaratta), No. 2; Joseph Knight (Shepparton), No. 3; James Castles (Echuca), No. 4; James Malcolm (St. Arnaud), No. 5; J. B. Miller (Murtoa), No. 6; J. H. Connor (Geelong), No. 8; William Thomson (Kyneton), No. 10; and Dr. Plummer (Melbourne), No. 11. Mr. J. L. Dow, M.L.A., was also present.

The secretary to the committee which had drawn up the scheme under which the Board was elected, read the notice calling the meeting, and stated that the first business would be the appointment of a chairman. Mr. Knight moved that Dr. Plummer be appointed chairman of the Board. Seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried. Dr. Plummer, in taking the chair, thanked the members for the great honour they had done him in electing him chairman of the Central Board. There was great responsibility in accepting the

position, but he would rely on the assistance of the members in dealing with all the important questions which would come before the Board.

Mr. Thomson moved that Mr. Thomas Patterson be appointed to act as hon. secretary to the Board *pro. tem.* Seconded by Mr. Connor, and carried.

Mr. Knight said that he had been deputed by the group he represented to bring before the Board a series of amendments on the Agricultural Colleges Bill. He did not wish to press the matter at the present meeting, but desired that all the members might have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with certain serious defects in the bill. The amendments might be relegated to a sub-committee for consideration.

Mr. J. H. Connor and Mr. W. Thomson spoke in favor of a redistribution or regrouping of the societies under the bill.

It was decided that the amendments brought forward by Mr. Knight should be referred to a committee, consisting of Dr. Plummer, Messrs. Knight, Connor, Thomson, and that Mr. J. L. Dow, who took great interest in the subject, should be asked to act with the committee.

Mr. Knight also moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried—"That steps be at once taken to have this council of the federated agricultural societies of Victoria, called the Victorian Board of Agriculture, recognised by the Government, by the passing of a bill to that end through Parliament."

It was decided that the sub-committee already appointed should be requested to take the subject of this resolution into consideration, with the view of suggesting the form which the proposed bill should take, and the position or standing it should give the boards of agriculture.

A discussion took place regarding the pecuniary position of the board, and it was agreed that a deputation should wait upon the Minister for Agriculture, and ask him for a small grant to enable the board to carry on its work, and that the Minister of Railways should be asked to grant free passes to delegates when they were travelling to attend either district or central board meetings.

On the motion of Mr. Parfitt, seconded by Mr. Taylor, it was decided that the necessity for making experiments in ensilage should be brought under the notice of the council of the agricultural colleges.

Mr. Taylor wished to bring the subject of the Tasmanian reciprocity treaty under the notice of the board. He remarked that farmers generally were opposed to it, and in his district, Bairnsdale, the chief industry, hop growing, was threatened with total annihilation.

Mr. Thomson suggested that the matter was one outside the scope of the board. It would be better for the subject, as it was a political one, to be discussed in public meetings called for the purpose, but it was undesirable that it should come under consideration at meetings of agricultural societies.

The matter was not proceeded with.

A letter was read from the West Bourke Agricultural Society, asking whether the board was in favor of making inoculation in herds, or in districts affected with pleuropneumonia, compulsory, and whether the members would support legislative action with the view of the enforcement of this provision.

This communication was also referred to the sub-committee previously appointed.

This was all the business, and the board adjourned, it being understood that the next meeting should take place during the week in which the National Agricultural Society's Show was held.

Triumph Oats.

EXTRAORDINARY YIELDS.

The Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria last year imported two bushels of the Triumph Oats, and distributed them amongst agriculturists at the cost price to the Society, viz., 5s. per lb. The oats arrived rather late in the season to give them a fair chance, but their yield in the late districts of the colony has been surprising, as the following reports will show:—

Mr. W. C. Harvie, of Yarra-wai, Lardner, South Gippsland, writes as follows:—"I enclose sample of Triumph Oats. We sowed about 2lbs. of the four we had from you, the remainder by an unfortunate accident fell in the way of the pigs. The 2lbs. sown yielded 9½ bushels, but a great deal was lost in consequence of being a long time in the field after it was reaped—the weather continued rainy, and the sheaves were knocked about a good deal by wallabies. The straw grew about 7 feet in height. The seed was sown very late (9th September), and I found it took a fortnight longer to ripen than potato oats sown the same day. On some of the heads counted were over 300 grains, and on one head 360, and there would be eight or ten heads from a single grain of seed."

Mr. Joseph A. Taylor, of Bairnsdale, writes as follows:—"With reference to Triumph Oats, I planted the seed the first week in November in drills 12 inches apart—the seed as near single as possible, say about 5 inches from seed to seed—on an alluvial river flat. Harvested the crop the first week in February; from seed time to harvest about 12 weeks. I planted 1½ lbs. only of the seed, reserving the other half pound. Result, 6½ bushels of oats of fair quality. The crop just about the time the plant was coming into ear was slightly rusted. Straw very strong, about 5 feet long, in many cases 10, 12, 13 and 14 straws to the plant."

And again—"In my last to you, re Triumph Oats, I wrote you that the result of my crop was about 6½ bushels from 1½ lb. seed sown. At the time I wrote you I was busy hop picking, and had not time to spare to clean up the oats. They were simply thrashed, and put by in the chaff, and that was the estimate I at the time thought. Since then I have cleaned them, the actual result is 334 lbs. of good, clean seed oats, or 9 bushels and 14 lbs. In addition to the above, I lost fully 1 bushel of seed at harvest time through wind and rain prevailing."

Suggestions.

THE following is a copy of the letter submitted to the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, by the Secretary, in March last, suggesting the establishment of this *Journal*, and the carrying out of other matters of interest to agriculturists:—

"I beg to suggest that the establishment of a journal in connection with this Society is a matter which should receive the attention of the Council. The record of the proceedings for the past year shows that the Society's transactions now embrace much beyond mere routine business, and as such will no doubt increase, it is obvious that it would be a great advantage to have a paper to keep the Society's operations prominently before the public, though that need not be the limit of its usefulness. It is, however, no use undertaking a matter of this kind unless it is done well, so that in the event of its being resolved on it would be necessary

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, AUGUST 14th, 1885.

THE *Journal* of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria is established with the object of keeping the operations of the Society prominently before the public, and of giving attention to all matters affecting the common interests of kindred institutions. It is also intended as a medium for the dissemination of practical and scientific information relating to agricultural, pastoral and associated pursuits. We shall therefore publish full reports of the meetings of the Society, as well as intelligence relating to the operations of the other societies throughout the colony; for the purpose of giving more prominence to their proceedings, and of promoting and fostering a spirit of unanimity amongst them, thus taking our part in advancing their common weal, and hastening the time when they shall be established on a sounder basis, and have a recognised standing in the land. It is notorious that agriculturists are the least united of any class in the community, and that they are therefore necessarily at a disadvantage on this account; but were the societies—their present means of organisation—less isolated in their proceedings, and more combined in their action, this would certainly cease to be the case. While it is pleasing to note that at agricultural exhibition luncheons the toast of "Kindred Societies" is invariably proposed in the kindest terms, and received with enthusiasm, it must be admitted that it would be well were the sentiment of sympathy still further developed, so that more practical unanimity of action and combination of effort might result. However, it is apparent that a change is imminent. There is a "troubling of the waters" in the agricultural community. Representatives of an interest of annually increasing proportions—though long accustomed to want of consideration—are now, when many of them have time at their disposal, asserting themselves; and better still, are receiving recognition. The agricultural interest is becoming a safe hobby to ride. Men with a practical knowledge of the subject are being returned to Parliament, an Agricultural Colleges Act has been passed, and a scheme for the federation of the Societies is being brought into operation. Had the initiation of this scheme not something to do with all this? At any rate the ball should be kept rolling; and it is our desire to assist in the operation. In order to provide general information on subjects pertaining to agricultural pursuits, we shall, in addition to publishing

original papers, reprint in our columns articles of practical utility from British and American journals. By judicious selections from the publications at our disposal, we shall no doubt be enabled to collect and supply our readers with much useful and instructive matter, to which they would not otherwise have access. We shall discuss, and our columns will be open for the discussion of, all matters relating to the interests of agricultural societies, and of the pursuits it is our object more particularly to advance. As the cause is a good one, and as "what is most desirable at the present minute is the acceptance of the truth, that every real advance demands something like fanaticism on the part of those who have to make it, and fanaticism can never be kept up to working heat except by being fed on its appropriate food, i.e., vehement assertions and contradictions upon points which to outsiders seem trifles," there is work to be done, and if we mistake not, the present is an opportune time for the appearance of our *Journal*. "No amateur or hobby lover ever gets too much of the literature of his own craft, although he may strongly repudiate part of what he gets," and as this *Journal* is established, not only to forward the Society whose name it bears, but for the general advancement of the whole "craft," we rely on having a wide circle of friends, and we cordially invite not only the sympathy, but the practical assistance and support of all who have the interests of agriculture at heart.

COMING SALE OF THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH'S HERD OF AYRSHIRES.—As will be seen from our advertising columns, the entire herd of pedigree Ayrshire cattle belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch will be sold by auction at Drumlanrig early in October, on a day to be afterwards announced. The Drumlanrig Ayrshires have been selected and bred with very great skill and enterprise for a long number of years—so much so that it is freely admitted on all hands to be decidedly the best herd of that valuable breed of milk cows in the world. Consequently this will be the most favourable opportunity that fanciers of Ayrshires everywhere have ever had of supplying themselves with animals of surpassing individual beauty, choice strains of blood, and heavy milking properties. The process of weeding out unsatisfactory cows has been carried on unsparringly for such a length of time that nothing but animals which have approved themselves in all respects are now left. This sale will form a new era in the history of the breed, and will no doubt attract purchasers from many quarters of the globe.

The entries for the exhibition of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria closed on the 5th inst. They far exceed in number those of any previous year, there being 560 exhibits of horses and cattle alone. The details are as follow:—150 draught horses, 24 thoroughbreds, 31 trotters 33 hunters, 79 hackneys, ponies, carriage, and buggy horses; 108 shorthorns, 68 Ayrshires, 47 Alderneys, 20 Britanneys, &c.; 164 sheep; 144 swine; 32 poultry; 103 dogs; 162 carriages, buggies, and harness; 144 in dairy and farm produce (including 24 in hops); 11 for Sir W. J. Clarke's special prize for excavator; and 68 stands of machinery, implements, and every description of miscellaneous exhibits, making a total of nearly 3000 entries.

We publish elsewhere an article on the Highland Society and Show Judging, also one containing remarks on it by one of our well-known breeders. As the subject of judging is a most interesting and important one, we direct attention to these articles, and invite comment.

Meetings.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, the 11th inst.

Present—Dr. Plummer (president) in the chair, with Messrs. Job Smith, D. R. McGregor, T. Learmonth, R. Simson, J. M. Peck, J. Garton, J. Currie, J. Hearne, D. Munro, F. S. Roberts, C. Lynott, S. Gardiner, J. Finlay, T. Brunton, and the Hons. J. Buchanan and C. Young.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The finance committee's report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts, and recommending payments amounting to £60 9s. 6d., was read.

Mr. Currie moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Learmonth, and carried.

The show committee reported that the Hons. W. Irving Winter and T. F. Cumming, with Mr. Rees Davis, had been appointed judges of the excavators for earth work, entered for Sir W. J. Clarke's special prizes; also, that they had resolved that a fence should be erected round the inside of the trotting track, as a safeguard in carrying out the hunters' competition, and had instructed the secretary to communicate with Messrs. Billing, the architects, asking them to have the work set about forthwith.

Mr. Peck moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Garton, and carried.

The secretary reported that there were 63 pens short of the number required for horses and cattle at the show, finding which he had had the trays removed from a portion of the long dog shed, and fixed up 38 5ft. stalls there, which would leave 25 to be provided if the hunters were to be allotted stalls.

Mr. Hearn moved—That the required stalls be provided, in order that the hunters might be accommodated, and that the hunters be brought into the yards on Thursday, the trial to commence at 2.30 p.m., and that they be allowed to leave the yard on their owners depositing the usual amount as a guarantee that they would return again on Saturday. Seconded by Mr. Simson, and carried.

The Secretary was also authorised to provide increased accommodation in the sheep and swine classes.

The Secretary reported that Messrs. Billing and Son had called for tenders for the fencing round the trotting track, to be in at 10 a.m. on the following morning, when Mr. Munro moved "that the opening of the tenders be referred to a committee consisting of the President, Messrs. McGregor, Hearne, and Gardiner, and in the event of the tenders not being satisfactory, that the committee be empowered to put on day labour to do the work." Seconded by Mr. Garton, and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From John Thornton, London, in reply, forwarding two volumes of the "English Jersey Herd Book and Supplement," together with the papers relating thereto, bye-laws, &c., and stating that the Society would like to see the Victorian publication in return. To be acknowledged with thanks.

From the Private Secretary, Government House, stating it would give His Excellency great pleasure to open the show on the 20th inst. The Secretary was instructed to see Captain Traill and ascertain if Lady Loch (who had been invited) would also be present.

to appoint an editing committee, as is done by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, in order that strict supervision might be exercised over everything in connection with the journal. Although agriculture is of such importance in this colony, there is no publication exclusively, or even it may be said primarily, devoted to the pursuit, so that there seems the better opening for a journal from this Society, which should be made to embrace the interests of the whole of the societies in the colony by an organised system of correspondence from their secretaries, and this, supplemented by good, original articles, should give materials for a very useful journal. There is no question that the want of such a paper has been felt in connection with the scheme of federation now before the societies, as it could have been made the means of supplying needed information—thus making the scheme much more easily accomplished.

"Another subject requiring attention is the compilation of a Clydesdale or draught-horse stud book. I remember having heard breeders deplore the want of such a book before I was your secretary, and I hear the same complaints repeated every year at the August sales, yet nothing is done. As Melbourne is the great *entrepot* for the stud horses of the colonies, it is, therefore, the most fitting place in which to compile such a book, and it should be a work fairly within the province of this Society, and should also be a paying one. Perhaps the greatest practical difficulty in preparing it would be found in the way in which the breeds of Clydesdale and English cart horses have been mixed up in these colonies, but it is one which the Council's editing committee would no doubt be competent to deal with and overcome.

"The necessity for a herd book for short-horn cattle is also apparent; in fact, such a book is absolutely required. Though there is now a depression in the prices of this class of stock, this will, no doubt, change, and such depression will have done good work in causing the weeding out of a lot of medium animals—very little loss to the community—the absence of which will render the compilation of a herd book less difficult.

"The dairying interest is one to which special attention is now given by agricultural societies in England, and the Ayrshire and Alderney cattle—the dairy breeds—have also come very prominently forward in this colony lately, and taken a most conspicuous place in many show yards. It would certainly be in the interests of breeders if herd books for these cattle were established, and the sooner commenced—while they are in few hands—the more easily will the works be compiled.

"The carrying out of these matters would, of course, necessitate considerable expenditure, but they are all reproductive works, and it is not as if they were being pushed forward before actually required—they have been asked for for years. The publication of the stud and herd books mentioned would not only reflect credit on the Society, but would probably result in even a direct profit, would enhance the value of pure stock, and would be a positive boon to agriculturists. Were the journal first established, it could be made of great assistance as a medium for collecting information required in getting up the other books. The assistance of the country societies could fairly be counted on, as their principal supporters are breeders of stock, and the leading societies of the other colonies might also find it to their interest to co-operate. If the journal were supplied free to members, and if they also had certain privileges with regard to the other books, the result should be a very great increase in the names on the subscribers' roll. It is often asserted that this Society should have thousands of subscribers, and so it should; but although people readily

admit the importance of agriculture, and express much sympathy with the objects of the Society, they like to feel that they receive some tangible advantage or direct profit before they actually part with their subscriptions. Were the projects here noted once well in hand, there would then be a great extension of the basis of proceedings, and such a large number of people would be directly and personally interested in the Society's operations—and results show it is from these persons subscriptions are obtained—that where the members are now counted by hundreds there would be a most reasonable hope of them being increased to thousands."

Improved Agriculture.

THERE are yet to be found sceptics upon the notion that science is *not* the basis of agriculture. Such vague speculation in reference to the union of the two is to be lamented. Where the principles of science are so closely interwoven with the production of the "good of man," it is ever to be regretted that speculation should supersede induction, or conjecture obscure facts. There is, however, no human art more worthy of such a basis; none in which a strict attention to all the physical circumstances with which it is connected is so essential as is this, nor any in which a few truly philosophical experiments can be so beneficial as in agriculture.

Here the improvements that result are not restricted to time or place. They embrace the present and the future; they benefit the individual, the community, the whole world.

Everyone, therefore, who contributes to the improvement of agriculture has a claim to the title of patriot and philanthropist, as he who discovered the first cereal plants deserves to be ranked amongst the greatest benefactors of mankind, inasmuch as this discovery constituted the first era in the progress of mankind. It laid the basis of civilization, whilst the subsequent advancement in all the arts and elegancies of life, the increase of population, the present extension of commerce, manufactures and industries, indeed all that even tends to abstract human labour from the cultivation of the soil, stamp a peculiar value upon agricultural improvements.

It is to them that we must look for that increase in the merchantable produce of the soil upon which the general support of the community so greatly depends, as well as for that independent supply of the necessities of life which it is so desirable we should possess. We do not for a moment suppose that this independence is unattainable. Is there a single article of daily consumption or use but could easily be produced or grown in some part of Australia? What we have already cultivated or produced is a sure guarantee that we can do more if we couple practice with science, skill, and perseverance.

As the correctness of this statement cannot be reasonably doubted, it becomes an important enquiry how it can be best accomplished. In what manner can we increase the quality and quantity as well as add to the variety of our produce? By attentively studying the laws of nature, and acting in concert with them, all that man can do is, to combine and separate the materials which nature supplies. He can modify and change, he can neither create nor destroy. Hence originates the fundamental maxim of rational cultivation: "Assist Nature," promote her economy, guide her energies and the development of her powers. As a reward for your labours, you will receive the riches of her bounty. They are unlimited. The process is simple. Those who wander from that course, either through ignorance or inattention, do it at their own dire cost.

To remove the first of these retarding means, let us assiduously study the physical properties of all the elements we require to combine or modify, and then watch the effect of their varied combinations with a scrutinising eye and contemplative mind, making every variation which can affect the general result. Sir H. Davy, to whom the world is indebted for so much scientific research and enquiry, says, very justly: "Nothing is more wanting in agriculture than experiments in which all the circumstances are unitedly and scientifically detailed. This art will advance with rapidity in proportion as it becomes exact in its methods." To insure this observation and experiment, the general

principles of science must be understood. The soil must be carefully analysed, the atmospherical phenomena attentively observed, the economy of vegetable and animal life closely studied, and the relations between them carefully marked; for it should ever be remembered that it is not "one" but "all" these which influence the result of cultivation.

We do not want to convert the farmer into the philosopher, but still we maintain that the union of scientific principles with practical knowledge is highly important. It is to education that we must look for the advancement of the art of cultivation. Providence has laid a responsibility upon the possessors of the soil which they cannot meet without studying the principles of science which bear upon the productive powers of the earth, and the climatic and atmospherical influences which rule them.

Education will qualify them to discharge that responsibility. Interest and pleasure alike impel them to the undertaking. The good of the community demands their exertions. Self-satisfaction will crown and reward their efforts.

As the knowledge of scientific principles becomes more general, all the implements and operations of the farmer will become more simple, and although the mind of the labourer may not be enlightened by the doctrines of science, he will not hesitate to *adopt any useful practice* because it is formed upon principles he cannot understand.

The sailor implicitly follows the guidance of the compass, and yet how few are they who know the science that discovered, or the property that directs its working. A thousand and one such instances daily occur in the common transactions of life.

Independently of all views of interest or utility, the knowledge of matters relating to agriculture, which we advocate, deserves to be acquired for the pleasure it affords. How ardently are many other branches of knowledge pursued, purely for the gratification they afford! Here the field of enquiry is almost unlimited, and certainly fully adequate to the most enlarged comprehension. Its objects are sufficiently varied to suit the most diversified tastes in tracing the process of inorganic matter through its multiplied changes, both in vegetable and animal life, till it has attained its ultimate and highest destination, "its subserviency to the purpose of man." Here, indeed, the pleasure resulting from the love of truth and knowledge is as intense and varied as in any other department of intellectual enquiry, with the addition of those practical and direct benefits to which they cannot always aspire.

In the science of cultivation (for, when properly pursued, it deserves that name), order is of the first importance. The surface of the earth, the incumbent atmosphere, and the water distilled from it, supply the principles concerned in the economy of vegetation. It is only by carefully examining the nature of these principles that we can discover what is the food of plants, or in what manner that food is prepared for their nourishment. Our inquiries ought, therefore, to commence with the nature and composition of material substances, and the laws of their changes; so as to ascertain their adaptation to each other and the effects which their combination is calculated to produce. When we have done with the study of the inorganic matter, the economy of vegetation will naturally follow. The primary law in this economy is, that a seed sown in certain circumstances will rise into a plant of the same species as that which produced it; but whether it is to be a stunted and dwarfish specimen, fit only for the herbarium of the botanist, or a luxuriant and fruitful one, adapted to the use and support of man, depends entirely upon its culture.

It is, however, only by becoming familiar with the processes of vegetation that we can ascertain what it is in our culture that aids, and what obstructs the process of nature. Her laws cannot be disregarded without loss; they cannot be adhered to without reward. The embryo plant being contained in the seed, specific organisation and life are not more essential to its development than favourable circumstances are to its productiveness. To ensure this, genuine and healthy seeds of the best species must not only be selected, but food must be supplied, health preserved, and disease averted. How extensive, then, is the field for the exercise of "practice with science." Without knowledge of the laws of nature, we cannot with any degree of certainty promote their effects; without experience, we are unable to render that assistance most efficient.

From the vegetable we must ascend to the animal kingdom, and here the same laws obtain; the same similarity between the parent and the

offspring takes place; the same superior development from proper cultivation follows; and the same result for the exercise of science, skill, patience, and practice is presented to our acceptance.

Such are the principles of successful cultivation, and the closer we adhere to them the greater will be our success, the more will the produce of the soil be increased, and, in a proportionate manner, will the wealth of the colony.

Points of Jerseys.

An American breeder gives the following description of a Jersey bull he required for his herd. He says:—"The cows of my herd are too heavy in bone, shoulder, and head, and not heavy enough in flank and hind-quarters, and I seek to correct this by my selection of a bull of the features I shall point out to you. I prefer a bull from 10 to 12 months old. I want his feet, head, and legs as light and fine as those of an antelope, with a splendid carcase, big in belly, very deep in flank, and wide in loins and hips, with a narrow and very long head, and skin as soft as a lady's glove. As I am a firm believer in escutcheons, I want as good a show for one as possible. Don't fail to see that his rudimentary teats are far apart, and that his horns be very light and small. A thick and large horn is the worst possible feature, and always goes by inheritance. His head must be small and long, muzzle very fine, rudiments of horn very light and small, eyes large, face dished, neck light, throat clean, shoulders thin, canon bone of fore-leg very small, hoofs small, belly very large, flanks very deep, loins and hips very wide, from hip bone to rump bone, long, tail slender, testicles large, escutcheon large, skin orange colour and soft. In addition to all this, his dam must have the following features:—Very small and crumpled horn, long head, fine muzzle, very small bone in her legs, big belly, large udder, deep flank, wide pelvis, large escutcheon, slender fore-quarter, milk 20 quarts a day in her flush and never go dry. This sire must also have very small, fine curved horns, long head, very fine muzzle, very small bone in leg, deep flank, and wide loins and hips.—*Live Stock Journal.*

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinarian officer will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of domesticated animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a post-mortem examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinarian Museum may be dry salted and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Veterinary Notes.

CONTAGIOUS PLEURA-PNEUMONIA IN CATTLE.

This disease still exists to a greater or less extent in several districts. On any unusual outbreak occurring, inoculation is generally

adopted, and when carefully done never fails to check the spread of the disease. An interesting correspondence has been recently carried on in the columns of the *Australasian*, showing that the operation has been long and successfully adopted, and the general opinion is undoubtedly in favour of compulsory inoculation when ever the disease appears. (The following woodcut shows a new inoculating instrument which simplifies the operation, and prevents the bad results frequently arising when the needle and worsted thread are used.

Revolving Inoculator.



DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

Clip a little of the hair off the brush of the tail, about one inch from the end, on the inside portion, the width of the inoculator, which should be dipped in the virus and turned round on the skin sufficiently deep (to show blood.)

GENERAL SYMPTOMS.—Infected animals separate from the herd, feed sparingly, ruminate irregularly, with their heads held low, necks stretched out, backs arched, breathing short and quick; show a disinclination to move, cough and grunt on being driven, flanks tucked up, haggard appearance, &c.

HOW TO OBTAIN INOCULATING LYMPH.—Having selected an animal suffering from pleuro, slaughter in the usual way; the carcase being properly bled, open the chest, and if the disease has reached the proper stage (second stage) the lymph will be found surrounding the consolidated lung, frequently enclosed like a honeycomb in cells of coagulated fibrine. (Lymph may also occasionally be obtained from the substance of the lung, in that portion only of a salmon colour.) The proper inoculating lymph is recognised by being of a sherry wine colour; it congeals on cooling into a transparent jelly, has no offensive smell, and has a sticky feel when rubbed between the finger and thumb. Mistakes are frequently made by using the watery effusion of serum found in the chest and substance of the lung, and the efficacy of inoculation is frequently condemned in consequence; such mistakes must, therefore, be carefully avoided, as the success of the operation depends upon using the proper lymph, which should be decanted and strained before being used.

HYDATIDS.

On examining the lungs of Sheep and Cattle, especially those from certain districts, numerous hydatids are found. Hydatids are now frequently found in the human subject, especially in persons living on stations where numerous dogs are kept, and the surface stagnant water is used. Such water should never be drunk without first having it filtered, boiled, or purified by precipitation by adding a teaspoonful of recently slaked lime and epsom salts to the gallon of water; in course of twelve hours all animal and vegetable matter will be found at the bottom. A small barrel with a tap should be used, standing on end. The water should be drawn off as soon as clear, and the precipitated impurities cleaned out.

FLUKE IN SHEEP AND CATTLE.

As this important subject has been recently brought under the notice of the Central Board of Health, and opinions expressed from a lay and medical point of view, we give the following extract from Dr. Fleming's *Sanitary Science*, vol. II, page 572:—

"Rot in Sheep and also in Cattle belongs to this class of dropsical maladies. It is characterized by the presence of 'Flukes,' the distoma hepaticum and lancolatum in the biliary ducts and sometimes in the liver, and to such an extent that this organ is alive with them. * * * These parasites may be transferred to the human species and produce the 'echinococcus' disease (a rare malady in every country except Iceland it would appear). The disturbance they cause in the Sheep renders the flesh of these of poor quality, being soft, pale,

and watery—it decomposes rapidly. When the disease has reached a certain degree, and more especially when there is much dropsy and the flesh smells of urine, its sale should be prohibited."

A WORD FOR THE HORSE.

The common practice of keeping horses without food for many hours, especially during long journeys, is very objectionable, and if the injurious results were fully realized, few persons would neglect their horses in this respect. The horse is remarkable for the smallness of the stomach; the length and complicated structure of the digestive system clearly pointing to the fact that digestion should almost continuously be carried on, and by this admirable arrangement horses are ever ready in a state of nature to run for their lives. When domesticated, the same rule holds good, viz., food in small quantity and at regular intervals, the longest period of fasting should not exceed six hours. Of course many horses go long journeys, are hard worked without being properly or regularly fed, and for a time may look well, but sooner or later the inevitable penalty is inflicted by an attack of indigestion, colic, or inflammation of the bowels. Animals badly looked after, as regards water, food, and comfortable stabling, prematurely give way and require turning out for a spell, when under different circumstances they would only be seasoned for their work. Amongst the first indications of ill-health is flaccid gums, slimy tongue, and precarious appetite, and the horse is declared to be suffering from "lampas," and for this the horse's mouth is burned, i.e., the front bar of the palate is ruthlessly seared and torn away. The next sign requiring attention is hide-bound, which indicates, on the same principle, physic, condition powders, &c., which only increase the evil without the removal of the cause, "bad management." What leads up to this state of things? In the early day horses were cheap, and not considered worth the trouble; they were simply worked as long as possible with the least amount of care. And although horses are now comparatively dear, a long acquired habit is continued. Many persons owning and working horses assume a *horsey knowledge*, and mislead others. Young Australians, from bad precept, as a rule are neglectful of animals. It is considered cheaper to keep two horses badly instead of one in good working order, and thus we see daily in our public conveyances poorly conditioned, rough-coated, miserable looking brutes, instead of gay, sleeky-coated animals—a pleasure to sit behind. In all stables printed rules should be fixed up, giving directions as to watering, feeding, working, grooming, and care of harness—any infringement should be severely punished, and a premium offered to those who attend to them. The high price of livery is not now justifiable, especially at way-side houses. A small feed of chaff and oats should be obtainable for 6d., and grooms should not expect pay unless they are requested to clean the horse, &c. We are convinced that the high charge for a bait, 2s. 6d., and something to the groom, causes many a horse to go with an empty stomach. A clause might well be inserted in the new Licensing Act as to stable accommodation, and the men employed should hold grooms' certificates. Pending an improved system as suggested for consideration in the kind treatment and management of our faithful slaves, to whom we owe so much for the health, wealth and prosperity we enjoy, especially as regards Australia, I would urge upon all persons the necessity of feeding their horses, and when that cannot be conveniently done, give a handful or two of oatmeal in the bucket when giving a drink; this will, in a great measure, ward off the weakening effects of repeatedly drinking water only, predisposing the horse to suffer from illness often of a serious and fatal character.

than when three judges act, as exhibitors and the public will know on whose shoulders a particular decision rests.

It was agreed to extend the proposed system to all classes in which three judges are named. It was further resolved to publish the names of the judges after their acceptances has been received.—*North British Agriculturist*.

Judging Cattle at Shows.

It may be safely affirmed that the mode prevailing nowadays for awarding—or rather distributing—prizes to the owners of cattle beasts at our shows is very unfortunate, and has too often, in its results, a mischievous tendency. All this is readily conceded by a great majority of those persons who happen to have any conversation with me on the subject; and, should these persons be observant and experienced in the matter, they have not the slightest hesitation in privately condemning the present system as being wholly misleading in its operations, and not unfrequently ending in mockery and cruel injustice. Still, few of them will venture to beard "the insolence of office," no matter how much they may growl in secret. So overly refined are we become in this generation, that seemingly we have not stamina enough left in us to bear the frown of those who have "the power to kill the body." But, in my case, that consideration ought to carry but little weight with it—(1) because, in the course of nature, I am now not far from the end of my pilgrimage, where the wicked cease from troubling; (2) because what I write has no reference to persons, but to malpractices; and (3) because it is expedient, for the good of the commonwealth, that some man of years and experience should record his views unreservedly on this subject, both to show that the evils of the thing are well-known and felt, and to see if any inclination of reform may seize upon us at some future time, hopeless as the prospect appears to be at present.

Nearly twenty years ago I made my views on the right way of "Judging Cattle at Shows" publicly known, in some rough paper written by me at that time. The publication of these views made many converts from among what I considered the best class of readers in the colony, and some of these gentlemen having applied to me lately for a fresh perusal of the "old paper"—which document has somehow disappeared from my domicile—I will now endeavour to economize time by jotting down anew what I imagine to have been its leading features, and these now matured so as to meet the requirements of this our present day. And now, in reverting to what I wrote on the occasion alluded to, I ought certainly to feel gratified to see that my recommendation to employ only

ONE JUDGE.

instead of the usual three, whether by accident or otherwise has been adopted by some of the most influential and best managed societies in the United Kingdom. For instance, the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, after a life experience extending over a whole century, confined its award in the cattle classes, at Inverness last year (1883), to the decision of one right man in each division; and these decisions, as might have been easily foretold, gave unprecedented satisfaction to both society and exhibitors. And at the fat stock shows in the same place, for the last two or three winters, the experiment was repeated, and with similar results. In fact, as far as I know—and I am tolerably well posted up in these matters—wherever but one right man has been appointed to this enviable office, the prizes have been awarded to the animals (not to the owners, as is now so often done) with a discrimination, impartiality, and judgment evoking the applause of all skilful beholders. And the reasons which lead to such happy results are obvious, as I will point out further on. In the meantime I may mention that the H. and A. Society is this year (1885) making another experiment in choosing cattle judges. Finding—as similar bodies may generally find—that exhibitors "stoop" to canvass judges, when once these are announced,

for prizes to their animals, the Society appoints the usual group of three men, but ballots the third one, and a different one each time, out from every class, leaving the two in the ring to award the prizes—which, no doubt, they will do very abruptly, unless each be interested in a different exhibit, in which case occurreth a "dead-lock," when the one "on sentry" stalks in and awards the coveted trophy to the animal in which he feels an interest. But why he should not be permitted to exercise his discretion in the first instance, and how exhibitors can "stoop" to canvass judges, unless judges "stoop" to embrace exhibitors at the same time, even the *N. B. Agriculturist* sayeth not. I may explain that the motive of the H. and A. Society, in adopting this "hide-and-seek" system of appointing its judges, is confessedly to bewilder the exhibitors in wooing the favour of the judges. What a compliment to both parties! But we ought not to speak lightly of the anxiety shown by that great society to meet the fair wishes of its exhibitors: for these make its show, and the show makes its revenue—for there is no Government grant given to such bodies at home; but here we revel in State aid, and care nothing for the fate of the exhibition.

I promised above to point out some of the reasons why one man is likely to carry out the duties of the office in question most successfully. If a society confine its appointments to one judge for a class, it is natural to suppose it will endeavour—or, as an alternative—will be compelled to nominate a proper man; and should it not, the incompetent will almost invariably decline to act alone in this capacity, as he will not then, as under the present arrangements, have colleagues to rely upon for "more light," and to saddle, at the termination of the farce, with all the blunders, in the stereotyped observation, "I know the decision is wrong, but what can one man do against two?" In short, the incompetent, should he get a call (as he has often assured me), will not officiate by himself, but will come forward with alacrity to make up the usual triumvirate, where his presence will be a clog, and his vote, most probably, a reproach, to any decent judge who may be acting with him. I will be told, of course, that three can judge better than one, because they can see more, and can discuss the various points more fully. But they cannot see more, if they be wholly ignorant of their business, and they cannot discuss points if they do not know them. I will also be told, no doubt, as often before now, that we have not so many good judges here as they have at home, and cannot, therefore, be expected to do with one. But their being scarce here, I would suppose, is a very good reason why we should do with the smallest number. If we cannot get one man of sufficient judgment here, how are we to make up the deficiency by appointing three men of no judgment, as is but too often done? Where is the logic of the thing? Again, I am often notified that litigants frequently appeal against the decision of a single judge, to a full bench, in our law-courts; but this comparison is really "odious." Our judges of the law-courts are men educated for their profession, from their boyhood upwards, who study and practise law with unwearied patience and toil through life; who command the admiration and confidence of the community by their great ability and deep knowledge in the science they cultivate; and who, for their well-known honour and very high legal attainments, are sworn in as judges of our law-courts. Lest they make any mistake, too, in their judicial deliverances, they are surrounded and addressed, when on the bench, by the most eminent barristers, who lay all the evidence and law points clearly before them, and who, should occasion arise, may appeal from their decision. Now, what mental or judicial resemblance is there between our robed and learned law judges and those of our show-yards? None whatever. The latter very often are men who never studied for their profession, who never bred, nor fed, nor dressed, nor even owned, a beast of the kind they so jubilantly undertake to judge; who are not known for acquirements, or intellect, or integrity, above or beyond their fellow-men; and whose only qualification for the office they crave for, as far as I know, is that they have "invested" in a brute somewhere, and that, therefore, they are interested in this or the other strain of blood, and will act, as human beings invariably do act, accordingly; and that, moreover, there is no appeal from their verdict—that is final! Now, have our law-judges any personal interest in the cases brought into their courts? And, if not, what possible comparison can we institute between these learned and independent and highly-esteemed public functionaries and our usual triumvirate of the show-yard? Does not

the very attempt to do such a thing, by my critics, appear comical, grotesque, and ludicrous in the extreme? Unquestionably.

But unsatisfactory as the three-cornered arrangement has been in former times, its evils are greatly intensified of late years. The fashion among influential societies with us, nowadays, is to invite kindred bodies elsewhere to depute a

BATCH OF DELEGATES

to allot the prizes at their shows. But the ambassadors thus constituted, *Berry-cum-Pearson* fashion, there are sufficient grounds for believing—though receiving the formal consent of a society—are really the nominees of astute wire-pullers, who work the oracle in the back-ground, and are not often chosen for their skill, if we may judge by the absurdity and inconsistency of their decisions in the show-ring, but for certain other qualities, which I have not now time to properly define, and by the exercise of which they render due homage to the "invisible powers" nominating them. In fact, unless delegates, unconsciously or otherwise, are possessed of gullibility, prejudice, and antipathies in a very pronounced degree, they cannot be expected to perform the duties appertaining to their mission satisfactorily. And, although the qualifications above specified render awards given under their influence nothing better than a farce, still it is quite possible for those officiating to bring a more deadly one to the scene of their adjudications. The element I thus deprecate is self-interest, and where that is present, adieu to decency! But societies themselves are now, in some instances, recognizing the truth of this observation in a general way, for I find these pointed words among their by-laws:—

"No exhibitor or his agent shall be permitted to be with the stewards or judges during the time of judging . . . and no exhibitor shall be allowed to act as steward in the classes in which he exhibits."

Quite right, too! That the above safeguard is not unnecessary, I myself can vouch for. Wherever I have known men to act as judges of their own exhibits, or of those of their families, they straightway allotted the prizes to these exhibits (or, rather, to themselves), no matter how inferior their animals might be—an infirmity that always cropped up in judges since the earliest records of our show-ring. The late Mr. Bates, of Kirklevington, informs us, in a letter of his old age, that, when residing once in Northumberland, a big group of his Dukes and Duchesses was turned out of the ring of the Tyneside Agricultural Association without a single commendation. On inquiring "the reason why" of one of the judges afterwards, he was met with the very satisfactory reply:—

"Do you think we would give a prize to blood we have not ourselves?"

Of course, not!

"But, oh! mankind are unco weak,
And little to be trusted:
Should self the wavering balance shake,
Its rarely right adjusted?"

Before quitting this side of my subject, I must briefly notice one more malpractice that cannot be too strongly deprecated. I allude to the unpardonable habit of exhibitors of rushing members of Parliament, or candidates for that position, to the show-yard as judges of cattle. Now, there is no reason upon earth why members of, or candidates for, Parliament should be better judges of stock than other men arrived at the years of discretion; neither is there any reason that they should be worse. Still, there is an ugly look about the thing. When the applicant is a supporter of the member or candidate, as the case may be, it appears to the suspicious as if he accosted his benefactor on the "claw me, claw thee" principle of the Scotchman; and if the award be given in his favour (as it invariably is given, by good luck, under such circumstances, as far as my observation goes), the parties concerned ought not to growl so outrageously as we hear them sometimes doing, if wicked folks—to say nothing of pious folks—should arrive at somewhat uncharitable conclusions. I would therefore suggest to our amiable Parliamentary folks, for the time to come, to resent, in truly Oriental fashion, the insult that is offered them, when their supporters are dragging them as judges into the show-ring. If they don't, let us never hear them again complaining of animadversions upon their public conduct. We may criticise "a judge" with the same freedom that we would a politician or play-actor.

Having now depicted a few of the innumerable evils that are inseparably connected with the delegate system, let us revert for a little to

The Highland Society and Show Judging.

So What's News

DISSATISFACTION with show yard decisions is not a question of yesterday. Ever since agricultural shows became institutions of the country, there have been evidences, more or less formidable of disappointment with the judges' awards. Exhibitors are, as a rule, not good, or impartial, judges of their own stock as pitted against other people's. Many of them, it is true, are shrewd enough to see and believe that justice is often done, and though they do not rank so high themselves as they previously expected, they do not frown badly with the results. They, in other words, accept their defeat or discomfiture in quietness. It is different with others, however, when they do not get the position in the prize list which they think their own animals—the apples of their eye—should have got, they complain, and condemn the present judging system, if they do not indeed do something more.

The British system of judging, *i.e.*, that if three men, understood to be of skill and experience, acting together, has the aspect of fairness about it. It may be as near perfection as can be reached, but it, in practice, has certainly not proved to be perfect. Several defects, indeed, it has. Enough for us it is, not that our system is better than the larger jury adjudication on the Continent of Europe, or than the American arrangements. When British agriculturists are aware of defects or abuses, they talk for a time—often a considerable time—of the probable remedies, and bye-and-bye, take action with the view of rectification, or at least mitigation, of the grievances.

The Directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society, at last Wednesday's meeting, it will be seen, resolved to make some change on the former system. Briefly, the details are, that in all classes where three judges are nominated, only two shall act at a time—the third man standing by waiting a question of difference of opinion between the two performing. Who of the three is to stand aside is to be determined by ballot, in each section or class, but the same judges will not be twice in succession left out.

The proposals of Messrs. McQueen and Marr are well worth a trial, and we shall rejoice, with many others, if the objects in the resolution are accomplished by the means indicated. We are not so sanguine, however, of success, as the resolution would lead us to believe the directors are. It appears to us to be rather too much to expect that this plan will stop all attempts to canvass or influence the judges beforehand. Quite true, exhibitors cannot be sure which two judges will act in a particular class or section, but they will have the question narrowed to them. They know it will be two of a certain three, and if any exhibitor is undignified enough to bother judges beforehand, he may attempt it under the new as freely as by the old system. The only difference will be this—and it is of considerable magnitude, no doubt—the whole

three would require to be influenced before success would be complete, whereas hitherto two of the three would have been enough. It will, of course, be more difficult to get three than two men biassed or "bought over" beforehand. But, depend upon it, attempts will still be made to influence judges by those who have in the past stooped to do it.

Is there, then, it may be asked any remedy for the direct or indirect—generally the latter—overturning of judges? The only effectual one that we know of is complete secrecy as to who the judges are to be. When certain exhibitors are unscrupulous enough to attempt to influence the judges before the date of show, it seems prudent to keep the names of judges secret until the hour of adjudication begins.

Some exhibitors maintain that, in justice to them, they ought to know ere they send their stock from home, before whom their animals are to come in the judging ring. There may be something in that, but is there not more in this? If a National Society can be trusted with anything, it surely should be with the duty of selecting good and true men to judge at its shows. An exhibitor cannot expect to hit the prevailing type for the day with his animals every year, but in the long run he will be safe, provided there is no tampering with the judges or "friend-in-court" work, of which there would be less chance if the names of the judges were unknown until the adjudicating hour.

Readers for years of these columns, do not require to be reminded that our remedy for the discontent with show yard awards is single judging. Nor need it be concealed that when that process is advocated, paid professional work is in contemplation. Of course, crotchety men would not be asked to judge alone, and men with a slavish adhesion to particular strains would be avoided. Good all-round judges can be got—not caring whether victory was given to a Booth, or a Bates—a Prince of Wales, or a Lord Lyon.

Two heads, it is freely observed, are better than one. As a rule that may be so, but how often does it happen that, with two or three men in office as judges, one man's opinion prevails? If it is the same man's views all through, and, assuming that they are tolerably sound, there may be no grounds of complaint, but then why not just have the one man in harness? Sometimes, however, it happens that, with one judge predominating in each class, it is not the same judges' mind each time. There is a give-and-take practice which is perplexing to exhibitors, and not intelligible to spectators. That can be carried on with two judges in office, but not with one.

The balloting system, as a step in the right direction, should have a full and fair trial, which is more than single judging, has yet had in the South of England. But what about the publication of the names of the judges before the show? Some seven or eight years ago this subject was discussed at the Highland Society director meetings, and also in these columns. Several exhibitors from the West of Scotland, then on the Board, advocated the change, but the majority, at that time, were against it, and

so we, on the ground that the less that is known of the judges beforehand of who the judges are to be, the better for all concerned. We are still of the same opinion on principle, but things have in the interval changed considerably as regards the Highland Society. The secret of who the judges are to be has latterly been very badly kept, indeed, so much so that it is doubtful if it for some years back could have been termed a secret. The best kept secret of the kind is the judges selection of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, but even then an inkling is occasionally obtained beforehand. Anyhow, it is clear that we in Scotland cannot prevent the nomination from reaching the ears of the more alert exhibitors, and that very quickly too. In these circumstances it has been a question whether or not the modest, retiring, non-interfering exhibitor should not be put on the same footing as the other already manages to put himself on; that is to say, whether all exhibitors should not be apprised of whom their stock are to be judged by. The directors, on Wednesday, decided that exhibitors should have that information before the show. That may be the best thing to do in the circumstances, but we frankly own that we do not like it. Never mind; let it have a trial; only it occurs to us that to get the full advantages, such as they are, of publishing the names of the judges it should be done before the entries close.

It has been concluded that if good and popular selections of judges are made, and publicly announced, the entries would thereby be materially increased. Perhaps, but not by the means proposed successfully last week. The chances are that empty stalls may increase; if the choice of judges finds little favour, the array of blank stalls is certain to be formidable. If exhibitors are enabled to know beforehand to whose verdict their stock are to be submitted (and if not, why publish the names of the judges?) they should have that information before they incur the expenses of entry, which are considerable, both to themselves and the Society.

The following is the motion passed by the Highland and Agricultural Society *re* "Judging," referred to above.

"That a new system of judging at least, in the horse sections, be tried, *viz.*:—To appoint three judges as formerly, but have two acting together unless in case of difference of opinion, when the third man is to be called in to decide. For example:—We have three judges appointed, say A, B, and C, for section 1; we ballot one out, say C; then we have A and B to judge section 1, which they finish judging together, unless they differ in opinion, when C is called in to decide between them. Then for section 2 we have C in as one of the judges, and ballot between A and B, say B thrown out, then C and A judge section 2, and finish unless they differ in opinion, when B is called in to decide. Then for section 3 you put them all in and ballot one out, possibly A, then B and C judges section 3 and so on. By this system no exhibitor can tell beforehand which two judges will judge a particular section, and it will stop all attempts to canvass or influence the judges beforehand; it will have an element of fairness which will commend it to exhibitors which the present system does not always do, and each judge will incur more personal responsibility

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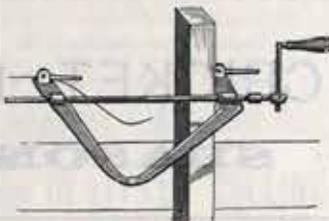
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post, it will hold the wire; while the other lever is let out the length of the screw, when by gripping it again with the straining lever, and releasing it from the other, the wire may again be drawn up to the post, and so on until the wire is tight. For mending a broken wire, the levers are opened out, and the ends of the wire placed in the grips, and then the levers are drawn together by the screw until the wire is sufficiently close to tie. Strain is self-supporting and weighs about 7lbs.

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the other and more pleasant phase of the question. Were a society to appoint one competent man to judge a class of beasts, that man, unless he felt confident, would decline to act; but when he would act, it would be without fear or favour. He would do what he considered right, and could do it, because he would not be interfered with by unskilful and inexperienced, not to say prejudiced, colleagues. He would bear the whole responsibility of the situation, too, and would not forget that he was acting under the supervision of the public eye, and that it behoved him to be careful and circumspect in all his awards. In short, he would permit no paltry or personal feeling whatever to sway or sully his judgments. With such a man officiating, exhibitors would come forward in great numbers to the show, not asking, as is now too often the case, "who is he for?" Thus, the society would be directly benefited, for the abundance of the exhibits really makes the show; and the community at large would receive some value, namely, sound instruction at the hands of the judge, for the great amount of public money that is now as well as wasted.

Arundel, July, 1885.

R. M'D.

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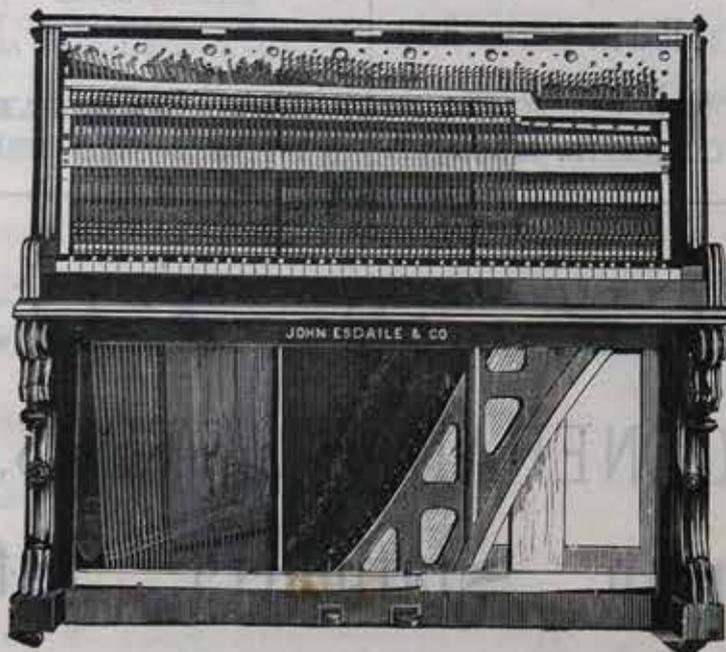
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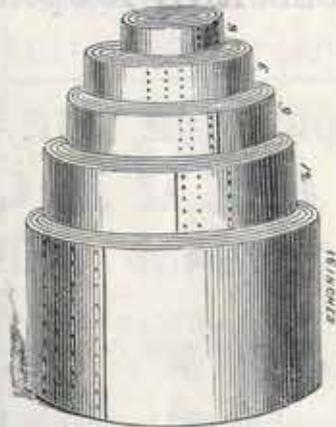
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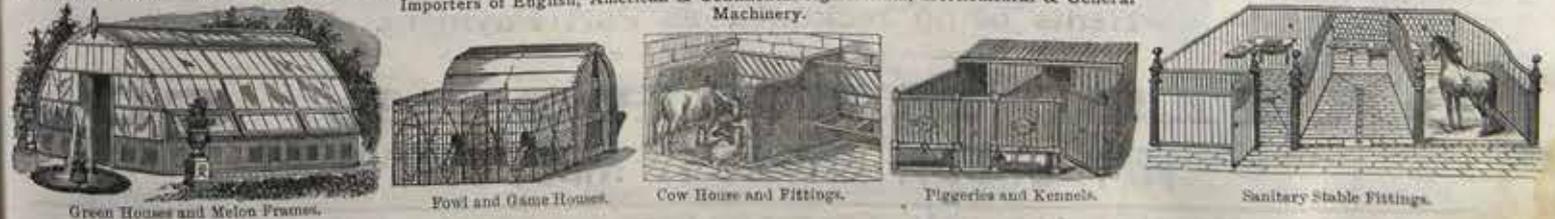


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VICTORIA.

Vol. I.—No. 2. [Regd. as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1885.

GRATIS.

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Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
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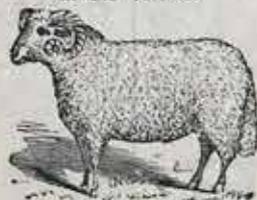
I remain, yours very truly,

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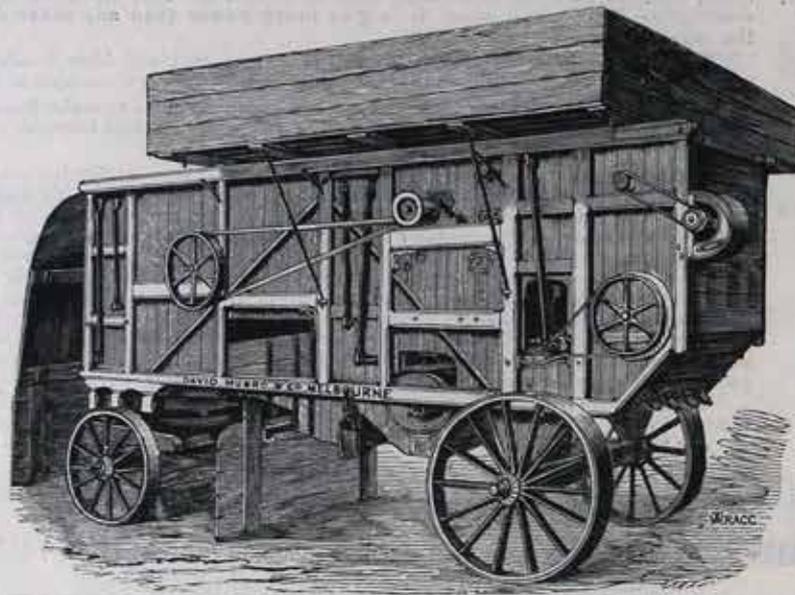
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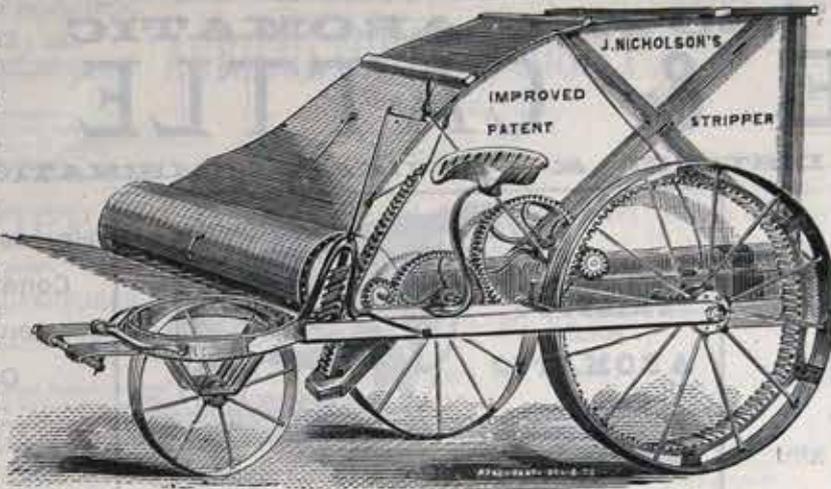
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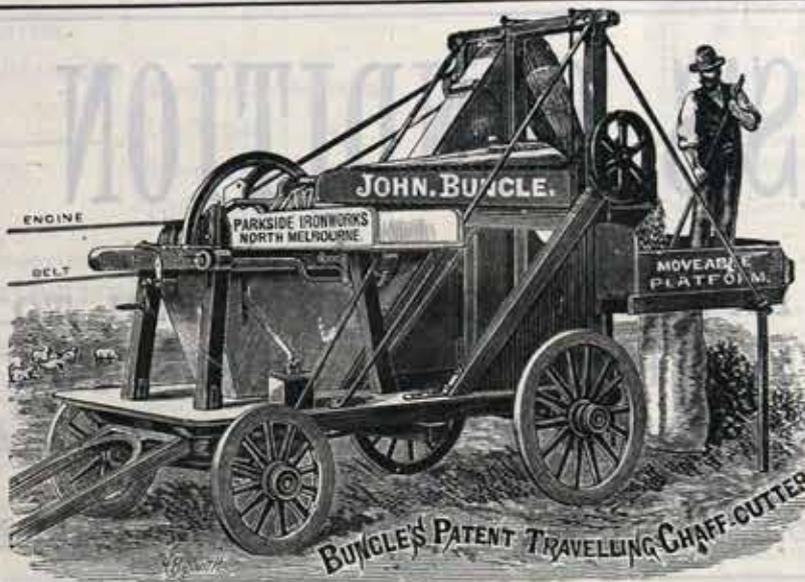
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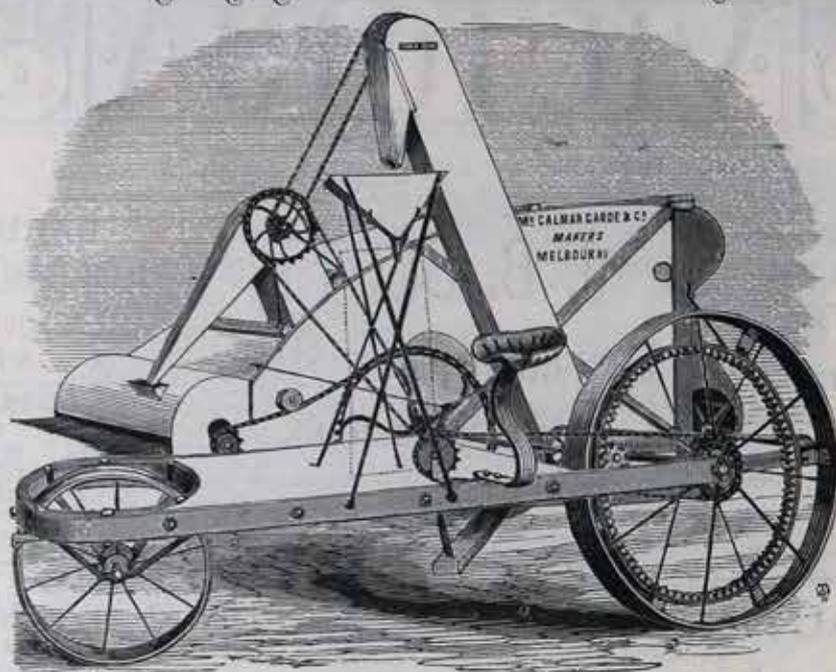
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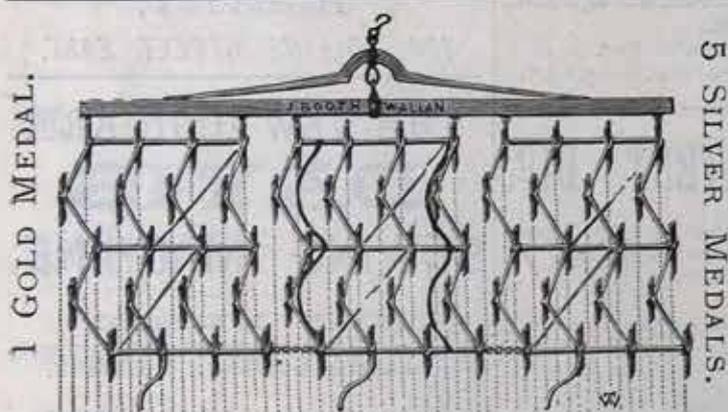
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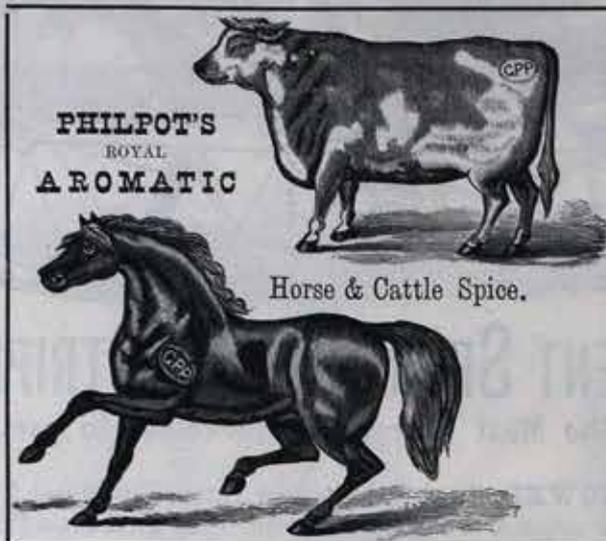
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OF VICTORIA.**

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payable, and Prize Win-
ners will oblige by call-
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THOMAS PATTERSON,
Secretary.

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with two ladies, to the Society's
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times.

A copy of this Journal, which
is published monthly (on the Friday
after the Council Meeting in each
month), is also forwarded to each
member.

Members' Tickets may be ob-
tained on application to the Secre-
tary at the Office, or to Mr. JOHN
HEDRICK, the Collector.

THOMAS PATTERSON,
SECRETARY.
Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

**The Journal of the National
Agricultural Society of Victoria.**

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
requested to forward to the editor the dates on
which their respective exhibitions will be held,
also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
they are published.

SEPTEMBER.

- 16.—Ararat.
- 16.—Charlton.
- 16 and 17.—Albury, N.S.W.
- 17.—Moiria Society, at Cashel.
- 17 and 18.—Hamilton.
- 17 and 18.—Echuca.
- 22 and 23.—Shepparton.
- 23.—St. Arnaud.
- 25.—Wedderburn.
- 29.—Numurkah.
- 30.—Rochester opens.
- 30.—Inglewood.

OCTOBER.

- 1.—Rochester closes.
- 1 and 2.—Benalla.
- 2.—Boort.
- 7.—Belfast.
- 8.—Tungamah.
- 8 and 9.—Clunes and Talbot Society, at
Talbot; National Show.
- 14.—Elmore.
- 14 and 15.—Villiers and Heytesbury, at
Warnambool.
- 14, 15, and 16.—Ballarat Society's Show.
- 15.—Murchison.
- 20.—Koroit.
- 21 and 22.—Bendigo Society, at Sandhurst.
- 21 and 22.—North-eastern and Goulburn
Valley, at Tatura.
- 21 and 22.—Hampden and Heytesbury, at
Camperdown.
- 28.—Seymour and Nagambie, at Nagambie.
- 28.—Castlemaine.
- 29 and 30.—Geelong and Western District.
- 29.—Rutherglen.
- 30.—Euroa.

NOVEMBER.

- 5.—Bacchus Marsh Society, at Maddingley.
- 11.—Gippsland South, at Tarraville.
- 12.—Heathcote.
- 12 and 13.—Sineaton.
- 19.—Traralgon.
- 25.—Sale.

HORSE PARADE.

OCTOBER.

- 3.—Gippsland South, Tarraville.

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER 11th, 1885.

THE great success of the late exhibition of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria has been the theme of general conversation since the event took place. Nothing of the kind approaching it has been witnessed in the Southern Hemisphere before. During its progress, visitors from the neighbouring colonies expressed astonishment at the magnitude and excellence of the display, and Victorians themselves were surprised and gratified at the extraordinary improvement and advance on previous exhibitions. Great, however, as was the success achieved by the Society on this occasion, the event must only be regarded as the precursor of still greater successes in time to come. People do not seem to realise the possibilities of this institution, which must advance as the colony progresses, and which, no doubt, will advance so rapidly that the most sanguine expectations regarding it will be more than realised hereafter. No one doubts the great future of this colony; and as agriculture is the basis of permanent success in any country, it must be so here; and the National Society, which is its leading exponent, must necessarily progress; and it will be found to do so more rapidly hereafter than hitherto. The abnormal stimulus given to the colony through the discovery of gold led to the temporary displacement of agriculture from its true position, but since the output of gold has fallen off more attention is necessarily given to the development of the agricultural resources of the colony, and the interest is fast assuming an increased importance, and receiving that recognition which it demands. The determination to develop the resources of the colony to the fullest extent, and the desire to promote and conserve the agricultural interest, are just the causes which led up to the magnificent display which lately took place on the Show Grounds of the National Society, and the enterprise manifested in producing such results is worthy of the highest commendation. No better index to the progress of agriculture, or elucidation of the resources of the colony than the exhibition under notice, could possibly be devised, and its educational influence is unquestionable. Undoubtedly the educational influence of this exhibition has extended beyond the usually accepted good derived from the comparison of individual exhibits of high merit; for it has in some degree impressed on the Council of the Society the possibilities of the institution whose destinies they control. Whatever doubts may have

existed in the minds of the gentlemen who constitute the executive body of the Society, as to its future, must now be dispelled, and they will feel justified in pursuing a liberal policy with regard to the improvement of the grounds, where, it is certain, that the more money judiciously expended the more satisfactory will be the results. The past exhibition, while suggesting the possibility of the Society requiring, ere long, an extension of territory, has afforded an excellent opportunity of arriving at the requirements necessary to insure the convenience of exhibitors and the comfort of the public in order that future exhibitions on a still larger scale may be satisfactorily conducted, and immediate steps should be taken to have the necessary improvements carried out. The Government must now be fully alive to the importance of the exhibitions of this Society, which, as well as being National, are also Intercolonial in character, and as such demand attention accordingly. A member of the present Ministry himself suggested that arrangements might be made with the Government to advance the Society, at a low rate of interest, a sufficient sum of money to carry out all necessary improvements on the ground, and in view of the importance to the community of having adequate provision for this great growing agricultural event, the Government should not hesitate for a moment to advance the Society ample funds to make the most perfect arrangements possible. With proper accommodation for exhibits, and suitable provision for the comfort of visitors, a splendid revenue would result, and the Society would soon be in a position to repay the loan which was necessary at the outset to enable it to secure such revenue. Advantage should be taken of the excellent influence of this exhibition, which has to some extent impressed the public with the importance of this Institution to the Australian community, and a vigorous effort should be made to induce the Government to place the Society in a position which will enable it to achieve still greater success in the future, and the effort should not be relaxed till the object is attained. If this be the result of the exhibition of 1885, the event will indeed mark an era in the history of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.

THE public turned out well at the late show. For the takings for admission to jump in one year from £731 13s. 6d. to £1560 9s. 9d. is something remarkable, and, when it is remembered, that the takings of the year before last at the first show on the new grounds were only £666 13s. the increase is still more marked. The wonder, however, is not that the people should have patronized the show so freely this year, but that the shows of previous years did not draw better. Certainly they were not up to the present one, but with the return railway fare at 6d.—which cheap rate Mr. Bent fixed

for all time—and the charge of one or two shillings for admission as the case may be, the trip out, the splendid view from the grounds and the change of air and scene should be worth all the money to city residents, and they have the show into the bargain. No doubt when the grounds are better known they will become a favourite resort when there is anything going on, and when proper accommodation is provided for the public, and new features (such as the hunters' contest this year) are introduced at the shows, it will take a very big grand stand and all the 30 acres to hold the crowd of visitors.

THE hunters' contest (in costume) was a capital idea. Somebody once said "Melbourne people are race mad," and he was not far wrong; at any rate, they dearly love sport. When the colours went up on Thursday afternoon, it was amusing to see everyone rushing for the hill, and if the Society could only have had a loan of "Bagot's cow-shed" from the V.R.C., and hoisted it over for the occasion, the greater portion would have filled at even half-a-crown,—the sum for charging which for admission on that day a morning paper waxed so wrath at the Council. People like something exciting, and other societies have found this out. Three years ago, the Secretary of the Society was sent over to Sydney to report on the show there, and the following is a pertinent extract from the report he then wrote:—"A visitor from Melbourne to the Sydney show, however, must at once notice the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen who are not specially connected with agriculture, and this extra attendance is doubtless secured by offering prizes for exhibits beyond the usual routine of a Melbourne show; exhibits, I mean, which appeal to the finer tastes, also by making the show more attractive to ladies, and by giving more prominence to exhibitions of trotting, buggy and carriage horses, as well as four-in-hand turn-outs. *These keep up a certain excitement which now-a-days seems absolutely necessary to draw an attendance.* While Agricultural Societies should not neglect the primary objects of their shows, it is surely a legitimate means of securing public patronage to thus give prominence to certain extras. *By this means revenue is raised,* and the people, being once induced to attend, while enjoying their outing, cannot help receiving instruction from their observation of the more strictly agricultural exhibits. I beg to suggest that this Society may here take a lesson from the Sydney show." In Brisbane, too, splendid attendances are secured at the shows by similar means. A Victorian, now on a visit to Queensland, who was present at the late exhibition there, writes:—"The show here is a long way behind Melbourne in many respects, still you might take a lesson from them, as they succeed in attracting the mass of the public; certainly they have a free and easy style compared with yours, and seem to aim at amusement as much as anything else." It certainly pays to consider the tastes of the public who are always liberal in patronising whatever pleases them, and while the grand objects of agricultural exhibitions should be business and instruction, a considerable

flavour of amusement makes the lessons more agreeable and the events more attractive.

THE half-holiday granted by the Government was a great boon to the Society, and the powers that be (if they be in power) will no doubt extend it to a whole holiday next year, for they must be impressed with the excellent results of the concession already granted. Nothing contributed more to the splendid attendance than the proclamation of a half-holiday on Thursday for the show. It was the best possible advertisement the exhibition could have had, as all classes were bound to notice it—it brought the matter home to everybody. It was very vexatious, after spending two or three hundred pounds in advertisements, to meet a business man and ask him if he had been at the show, and have him reply, "Which show?" But business men are apt to become so engrossed in their own particular lines that outside matters are entirely neglected. However, a public holiday being proclaimed specially for the show attracts everyone's attention to it, and is the very best means of properly advertising the event that could be devised.

THE Railway Department is deserving of praise for the arrangements made for the convenience of the travelling public, although they did run out of tickets on Thursday. However, it is no wonder that this happened, when it is remembered that more money was taken on that day than on all the four days of the previous show. The conveyance to town of the crowds which were in the yards on Thursday and Saturday afternoons was a matter which much exercised the mind of Mr. John Finlay, the hon. treasurer of the Society. That gentleman, with a lively sense of the deep obligation he was under in his official capacity to the visitors, took a great interest in seeing that their convenience was considered, and after personally watching the mode adopted for the prompt despatch of the crowds who thronged the railway platform, he was quite enthusiastic in his praise of the excellent arrangements, and as he is thorough in all he does praise from such a source is ample evidence that not the slightest hitch occurred, on which the Railway Department is to be congratulated.

LAST, though not least, the Society is under great obligations to the Press for their very able and exhaustive reports of the exhibition. One paper was severe on the management—and it must be admitted, not without reason—for the want of proper accommodation for the reporters on the opening day of the show. The matter, however, is easily explained. The wine exhibits were set out for adjudication in the inner room, and unfortunately two of the jurors did not turn up till about noon, and it was late before the judging was finished. It was expected that all would have been over in ample time to allow of the room being used by the reporters, but through the cause above-named, such was not the case, hence the complaint. However, the Press is certainly deserving of thanks for the special prominence given to this exhibition,

and for so faithfully recording and correctly representing the details in connection therewith.

A New Journal.

The Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria some months ago having certain suggestions before them, resolved to publish a journal somewhat similar to the one which is regularly issued by the Royal Society of England, and the resolution has so far been carried into effect that the first number is now before the public. It is in every respect a creditable production, and one which is making a fair bid for the support of agriculturists. The Agricultural Society of New South Wales, while Mr. Joubert was its secretary, regularly for many years published a similar journal, but in 1878 when the coming great International Exhibition so overshadowed the society as to almost totally eclipse it, the journal became the victim of retrenchment. Our friends of Victoria have entered upon the work very energetically. The first number contains many well-written sensible articles, which should prove useful. The agricultural societies of Victoria are now federated, and as one of the principal objects of the new journal is to promote and foster a spirit of unanimity amongst them, some very good results may be achieved.—*Sydney Mail.*

Meetings.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, September 8th, 1885.

Present:—Dr. Plummer, President, in the chair, with Messrs Job Smith, W. Thomson, D. R. McGregor, J. Currie, J. G. Brisbane, J. M. Peck, D. Munro, D. Mitchell, F. Henty, S. Gardiner, F. S. Roberts, J. Garton, T. Brunton, J. Hearn, W. J. Lobb, J. Finlay, C. Lynott, H. Lennon, T. Learmonth, J. Gibb, M.L.A., and the Hons. J. Buchanan and C. Young.

The minutes of the previous ordinary and two special meetings were read and confirmed.

The Finance Committee's Report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts, and recommending payments amounting to £3,106 1s. 10d. was read.

Mr. Currie moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Henty, and carried.

The balance-sheet of the Spring Show was submitted, showing the receipts in connection with the exhibition to be £4,674 5s., and the expenditure £2699 15s. 4d., leaving a profit of £1,974 9s. 8d.

The statement was received with applause.

The President congratulated the Council on the results of the show, and urged the claims of the Secretary (Mr. T. Patterson) to recognition, stating that he had worked hard and spared no effort to make the exhibition a success.

Mr. McGregor moved that a bonus of £50 be voted to the Secretary in appreciation of his past services. Seconded by Mr. Munro, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Peck moved that the Secretary's salary be increased by £60 per annum. Seconded by Mr. Currie, and carried unanimously.

Mr. McGregor moved that a vote of thanks be passed to the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. John Finlay). Seconded by Mr. Thomson, and carried unanimously.

The Hon. C. Young pointed out that the receipts each day of the show, proved the wisdom of the Council in fixing the charges as they did, and the criticisms which appeared in a morning paper were unwarranted. He also pointed out that the Council was not to blame for the fact that farmers' excursion trains were not run during the show.

Mr. Gibb also stated that a deputation has waited on the Commissioners, urging that the trains be run during the show, but they could not see their way to grant the request, so that the Council was not to blame in the matter.

Mr. Finlay said he was endeavouring to arrange for farmers' trains for next show.

POSTPONED BUSINESS.

Letter from Secretary for Agriculture, re the Society borrowing money on the security of the show grounds.

Mr. Munro moved that the letter be referred to a Committee, consisting of the President, with Messrs. Buchanan, McGregor, Mitchell, Young, Gibb, Peck, Finlay, and the mover, to deal with and bring up a scheme they could recommend to the Council whereby the Society would be placed on a satisfactory footing with regard to the present overdraft and further sums required to carry out improvements. Seconded by Mr. Peck, and carried.

PROTESTS, &c.

Mr. Miller applied for the champion prize in thoroughbred mares. The stewards in the class, Messrs. Learmonth, Hearn and Garton, stated that the prize had not been awarded by the judges on account of want of merit in the exhibits.

Mr. Peck moved that the prize be withheld, and Mr. Miller informed that such prize was not awarded by the judges. Seconded by Mr. Thomson, and carried.

Mr. J. Voice wrote, apologising for having used offensive language to one of the judges in the Alderney class at the show.

Mr. Lennon moved that the apology be accepted, and that a copy of the same be sent to the judges. Seconded by Mr. Lobb, and carried.

The Hon. C. Young moved that Mr. Voice's prize money be paid, and the Secretary accompany it with a letter, informing him that a repetition of such conduct would disqualify him from being an exhibitor at future shows. Seconded by Mr. Thomson, and carried.

Protest from Dr. Woolley against Mr. F. Robbins being awarded first prize for buggy horse driven in a vehicle, on the ground that the animal was out-classed on account of being a stallion, and that it was driven by the owner.

Mr. Lynott moved that as the animal was not out-classed, the protest be dismissed and the deposit returned. Seconded by Mr. Brunton, and carried.

From S. Gardiner, protesting against the action of the Special Meeting in having allowed sales in the yards on Saturday.

Mr. Garton moved that the letter be referred to the Show Committee to deal with. Seconded by Mr. Brisbane, and carried.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a post-mortem examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Veterinary Notes.

RENAL CALCULI.

An interesting specimen of stone in the kidney, taken from a mare, has been forwarded by E. A. Macartney, Esq., of Mount Battery, who says, "I send you a limestone formation, as I take it to be, which I took out of the kidney of a mare that died, as we thought, from inflammation of the bowels, but, on examination of the intestines, we found both kidneys much enlarged, and a large abscess in one, with this formation found in the other; I hope you will get it safely, and that it may be of some interest." This interesting specimen weighs sixteen ounces, and is now on view at the Society's Offices, Kirk's Bazaar.

REMARKS.

Renal Calculi do not usually give rise to symptoms by which their presence may be correctly diagnosed; attacks of colic are apt to occur, and sometimes tenderness of the loins; discharge of blood and sabulous matter with the urine. The majority of Renal Calculi have been found by men engaged in slaughtering horses, or in the dissecting rooms—they are usually single and large in the horse, and occur more frequently in this animal than any other; they are composed of carbonate, phosphate, chloride and sulphate of lime, organic material and trace of iron. Animals suspected of suffering from Calculi in the kidney or bladder, or from gravel, cannot thrive, and attract special attention from making frequent attempts to discharge urine. The treatment of stone or aggravated gravel may necessitate an operation, or the administration of internal remedies to dissolve the deposit, such as dilute hydrochloric acid. Horses should be allowed drinks in abundance, so as to relieve the local irritation, which may consist of a decoction of linseed or simple mucilage.

The timely administration of enemata is of great service in cases of constipation, colic, &c., in cattle and horses. When no better appliance is at hand, a pair of common bellows answers the purpose. The nozzle should be greased before insertion, and the bellows reversed with the air valve uppermost, into which warm water and soap may be poured; the bellows being filled and closed alternately. In cases of spasmodic, colic or torpidity of the bowels, a cold enema, alternated with a warm one, has frequently a good effect. Mustard made into a paste with milk is an excellent counter-irritant in relieving internal pains or inflammation.

Stockholm tar, two parts, lard or tallow one part, melted together, is a good stimulating application to sprains and bruises, &c., and should be more frequently used instead of the indiscriminate use of strong blisters.

One pound each of flour of sulphur, cream of tartar, epsom salts, and sugar, mixed together is an excellent cooling powder. A tablespoonful for a dose occasionally for horses and cattle.

Dentition in the Dog.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Having observed in the first number of your excellent Journal under the heading "Veterinarian," you give useful information in reference to domesticated animals, of general interest, I would feel obliged if you would tell me how to ascertain the age of dogs by their teeth; disputes frequently arise as to the age of dogs at six months, at which age they become subject to the dog tax.—Yours &c.,

CHARLES F. BRADLEY,

Dog Inspector,

Darebin and Merriang Shires.

Authors are not agreed as to the periods of eruption and change in the teeth in domestic animals, as their development is materially influenced by climate, feeding, &c. This important subject is still open for further investigation, especially as regards Australian bred animals, and we would be glad if the owners of kennels would preserve the skulls of dogs whose ages are registered, with the view of forming a correct table; owners of horses and cattle might also preserve the mouths for the same purpose. Specimens forwarded would be carefully classified for the Veterinary Museum.

According to Stonehenge the teeth are developed in two sets; the first, called the milk teeth, showing themselves through the gums about a fortnight or three weeks after birth, and lasting to the fifth or sixth month, when they are displaced by the permanent set, the growth of which is accompanied by much feverishness, which is often mistaken for distemper.

Girard says: "The whole of the milk teeth are usually cut about the 15th day after birth, or very shortly after. Between two and four months old the central incisors, and often even the middle ones, of both the upper and lower jaw drop out, and speedily the whole of the permanent teeth are fully developed, so as to complete the mouth by eight months." The following table will be useful for reference:—

	HORSE.		RUMINANTS.		PIG.		DOG.	
	ERUPTION.	CHANGE.	ERUPTION.	CHANGE.	ERUPTION.	CHANGE.	ERUPTION.	CHANGE.
I. INCISORS.								
Central	Before or a few days after birth.	24 years.	Before or a few days after birth.	14 years.	2-4 mo.	4-6 weeks.	3-4 mo.	
Middle	4-6 weeks.	24 years.	14 days after birth.	24 years.	do.	do.	do.	
Outer-Middle	..	44 years.	2-3 weeks.	44 years.	..	..	..
Lower	4-6 mo.	..	..	..	Before or a few days after birth.	6 months.	5 months.	
II. TUSKES.	4 to 6 yrs.	..	..	..	Before or a few days after birth.	1 year.	5-6 mo.	
III. MOLARS.					Before or a few days after birth.	..	..
1	Before or a few days after birth.	24 years.	Before or a few days after birth.	14 years.	Before or a few days after birth.	2 years.	2-4 mo.	
2	do.	do.	do.	24 years.	do.	do.	4 to 5 weeks.	
3	10-12 mo.	34 years.	do.	34 years.	2-6 mo.	do.	do.	
4	12-12 mo.	..	do.	..	1 year.	do.	do.	
5	4-5 years.	..	4-5 years.	..	14-2 years.	..	..
6	..	..	..	..	3 years.	..	..
Number of Teeth.	Horse 40		Pig 32		Dog 42		Cat 30	

Milch Cows with Sore and Chapped Teats.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The frequent annoyance arising from cows having sore or chapped teats induces me to ask you to prescribe a remedy.

Yours, &c.,
DAIRYMAN.

This a very troublesome complaint, and many remedies are used. The following application is highly recommended by an experienced dairyman; it is worthy of a trial, and should be used regularly after milking, as a preventive as well as a cure:—Soft soap, two parts; glycerine, one part.

Farmers as Woolgrowers.

BY RICHARD BENNETT.

(No. I.)

TWENTY-FIVE years back the sheep in Victoria were almost exclusively owned by the squatter, the runs were unfenced, and the flocks tended by shepherds. In course of time the lands were thrown open for selection and conditional purchase, largely curtailing the squatters' pasturage and limiting his flocks; yet, since that time, the sheep have increased to an unprecedented extent, and this is mainly due to the selectors who have now developed into substantial farmers and graziers combined. A man on acquiring a selection naturally looked about for a means to produce an income off his land instantly—he purchased a small flock of sheep, built a brush yard, and his flock were shepherded by his children until his selection was fenced in when they could run at large; in time he got a few acres under crop, cleared his bush land, and with the timber subdivided his holding into suitable paddocks. Without the aid of his sheep he would, in all probability, have been at least two years without deriving any income off his land to pay expenses, rent, etc.; and as very many had no more capital than enabled them to purchase their working stock to start with, their woolly friends rendered valuable assistance—every acre of their land was made self-paying, and, until the last year or two, they realised fair prices for their wool, and up to the present very good prices for their sheep. The increase and wool in the majority of cases paid all their working expenses from the start—an end they could not have attained by any other means, therefore the sheep may truly be called the "Farmers' Friend;" but while their flocks have increased in number the quality and character of their wool has not improved in a corresponding degree—quantity, not quality, appears to have been their aim. Much of this neglect is directly traceable to the almost total abandonment of Farmers' Clubs, whose places, without their utility, have been usurped by district Agricultural and Pastoral Societies. Farmers' Clubs may strictly be termed Mutual Improvement Societies, whose members meet together to discuss questions brought forward by individual members on topics of general interest. Agricultural Societies are represented by a committee, whose principal functions are to discuss and arrange programmes, etc., for Shows, Ploughing Matches, Horse Parades, etc., etc. It may be urged that these Societies or Associations are open to all competitors; true, but as far as sheep and the character of their wool are concerned, the exhibits are mostly confined to a select few of large and wealthy breeders, against whom the farmer, knowing well he has no chance of competing, keeps his sheep at home. The time has now arrived when it is imperative, owing to the large supplies of wool thrown upon the home and continental markets, to bestow incessant care

CORRESPONDENCE.

From J. McKean, thanking the Council for having elected him an hon. member of the Society. Received.

From J. Finlay, asking the Council to forward a letter to the General Traffic Manager of the Victorian Railways, conveying the Society's high appreciation of the manner in which visitors were conveyed to and from the late show.

Mr. McGregor moved that a vote of thanks, in terms of this letter, be conveyed to the Railway Department. Seconded by Mr. Brisbane, and carried.

Mr. Gibb moved that a vote of thanks be recorded to the Press for the efficient way they had reported the show, and for the special prominence given to the exhibition. Seconded by Mr. Brunton, and carried.

From Belfast Society, asking the Council to nominate two judges of draught horses, and one of cattle.

Mr. J. G. Brisbane was nominated for cattle, and Messrs. W. Grant, Romsey, John Bell, Kangaroo Ground, and J. Symington, for horses.

From D. Munro and Co., suggesting that the trial of earth scoops, for Sir W. J. Clarke's special prizes, be postponed till Cup week. The Secretary stated that the Hon. T. F. Cumming had also spoken to him on the matter, and suggested that the trial should be postponed till about Cup week.

Mr. McGregor moved that a Committee consisting of the President, with Messrs. Brunton, McGregor, Finlay and Mitchell be appointed to make all arrangements in connection with the trial. Seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

From W. Murphy, Secretary Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Society, N. Z., and Editor of the Society's Journal, in reply, forwarding copy of Herd Book, and stating he was glad to learn the Society purposed publishing a journal. He said the editor would probably find it as he did, no easy matter to keep it up, as farmers, as a rule, were so apathetic in supplying information, that it was only by constantly worrying them, that they could be got to contribute useful information. He considered it a disgrace that the Society had no authoritative Herd Book for Victoria. It would be heavy work now to get the material for such a work, of a thoroughly reliable character. It took him eighteen months' hard work to establish the authenticity of all the pedigrees sent in for his book, and nothing could be done without a complete set of Coates's English Herd Book, for the purpose of testing the accuracy or otherwise of English pedigrees. He had placed the Society on his list of exchanges, and hoped to receive the Society's journal in return. Received.

From Clunes and Talbot United Agricultural Society, asking co-operation with a view to obtaining an increase of the grant-in-aid to Agricultural Societies, from £15,000 to £20,000, by urging on the parliamentary representatives to support such increase.

Mr. Peck moved that the Society co-operate, seconded by Mr. Brunton, and carried.

From Alston and Brown, *re* sanitary arrangements at show grounds. Received.

From J. Thomson, *re* space for exhibits at Colonial and Indian Exhibition. Received.

TENDERS.

Tenders were opened for the supply of gold and silver medals awarded at the show.

Mr. McGregor moved that Mr. T. A. Hansen's tender be accepted. Seconded by Mr. Lobb, and carried.

REPORTS.

The Special Committee appointed to consider the tenders for fencing the trotting track, reported that the tenders received were too high, and they resolved to erect the fence by day labour, as had been done.

Mr. Peck moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. McGregor, and carried.

The Secretary reported that in consequence of a letter received from the secretary of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, arrangements were made with Messrs. Foster and Martin, to supply 50 photographs of groups of exhibits at the show, in duplicate—one set for the Society, and one for the Home Exhibition, for the sum of £50; the Society to pay half the cost, viz., £25, the other half being paid by the Commissioner.

Mr. Munro moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Peck, and carried.

Mr. Peck moved that an advertisement be inserted in the papers, stating that the Society would let the show grounds and boxes to be used for the accommodation of stock, seconded by Mr. Munro, and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Peck—"That the Hon. T. Bent be elected an Honorary Member of the Society."

By Mr. Brunton—"That the bye-laws be altered to allow of each member of the Society having a ballot paper forwarded to him for the election of office bearers."

The Meeting then closed.

The Australasian Mutual Live Stock Insurance Society, Limited.

THE first annual meeting of the shareholders was held on Friday, the 28th ult., Mr. J. L. Dow, M.L.A., in the chair, when the report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted. The central Board of Directors originally comprised five members; two vacancies, however, soon occurred, which were filled up by the appointment of two Sydney gentlemen, who are non-resident and also members of the Sydney Board, so that the whole of the business now rests on the remaining three directors. Branches have been established in Sydney, Adelaide, Tasmania and New Zealand, and the business so far has been satisfactory, although the expenses seem to have been very heavy. In round numbers, £5000 has been expended (exclusive of policies paid of over £3000) in establishing and conducting the business for the past year, during which £12,000 was received. However, a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum was paid, and a balance carried forward to next year. The Society is a very important one to the stockowners of Australia, for advantage may be taken of it to prevent individual loss, and make stock a negotiable security, and no doubt when the advantages it offers are more widely known and appreciated, it will be largely availed of by stockowners, to the mutual benefit of themselves and the institution.

Sugar-making in Queensland.

THE following is from a private letter of a Victorian, who lately visited a sugar plantation in the Burnet River district. On this plantation about 1000 acres are under cane, and the writer was shown through the mills, and saw the whole process of manufacture, which is thus described:—"The cane after having the tops cut off is brought to the mills in trucks (drawn by horses) which run on rails temporarily extended all through the plantations as they are needed, the trucks pass over a weighbridge on their way to the mills, so that the weight of cane crushed is pretty accurately known. On coming alongside the mills the cane is toppled off the trucks into an excavation and on to elevators, which carry up a body of cane about six feet wide by three deep, on each side of which a Kanaka boy stands with a large knife cutting the straggling pieces, and picking out any inferior piece of cane as it passes up to go through the first rollers, which are very heavy. In this process, the greater portion of the juice is crushed out, after which it passes on to a second set of rollers equally heavy with the first, and while going through these, a continual stream of water is pouring gently on it to wash the juice completely out of it. This mixture of water and juice passes off below and joins the pure juice, the whole passing into large vats to be mixed with lime and allowed to settle, the sediment is let away below, and the clear juice made still clearer by passing it through charcoal filters. It is afterwards boiled in a vacuum, (it boils at a lower temperature in a vacuum than when air is admitted, which it seems is an advantage) and after being boiled awhile, it is filtered again and reboiled till it granulates, when it is let down into boiler-shaped pots lined inside with copper gauze netting. When it is put in here, these pots are made to circulate about 2,000 times a minute which causes the moisture to pass through the netting, and the sugar gets gradually whiter and whiter; water is poured on it while going round, which passes out almost as quickly as put in—it is going round at such a terrific rate. When the pot is stopped the sugar is all sticking round the sides—this sugar is called "The Firsts," being of the best quality and cleanest. The stuff which goes through the netting is worked up again into seconds and thirds; the sugar is in reality made now, but it has to go through the drying process to make it ready for the bags at once. After coming out of the pots it is passed up in elevators to the drying room, in which it is made to pass round and fall upon a heated cylinder, going in at one end and coming out perfectly dry at the other, after which it is let down into bags below. They reckon it takes about seven hours from the time the cane goes in at the rollers till the sugar from it is in the bags.

Almost every part of the cane is utilised. After it has gone through the second rollers it is reduced to a pulp, called magass—quite dry—and is passed along by labour-saving appliances to the loft over the furnaces, into which it is let down through trap doors as required, and acts as a fuel. The tops of the cane are cut into chaff and fed to the horses, and it is said to be grand feed—very fattening.

THE Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has announced from the pulpit his acceptance of the doctrine of evolution. "I quite incline to the belief," he says, "that man is, in the order of nature, in analogy with all the rest of God's work, and that there was a time when he stepped ahead of his fellow animals. The descent or ascent, as the case may be, of man from the great family of apes is not yet proved, but, as a hypothesis, I hold it, and hold it in suspense, awaiting further light." Mr. Beecher is between 70 and 80 years of age, but his mind is as receptive of new truths as ever it was.

and attention, not only to the breeding of sheep, but likewise to the maintenance of uniformity and character of the wool. Is there one farmer in a hundred who ever culls and classes his breeding ewes and selects rams suited to produce a staple in favour with buyers, and if such does attempt to cull and class, does he know how? if he does, he must have a knowledge of wool far beyond the average of his fellows. No time is more propitious than the present for inaugurating a thorough reformation. Our Australian Sheepbreeders' Association is doing good work in developing the best stock obtainable, the increase of which are yearly becoming more and more within the reach of farmers. In order to promote a reformation in the management of farmers' flocks, I will make the following suggestions:—

In every district let a Farmers' Club be established, the members of which should assemble frequently, not for business of a routine character, but for mutual improvement; in a large district there are many to be found with a knowledge of sheep and wool far surpassing the others—such would confer a lasting benefit by giving his experiences, either by reading a paper, or otherwise enlightening the members of the Club. Another very important suggestion I have to make is the great facility small woolgrowers possess in having their flocks professionally classed and culled, just prior to the shearing season, by arrangement with known and accredited wool classers, who annually visit the district to class the wool in the sheds of the large woolgrower. A classer could come down to a district in which he has a shed to class, say two or three weeks prior to shearing. This is generally a slack time among woolscourers, and competent men are easily available. The farmer and his sons, if he have any, by being present would in time become sufficiently competent to do the work themselves, provided they possessed an average amount of intelligence; at all events they would be shown what class of sheep and wool to select in future purchases. The remuneration of a classer would be infinitesimal in comparison with the advantages gained. Another very serious drawback in farmers' flocks is the too mixed classes of sheep all running together—uniformity in breed and character is the one great essential in good breeding and management. Then comes the get-up and despatch of their wool to market. So proverbial has the slovenly, any-how, get-up of average farmers' clips become, that special days are set apart for its sale by the Melbourne Woolbrokers, ostensibly for the convenience of metropolitan woolscourers, who are the principal buyers, but more in reality because if placed beside known brands of superior station wool, its inferiority in get-up would be so much more marked and apparent than when opened for inspection with others of its class.

Sheep husbandry on farms requires to be conducted with skill and good management. On every Agricultural Society's programme is to be found the stereotyped list of prizes for sheep. Why not include in the list the best managed and improved sheep farm? The farmer receives much more from the sheep than its carcase and wool; they fertilise his land, for, besides distributing manure evenly, they act as a roller, breaking down the clods and rendering the surface smooth and even, preparing it for the plough. I would not, on any account, advise a farmer to rear many wether lambs, he will realise as much for them from the butcher as if he kept them till they are two years old, and their place is better supplied with good breeding ewes. As I am writing for the benefit of farmers generally, without reference to districts, I would impress upon them a close study of the adaptability of the breed of sheep to the climate and pasture of their several localities. Merino sheep on our cold, wet, western coast pastures, would result in disappointment; the various grades of crossbreds are to be made adapt-

able to almost any climate in Victoria, as the nearer you approach the Murray and Wimmera, the closer you can cross with the merino, though those districts are essentially the home of the latter. In my next article I purpose going fully into the subject of sheep breeding by farmers, showing them the most judicious crosses to establish for the different districts, and trust, as my information is given from years of thorough practical experience as a sheep manager, divested of all theory, it will be accepted as reliable.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Breeding Stock Shows.

WE shall reprint from the *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland* the able and exhaustive article under the above heading, written by William Macdonald, editor *North British Agriculturist*, Edinburgh. The paper, which is of considerable length, will be continued through succeeding numbers of this journal, and it will be found well worthy of perusal. —Editor.

SUCH is the title of a paper which the Committee of the Highland and Agricultural Society on Publications invited me to write for the *Transactions* of that venerable and influential institution. Though literally the paper is limited to breeding stock, it is presumed there will be no objections to fat shows being also embraced. Accordingly, with the Committee's and the Editor's permission, it is intended to include fat exhibitions in our discussion of the whole subject of live stock showing. We hasten, however, to explain that the Society's invitation was not accepted in the hope of the writer being able to throw much light on the subject to the comparatively few breeders and others, who have for many years watched with an intelligent eye the effect that successful and even unsuccessful exhibition of stock has had upon stud, herd, and flock. Those observant members of the agricultural community referred to have doubtless formed their own opinions on the question under discussion. Our object will be accomplished if, in the views and arguments expressed further on, we are nearly in accord with the conclusions of the breeders and others just alluded to, and should succeed in riveting the attention of the many owners and occupiers of land who have not had so much experience of stock showing as some of their brethren.

In the remarks which are to follow we make no great pretensions. Nor have we deemed it desirable to collect and embody here in detail the views and experience of leading agriculturists. We simply intend to discuss the showing system, with its *pros.* and *cons.*, and to record our own experience and observations, which extend over nearly a quarter of a century. One reason why we did not collect and print here the experiences of the more noteworthy breeders and exhibitors of stock is, that the views about to be expressed are in some measure the result of a free and frequent exchange of opinion on the matter with many of the foremost exhibitors of their day during the last twenty years; that is to say, the conclusions at which we have arrived are attributable to interchange of opinion with some of the highest agricultural showyard authorities, as well as to the observations of the writer himself, extending over a pretty long period of showyard attendance. It might be too much to expect that the following pages will be edifying to those who have watched and weighed the showyard system in all its bearings for many years, but the large number who have not been so long in harness we may aspire to interest, if not altogether to instruct and guide.

Often has it been stated in our hearing by practical agriculturists, that the exhibition of stock, in the style in which breeding animals have been prepared for the national shows during the last thirty odd years, has been positively injurious, and should not be encouraged—in fact, should be stopped. We never could quite see that, and before this article is finished it is to be hoped reasons will be given of a convincing nature for the opinion the writer entertains. Frankly will it be conceded that the preparation of stock for—especially the breeding, but also the fat—shows of the last twenty to thirty years has been carried in many instances to excess. It has been so in some cases by those who might have been supposed to know what they were about, but it has been so more remarkably

still by those who were not thoroughly acquainted with what they were doing. Men have attempted to bring out stock for national and leading shows who were comparatively ignorant of what was required, and worse still, possibly young and inexperienced but enthusiastic breeders have fattened by far too many of their animals for the showyard. In the selection of beasts to subject to what undoubtedly is a trying ordeal, there has in hundreds if not thousands of cases been a lack of discrimination and judgment.

Because young and reckless breeders and feeders have largely overshot the mark, is our whole showyard system to be condemned? We do not think so. Shows and showing have been characterised as the ruin of many a man. Some may have been ruined in that way, but not very many. The pampering of stock for exhibition, however, has unquestionably been a losing game to many a farmer. If resorted to judiciously, and not on a too extensive scale, there need not be much if any direct loss, and there certainly will be indirect gain in most instances. As things have gone during the last twenty or more years, however, there is only too much reason to fear that in some instances the beneficial results of showing, either directly or indirectly, have been almost *nil*. Losses have undoubtedly been incurred, but with a little more experience and better judgement they might have been modified, if not averted.

The pampering of stock that never should have been selected for such a purpose, and the fattening of by far too many animals by young but aspirant breeders, have done more probably than anything else to engender a feeling in certain quarters against shows and showing. Beasts have in numerous instances been set aside for the high pressure system of fattening, and have been subjected to that treatment without due regard having been paid to the constitution, and occasionally also the breeding value, of the animals. Dissatisfaction is very apt to follow. Should our great national shows be on that account abandoned? The reply, in the writer's opinion, and in that of many others, is in the negative. If the preparation of stock for the shows has been overdone or abused, the exhibition system remains comparatively intact in principle. The mark, so to speak, may have been often missed; indiscretions may have been committed in the preparation of stock for show, but the exhibition system in its essential features can be defended nevertheless. A defence of it we mean to offer, though not without considering and representing the objections that may fairly be taken to it.

Before, however, embarking on the advantages and disadvantages of shows, as carried on during the last thirty or more years, let us very briefly direct the reader's attention to the history of stock showing in this country. It is chiefly confined to the present century. The Edinburgh Society for the encouragement of Arts, Sciences, Manufactures, and Agriculture, at its show in 1757, awarded a prize for the best draught stallion, and also a premium for the best fat calves. This is the earliest live stock competition in Scotland of which any record has come under our eye. The Highland Society, as stated in Mr. Ramsay's *History of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*, began its assistance to district shows so early as 1789. In that year the Highland Society offered a seven guinea gold medal for the best Highland bull belonging to a proprietor or farmer in Argyllshire. The competition took place at Connell, parish of Kilmore, on 20th October. The same year smaller prizes were offered for the best bulls in several outlying districts of that county. The Highland Society's first general show was on a small scale at Edinburgh in 1822, when only cattle and sheep were shown—59 entries of the former and 89 of the latter, with £78 as prize money. Several county or district associations, however, as already stated, had held shows of live stock before that year. The Garioch Farmer's Club, in the centre of Aberdeenshire, for example, formed in 1808, held its first live stock show in 1811. The Morayshire Farmers' Club started shows about the same time, while the Fettercairn and other societies farther south were a few years afterwards in the field. Regarding the Morayshire Farmers' Club, its first meeting, we are informed, was held in 1798, but, so far as the minute book narrates, there must have been a blank shortly after the year 1800. At a meeting of the Club, held on 18th January, 1822, it was recommended that another cattle show, for breeding stock only, should be held at Elgin on the first Friday of August. There had thus been a show, or more likely shows, at Elgin before 1822.

The first agricultural show of which there is any record, so far at least as we have been able to trace, was at Neale, in County Mayo, Ireland,

where, in 1750, prizes seem to have been offered for the best yearling cattle, and the best one-year old colts or fillies. This was started by Sir John Brown in connection with a monument to Dean Swift, but there is no record of its success or of it being continued. The oldest existing agricultural society, if we mistake not, in the United Kingdom, is that of the Bath and West of England, which celebrated its centenary meeting by a very successful show at Bath in 1877. Up till 1850, however, that society did not do so much with showyard work as in the dissemination of agricultural literature. In that year it started live stock exhibitions on a wider scale, and has grown gradually since towards national dimensions. There is evidence, however, that before the dawn of the present century the Bath Society, as it was originally termed, and several other English societies, held live stock shows of some kind. In Billingsley's Report on the Agriculture of Somerset, written to the Board of Agriculture in 1795, it is stated that "Mr. White Parsons of Ilchester has exhibited before the Agricultural Society at Bath, for the premium offered by that society, a young bull of his own breeding, together with the sire and dam, of the Devonshire race, and all breeders were challenged by him to produce at the said exhibition any three of equal value for stock, but no competition appeared, and the premium was deservedly adjudged to him."

The journals of the Bath Society, published towards the close of last century, show that prizes were offered for stock almost every year at an annual meeting in December. Both fat and lean sheep and cattle as well as horses were recognised.

The early competitions with live stock in England were on a small scale compared with the later exhibitions. To a well-known authority in English agricultural literature, Mr. Joseph Darby, we are indebted for the appended extracts and jottings, which indicate that shows of some kind had been carried on in several parts of England during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The late Edmond Black, advocating the establishment of the Bath Society founded in 1777, wrote a letter to the *Farmers' Magazine*, pointing out that agricultural societies existed then at Norwich, York, Manchester, and Brecon. In another issue of the same publication, it is stated that the Duke of Richmond presided over a meeting of the Sussex Agricultural Society at Lewes on 1st August, 1777, when premiums were offered for several things connected with agriculture. On that occasion the following prizes were offered:—"To the person who shall produce the best two-year old bull, bred upon land in his own occupation, silver cup, value 5 guineas; for the best two-year old ram, etc., the same premium; for the best four-year old colt or filly, same premium. N.B.—The three large premiums will be adjudged at Lewes the last day of the next races, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon." In the *Farmers' Magazine* for the same year there is a list of premiums offered by the Richmond Agricultural Society, Yorkshire, twenty in number, of which six were for the best specimens of farm stock of different kinds. There is also a list of the prizes offered by the Barotry Society, amongst which were premiums for the best longhorned bull, best longhorned heifer; best shorthorned bull, and best shorthorned heifer.

The development of the exhibition system was slow, as was the progress of trade and commerce, until after 1840. By that time, however, agricultural societies, and shows in connection therewith, had been established in almost every county, not only in Scotland, but in England. The Royal Agricultural Society of England held its first show in Oxford in 1839, by which time the Highland Society's Shows, and the Smithfield Club Fat Shows in London, had attained considerable dimensions. Year by year, from 1840 onwards, shows gradually grew in numbers and in extent. The more rapid strides were accomplished from 1854 to 1865, which was a period of agricultural prosperity. The reader is now brought to a comparatively modern era, during which most people know that tolerably successful exhibitions of stock have covered the whole kingdom, if not indeed the whole of the civilised world.

Is it possible that any system, bad or unsound in principle, could have, in the second half of the nineteenth century, grown and prospered as live stock shows have undoubtedly done in the United Kingdom, as well as in other parts of the world, since 1850? The answer should be obvious. It is surely very improbable that the leading men connected with agriculture during the present century should have united to foster a system calculated to injure rather than promote the interests which were so near and dear to

them. It may with some truth be said that the disadvantages of live stock shows are, comparatively speaking, discoveries of yesterday; that is to say, that any evils with which the system may be associated have only latterly developed themselves. We are not to dispute that statement, but we believe it can be shown that the drawbacks are still considerably short of the benefits of even the modern showyard. Moreover, it should not be difficult to prove that the adverse influences or effects of shows can, with the exercise of a little more discretion on the part of exhibitors, be largely mitigated, without in the slightest impairing the character of the exhibitions. Admitting, then, that the showyard system of modern dimensions has been fraught with certain disadvantages and discouragements, we again assert that these prove light in the scales against the benefits. Before describing the benefits of live stock exhibiting in modern, or we should rather say present times, it is proper that some account should be given of what the competitive system has done for the agriculture, especially the stock breeding, rearing, and fattening interests of this country.

The first question, then, that naturally crops up for consideration is, would the agriculture of the kingdom have been in its present advanced state practically, if live stock shows had never been established? With perfect confidence, we reply in the negative; nay more, we assert that both breeding and fat shows have contributed immensely to the great improvement which has been achieved in the course of the last half century in the production of beef and mutton. But for the existence of shows—national and local, fat and breeding—where would many of the leading herds of the present day have been, and what opportunities would breeders and feeders have had of educating themselves and of comparing notes? The answer must be plain and evident to everybody who has studied the subject in its full bearings.

Started, as shows in many parts of the country were, at a time—between 1810 and 1850—when notably, of course, in the earlier portion of the period, the agriculture of the country was in a comparatively crude state, the stimulus they imparted to rural industry was pronounced and great. The rivalry which the offering of prizes for the best animals of the various classes encouraged, has been productive of much good. It has been so as between one competitor and another, but the salutary effects do not end there. They extend far beyond the ranks of the competitors, though they are not inconsiderable there. This brings us to a very important point, and that is the educative effects of live stock exhibitions outside even the extensive ranks of pedigree stock breeders and of Smithfield show competitors. The full magnitude of this educational establishment, so to speak, is not easily ascertained, but all must admit it is considerable.

Those who attend showyards usually find them instructive, even at the present time, but thirty or forty years ago the information imparted by live stock and agricultural implement exhibitions was more emphatic, and probably more serviceable than now. That arose not so much from the character of the displays as from the condition of the public mind on these matters—the necessity for instruction—existing at the time. Shows, both national and local, particularly the former, have for many years been schools of agriculture. That being so, any defeats that the exhibition system may have should be all the more readily overlooked.

(To be Continued.)

Extracts.

MEAT INSPECTION.

We have for years insisted upon the necessity for employing only competent veterinary surgeons as flesh inspectors, instead of medical men and others who are unfitted for such an important duty. In many of the Continental States this necessity is fully recognised and acted upon, and the inspectors of butchers stalls and abattoirs are well-trained veterinarians. Spain is a country which is supposed to be rather backward in sanitary affairs, but now it is ahead of us in this respect. The *Lancet* informs us that the veterinary surgeons of the province of Cordova, having complained to the Spanish Royal Council of Health because the local authorities had appointed as inspectors of food two medical men, instead of members of their own body, whom they considered best fitted for such duties, the Royal Council replied that there was no doubt that veterinarians

ought to be appointed to inspect meat, but that there was no law, and not even a uniformity of custom, concerning the appointment of inspectors of other articles of food. It was, however, a subject which ought to be settled, and therefore the Council resolved to advise the Government to make the following regulations:—(1) That the inspection of warm-blooded animals, dead or alive, fresh or preserved, should be exclusively in the hands of veterinarians; (2) that the inspection of all other articles of food sold in markets, including cold-blooded animals, should be committed indiscriminately to medical men or to pharmacists; (3) that both classes of inspectors be irremovable from their posts, except from grave cause. The Royal assent was given to the above-mentioned recommendations, which have just appeared in the *Official Gazette*.

THE RABBIT PLAGUE OF AUSTRALIA.—Consul-General Spencer, of Melbourne, referring to the multiplication of rabbits in the colonies, which has become a veritable plague, states that from a single pair introduced for the amusement of sportsmen there are now millions. In some instances, squatters have been compelled to relinquish their sheep runs, and to abandon their holdings. The advance of the rabbit is as noiseless and persistent as that of the dreaded phylloxera. Crossing rivers and mountain ranges, they are steadily penetrating into the interior and it is to be feared that before long they will probably be found in every part of the colonies, occasioning heavy losses to the agriculturist and grazier, and involving expenditure for their partial suppression that will amount to millions sterling. To exterminate the pest all the known appliances of modern science have been brought to bear, with the result, in some localities, of only checking its steady advance. Traps, poison, fire-arms, deadly gases, the dog, the dingo, and the mongoose have been brought into requisition, but hitherto with only partial or indifferent success. Government aid has been invoked, and the Parliaments of Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales have already voted nearly £210,000 for the extirpation of the plague, and in all probability will have to expend many thousands more, even to keep it within moderate bounds. When, to this sum, is added the expenditure of private individuals in the colonies named as well as Tasmania and New Zealand, it will be seen that the outlay, both past and prospective, is enormous. According to the report of the Chief Inspector of Stock in New South Wales, no less than 700,000 acres in that colony are infested with rabbits. On 27 sheep runs they are said to be increasing; and decreasing on 36 stations and 44 sheep runs. About 115 men, under the supervision of inspectors, have latterly been employed in trapping and poisoning, and they are stated to have destroyed immense numbers. Of the various means employed in exterminating the rabbits, the most efficient are trapping and poisoning, phosphorised oats and sulphide of carbon having been found especially effective. Latterly, some specimens of the mongoose have been imported from Colombo, and after being kept in confinement for some time, were turned out on some large estates in those districts in Victoria and New South Wales where the rabbits are most numerous, and it is stated that the result of the experiment has been most favourable. Consul Spencer says that one result of this plague of rabbits has been to open up new channels of trade, and develop new industries. From Victoria alone, during the year 1882, 4,929,432 rabbit skins were exported; and from New Zealand, 9,198,837, of the aggregate value of £132,000.

DR. CRUPELL, professor of hygiene in the University of Rome, has been investigating the nature of the malaria which renders the Campagna uninhabitable for four or five months out of the year. It is not, he says, the result of miasmatic exhalations, but of microscopic organisms, bred in the earth, carried into the atmosphere, and inhaled by man. Moisture in the air is indispensable to their presence and activity, and droughts destroy them. During the exceptionally dry seasons of 1881 and 1882 there was no malaria. He recommends the use of arsenic as a preventive, and, acting upon his advice, the Southern Italian Railway Company administers daily doses of that drug to the labourers in its employment. According to the company's medical officer, the result of the experiment has been this—out of 445 men who took a dose of arsenic daily, 338 were either cured of fever already contracted, or were protected against attack; in 48 cases no effect was noticeable; and in 74 the efficacy of the agent was doubtful.

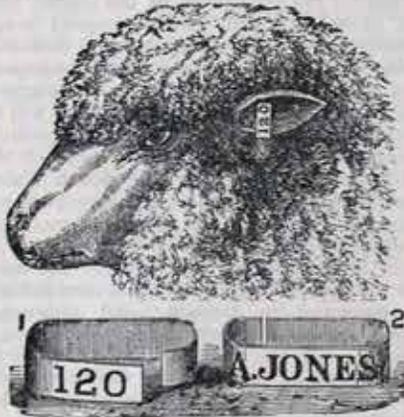
A HIDEOUS fact has been brought to light by a letter from "Quida" in *The Times*. It is that in the city of Naples every animal whose skin possesses any commercial value is flayed alive. She writes:—"Old horses, young kids, and lambs, all dogs, cats, and rats are all skinned alive, because the skin when removed from the living creature is considered more supple and sells for a somewhat higher price. Dogs are seized by legalised municipal dog stealers twice a day, are thrust pell-mell into a court, kept two days without food, and then half-stunned with a stick, and while living flayed from head to tail. Horses in the knackers' yards are there allowed to drop from hunger as being less trouble than killing them, and utterly exhausted, are nailed on planks and flayed."

THE Premier has, at the request of the Department of Agriculture, placed himself in communication with the New South Wales authorities on the question of facilitating the admission into New South Wales of Tasmanian sheep which have been brought into Victoria. A quarantine of eighteen days is required by New South Wales to guard against the introduction of scab. It is suggested by the Victorian Department of Agriculture that this requirement should be relaxed in the case of Tasmanian sheep which have passed through Victoria, and have been dipped twice in a solution of lime and sulphur. The South Australian and Queensland authorities consider this a sufficient safeguard against the introduction of scab, and allow Tasmanian sheep to be landed if the Victorian inspector of stock certifies that the sheep have been twice dipped.

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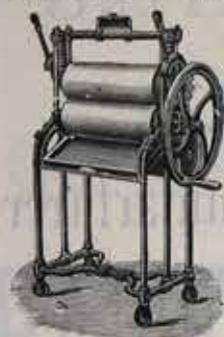
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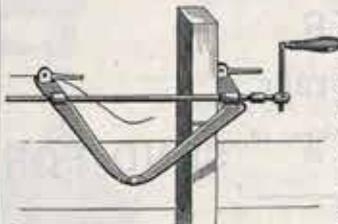
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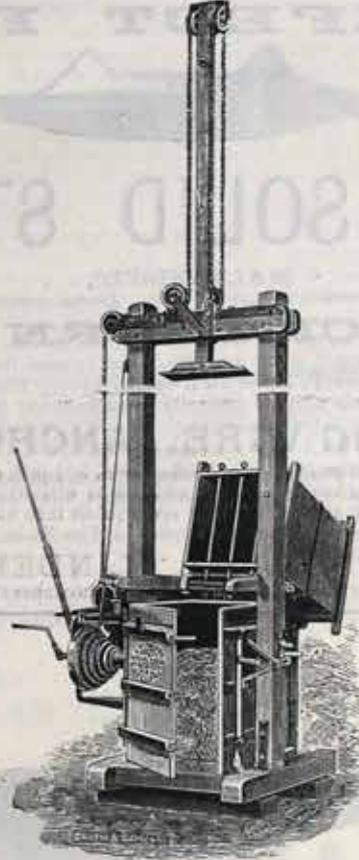
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THE usual screw is dispensed with, and the pressure brought to bear by means of a strong rope or chain, working in sheave pulleys overhead, attached to a Ram, and winding on a fusee, which is made in the shape of a suddenly tapered screw.

The rope works on the large part of the Fusee, when the pressure is light, and passes down to the taper end as the pressure increases, being worked by a lever fixed on the centre spindle.

The top Box is hinged to side Brackets, and turns down on to the floor, which greatly facilitates the putting in of the wool, and renders any second floor unnecessary, and when filled is easily placed back in position.

When the bale is pressed and the sides down, the Ram is lifted by a small rope from the Fusee, turned by a handle.



It will be understood how very much quicker the power is brought into application by this means than by the ordinary SCREW PRESS, and double the work is got through by the same number of men.

Special attention is directed to the fastening of the Packs before the Wool is put in, which is done in an exceedingly quick and simple manner; four pieces of wood are fitted into the recesses of doors, which hold the Pack securely in position and to the side catches for fastening the doors, which are held in position by a vertical bar, and relieves them simultaneously.

The side door is also held in its place by a catch, which at any time can be relieved instantly, the door falling back and allowing the bale to be removed.

At the Melbourne Exhibition Competition this PRESS turned out 3 Bales of Scoured Wool in 28½ minutes, being considerably less than any other Press, although one had the advantage of being driven by steam.

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Dear Sirs,—It gives us much pleasure to inform you that Ferrier's Patent Wool-Press has exceeded our expectations. Before ordering we had in use one of Mr. Ferrier's self-made presses, and liked it well. We have seen the Travelling Screw Presses, which cost double the amount, but we would not exchange, as the Press we have is easier worked and takes up less room.

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JOHN KELSALL.

To Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—The Ferrier's Patent Lever Wool-Press I had from you this season I used at Wurrong, Camperdown, and I found it simple and most satisfactory in its working.

December 30th, 1878.

THOMAS SHAW.

To Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—The Wool-Press I got from you is working very well, and is much admired by all who have been to see it at work, a great number having called. Such Presses should suit the large sheds in Riverina well, and if your Press was used there I think it would be soon in universal use in the larger sheds. I am turning out about 35 Bales a day with two men, but if they had a third man to sew the two sides of the Bale after coming from the Press, they could do about 45 Bales a day.

Muntham, October 27th, 1880.

JOSEPH B. PEARSON.

Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Vulcan Foundry, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—In reference to the Ferrier's Patent Press which you sent to us in October last, on the condition that if we did not approve of it after a Season's work we should be at liberty to return it. We are happy to be able to state that our Pressers speak highly of the speed and efficiency of the Machine, and that we are therefore willing to retain and pay you for it.

December 30th, 1880.

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The Fans are constructed on the Turbine principle, being so curved that each one passes the wind on to the next, thus getting all the power out of it. The wind glides through them like a stream of water, following the curve, and still using its momentum, until its escape, so that none of the force is lost. This peculiar construction of the wheel causes it to give more power than any other wheel of the same diameter in the market.

The Engine is self-regulating. The first sharp gust will blow it edge on to the wind, and it will then weather the fiercest gale without injury, and drop back to work again as soon as it is over.

The Governing Device is very simple. It can be adjusted to make from 20 revolutions per minute to 60 in a moderate wind, and without blowing out of gear, and will always blow out in a gale. There is also provision for changing the length of stroke.

Special attention is paid to the construction of the Machinery or Engine proper, only the very best materials being used. Polished shafting and babbitt-lined boxes with cavity between the bearings in which is placed packing to hold oil, to prevent the necessity of frequent oiling. The pitman bearing is provided with a glass oiler that will hold a week's supply, so it is necessary to oil only when you can see from the ground that the glass oiler is empty.

The great and steadily increasing demand for these Engines is sufficient proof that their quality is unquestionable, and that they are especially adapted for this country, where the hot winds and occasional fierce gales forbid the use of any material liable to be affected thereby. They are now running in all parts of the Colony, and the universal opinion is, that they are the best.

Farmers will do well to remember that for watering stock, irrigating gardens, &c., a good Wind Engine is the most economical, simple, and efficient power that can be used, while for a water supply for domestic purposes or fire prevention it is a most important and valuable adjunct to a residence.

The first cost of the Iron Turbine Wind Engine is practically its only cost. It requires no skilled labor and next to no attention. Regular oiling is all that is necessary to keep it in order for years.

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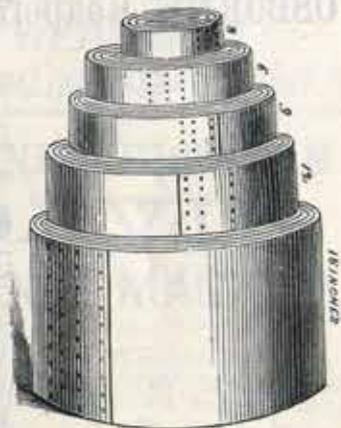
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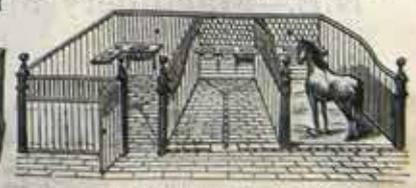
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MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.
Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.
Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 3½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples—it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,
HUGH GORDON.

▶ A PERFECT FENCE. ◀



BUCKTHORN SOLID STEEL FENCE,

(GALVANISED),

Punishes Cattle without damaging them. The only Fence awarded GOLD MEDAL. Annual consumption in the United States and Canada, over 12,000 tons.

THE BUCKTHORN FENCE

Perfectly Galvanised, is not only useful, but also very ornamental, as, by its width, it can be seen from a distance. It makes the employment of top-rails unnecessary. Having almost DOUBLE THE STRENGTH of other barbed wires, it requires FEWER POSTS and is more DURABLE.

THE BUCKTHORN FENCE has been adopted generally throughout any district where it has once been tried.

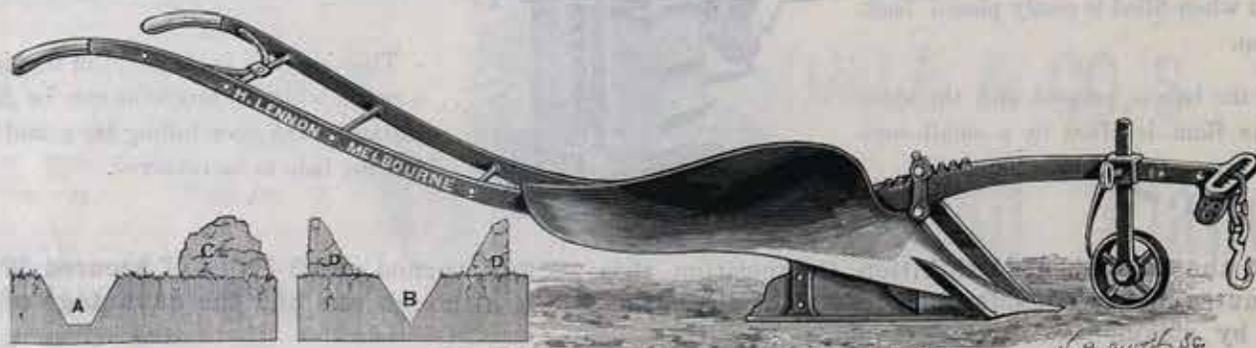
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A WARRANT will be given to Purchasers that the Wire is of the best quality, and that it will stand any test any other brand of Wire will stand. The ANCHOR BRAND Wire at the same time will always be sold at lower prices than any other Wire, the makers being determined to secure the Australian market for themselves. The same applies to Wire Nails. For Prices and Particulars apply to

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World-famed Agricultural Field Implements and Harvesting Machinery

Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes
Three and Four Furrow Ploughs.
Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and dam-sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.
Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators
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All fitted with H. L.'s Patent Wrought Iron Shares. A clear saving of 50 per cent.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



VICTORIA

Vol. I.—No. 3. [Read as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, OCTOBER 16TH, 1885.

GRATIS.

"If 'twere done when 't's done,
Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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Three Crowns Hotel,
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Caterer for the Victorian Racing Club, The National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and the Victorian Coursing Club.

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(LIMITED.)

Millers & Grain Merchants

AND
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS.

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Every description of Agricultural Machinery and Implements,
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Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
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advantageous terms.

£60,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security

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Britannia Bone Mills,
PORT MELBOURNE.

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Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has
received from R. W. Emerson MacIvor—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

23 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my
eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of
detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration
in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,

LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

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The Best, Cheapest, and Safest Dip in the Market.
Used by all the noted Breeders of Sheep
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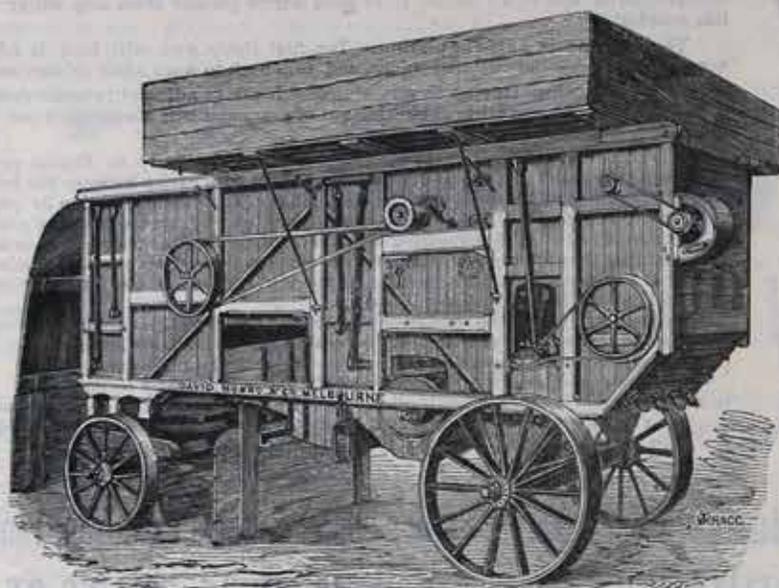
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Importers and Engineers,

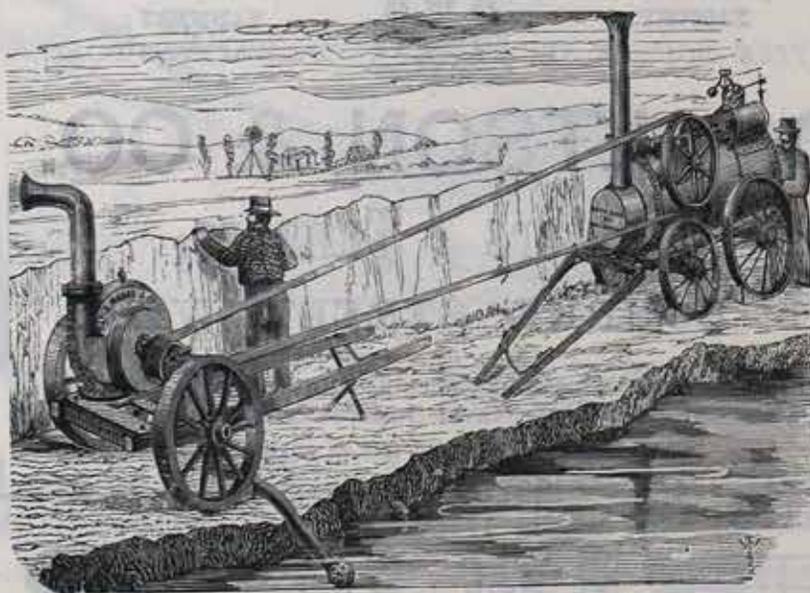
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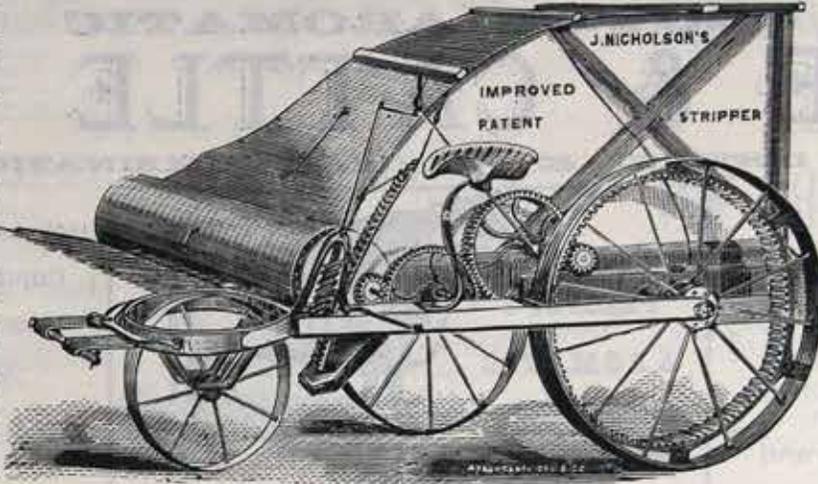
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 FIRST PRIZE, Champion Gold Medal, National Agricultural Show, Melbourne, 1884.
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 FIRST PRIZE, Corowa, N.S.W., Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884.
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 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1883.
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 FIRST PRIZE, Longford, Tasmania, Show, 1883.
 GOLD MEDAL, Shepparton Field Trial, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
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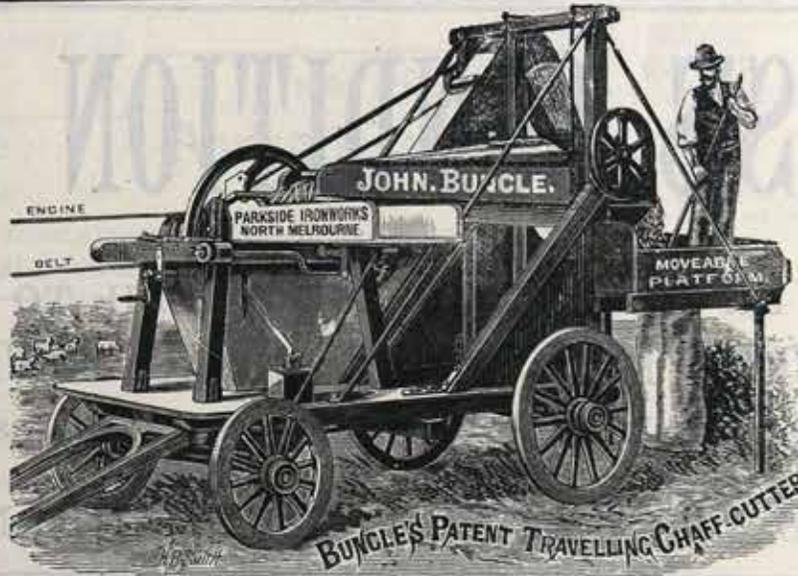
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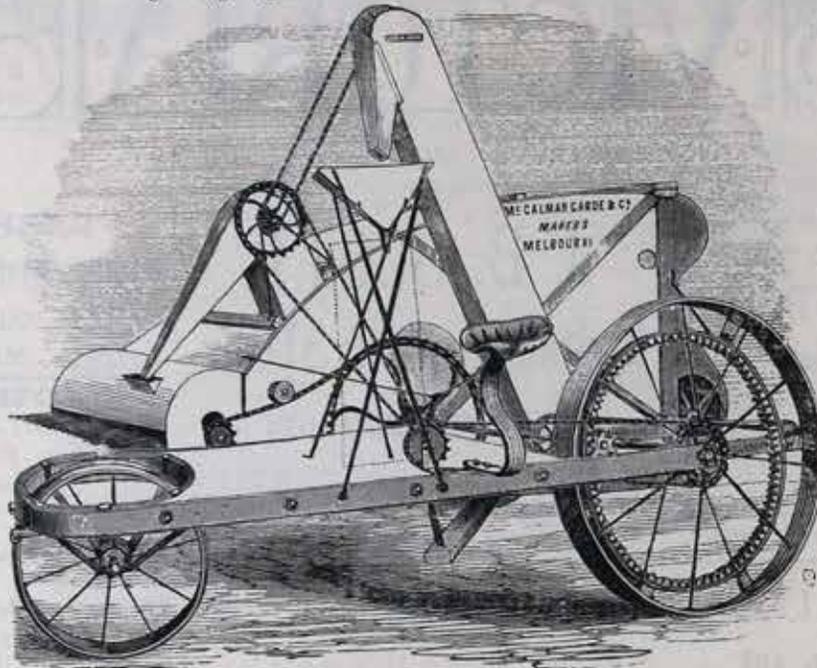
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APPLY—
THOMAS PATTERSON,
SECRETARY.
Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
requested to forward to the editor the dates on
which their respective exhibitions will be held,
also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
they are published.

OCTOBER.

- 20.—Koroit.
- 21 and 22.—Bendigo Society, at Sandhurst.
- 21 and 22.—North-eastern and Goulburn
Valley, at Tatura.
- 21 and 22.—Hampden and Heytesbury, at
Camperdown.
- 28.—Seymour and Nagambie, at Nagambie.
- 28.—Castlemaine.
- 29 and 30.—Geelong and Western District.
- 29.—Rutherglen.
- 30.—Euroa.

NOVEMBER.

- 10.—Bacchus Marsh Society, at Maddingley.
- 12.—Heathcote.
- 12 and 13.—Smeaton.
- 19.—Traralgon.
- 19.—Kilmore.
- 19.—Hardies Hill, at Grenville.
- 25.—Sale.
- 26.—Kyneton.

DECEMBER.

- 2.—South Gippsland, Port Albert.

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WRITE FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES.

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, OCTOBER 16th, 1885.

Judging at Shows.

THOSE who have had experience in carrying out exhibitions are aware that to secure judges whose decisions give general satisfaction is the most difficult matter in connection with a show. Other obstacles may be surmounted; for it is possible by energy and good management to almost insure that the arrangements shall be perfect, but that the judging shall be so is, under the present system of appointing three honorary judges, a matter apparently beyond the control of the Society. How often is it found that after a committee has done its best disinterestedly to select good judges, glaring mistakes are made—mistakes which are at once apparent to the stewards in the class—who, by the way, are often better judges than those who are acting. We have heard a steward who has just come from a ring say, "They are making a fearful mess of judging up there," and on asking, "Are they?" he has replied, "Oh, awful!" And this same steward, who was not an exhibitor, had been mainly instrumental as a committeeman in the appointment of those very judges. We can readily believe that when such cases as this occur, an exhibitor, who is dissatisfied with results, and who wishes to ascertain the reasons for his defeat, may meet with the extraordinary experience thus humorously narrated by Mr. Lennon, in a paper he once read on Agricultural Shows:—"He meets No. 1 judge, purely accidentally of course, who recognises him as an old friend, or, it may be, a near neighbour; he soothes him by saying, 'I was one judge against two, and therefore powerless.' The unsuccessful competitor moves on his way, wondering what pique the other two judges could have against him or his exhibits. He meets judge No. 2, who is the first to remark, 'I was a judge to-day, but never again will I act in the same capacity. Why, Sir, you are not beaten—you are robbed of your just rights.' The climax is reached when the unsuccessful competitor meets No. 3 judge, who says 'he is thoroughly disgusted at the decision of his two fellow judges,' and with a countenance full of contempt, he philosophically advises his unfortunate friend never to show again, or, getting warmer, with righteous indignation, he advises him to go straight and challenge the first prize winner for a 'fifty' to a test of quality under impartial judgment, adding with a knowing wink

that he will go halves in the result." Now, a judging system under which such a state of affairs as the foregoing is possible is very unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, since their first establishment all the Agricultural Societies of the colony have, as a rule, elected three honorary judges to award the prizes at their shows, and though in many cases it has been the occasion of much heartburning and loud complaints, the system still obtains. Probably for a number of years it was the only possible one, but circumstances are changing, and people are being educated up to require something better. Agriculturists, however, are usually very conservative, and do not care about altering established customs. They complain a long time before they take action to bring about a change. The complaints with regard to judging have been loud and long, and we have for years heard the desirableness of a change advocated, but no determined effort at amendment has been made. We believe the present system of judging is capable of amendment, and also that such amendment is much required. We visit one show, and note the relative position of exhibits; the following week visit another, where the same exhibits are again displayed, and lo, what a change—the whole positions altered. "Some one had blundered." Under this haphazard style of awarding prizes, which is simply bewildering to beholders, it is impossible that shows can serve to their fullest extent the educational purposes for which they are intended. But, we repeat, the present system of judging is capable of amendment.

With a view to this end, and in order to ventilate the subject, we published two articles bearing on it in the first issue of this Journal. In the first, which was taken from an English paper, it was stated that the Highland Society had introduced a system of having three judges appointed, two to act at a time, the third to be called in only in the case of a disagreement. This "odd man out" to be changed for each section, so that the same two judges would not act together twice consecutively. As the third man was determined each time by ballot it was supposed to preclude exhibitors from knowing beforehand who would adjudicate in the particular section in which they exhibited. The writer of the second article characterised this as a "hide and seek" proceeding, and one, the advantages of which were questionable, in which opinion we concur—although the evident desire on the part of the Society to introduce some improvement on an unpopular system is worthy of commendation. The writer referred to adopts a very "sledge-hammer" style of dealing with the present judging system, so much so that we feel bound to take exception to it, for it must be remembered that under such system the present position of our agricultural societies has been attained. We have endeavoured

to show what may occur while the present arrangement is continued, without, however, wishing to convey the idea that such things do happen on every occasion. The very fact of it still surviving is proof that the system is not always bad—as the writer referred to would have us suppose. Had it been so, it would have been vetoed long ago. Still, it may be improved upon, and we believe that one judge, "one right man," to adjudicate in each class is the remedy for existing evils. There is nothing original in this idea—it is being adopted elsewhere already, and as the drift of modern thought—we might say, agricultural thought—is evidently towards its having a fair trial, anything to advance the idea should be welcomed. It may be said that three good men are better than one, but the difficulty is to get them. A good man frequently declines to act with two others, as his opinion may be overruled by two inferior judges. On the other hand, an inferior judge will now accept office, as he has two others to fall back on, and hence three inferior men will be found in a ring, one of whom would not dare to act alone. We said before that the stewards were often better judges than those on whom they were attending, and will now add that we have frequently seen a steward in a ring whose opinion, if we were about to invest in an animal of the class under adjudication, we would infinitely prefer to that of the three acting judges. Again, when three men are appointed, if there is one good judge amongst them, and he is not afraid to assert himself, he generally takes the lead, and in reality might as well be alone. Experienced judges are well aware that this is the case. It is generally thought that under the single judging system paid professionals only would act. Our recent experience makes us sceptical on this point, as we shall show further on. No doubt paid professional judges would under the single system be evolved in course of time, and as the tendency in these days of payment of members, directors' fees, &c., is to do away with all honorary appointments, societies may anticipate that they also will ere long have to pay all their judges. However, it will not be so difficult to procure honorary judges to act singly as is usually anticipated. We were lately asked by a provincial Society to secure a judge as one of three; and on interviewing the gentleman nominated—who was a regular veteran—he declined the honour, saying he was determined not to act again. On speaking to him in favour of the single judging system, he at once said he would be willing to act alone—in fact, would have no hesitation in accepting the position if the Society would adopt the system of having only one judge. Doubtless his is not an exceptional case. It would be necessary to require a judge to adjudicate only on exhibits in which he was an expert,

which would necessitate the classes being more cut up than at present. Frequently at shows, judges are expected to act on very dissimilar classes—their decisions often being most mystifying—but in single judging an expert might be appointed for each subsection, and still the total number would fall far short of those required under the present system, while the work would be thoroughly well done. Then, each judge's work being limited, the awards would be made early in the day—the prize cards would be attached to exhibits, and the public would be enlightened. We have seen three men brought to a show and kept at work all day, not being finished when some of the exhibits were leaving the yards. The public were dissatisfied, the judges complained of not having seen the show, and the very objects of the exhibition were defeated. All this might be remedied. Again, an expert could give reasons for his decisions, which should be recorded in books specially prepared for the purpose. These records would always be available for reference, and in important cases might be published for the instruction of exhibitors and the public. An expert also would be likely to be a man who would have the courage of his opinion, and one who would not be afraid to turn out an unsound exhibit. Any animal showing the least signs of transmissible unsoundness should never be awarded a prize on any consideration whatever. This is a matter to which sufficient attention has not been given, for anyone who habitually walks through the leading horse mart, and notices the string of horses tied up for sale, will often see animals there with unsoundness, which is evidently theirs by inheritance, and when these are submitted to auction they are said to be the progeny of prize winners. It should be a judge's special care to prevent animals with hereditary unsoundness from taking prizes—indeed, we go further, and say it should be the province of the Society—for, however well such animals may look to a superficial observer, they are worse than useless for stud purposes, as their employment for breeding can only result in vexation and disappointment. A writer in the *Agricultural Gazette* says:—"The subject of veterinary examination at the shows is a matter that has caused considerable discussion and much difference of opinion." But if the services of a veterinary are necessary, by all means have them at any cost rather than that Societies should accredit worthless animals, and so mislead the public. In conclusion, we ask for the single judging system the favourable consideration of all who are interested; and with regard to the single judge, the "one right man," we say—give him a trial.

Keeping Sheep Free from Vermin.

A MOST important branch of sheep husbandry is the keeping of flocks free from vermin such as lice and ticks, and to know how this is to be best accomplished at the least cost, and without injury to either the sheep or their wool. An investigation on this subject was held in New Zealand in 1883 by a committee of the Hawkes Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society, to discover by experiment the best dip for the destruction of parasites in sheep. The trials of eight different specifics were made, principally on sheep affected with lice, and, as was to be expected, with varying results, and the committee narrowed the contest down to two, viz., "Thomas' Carbolic Sheep Dipping Composition" and "Cooper's Dipping Powder." The facts brought out in this inquiry showed that some of these dips are efficacious in the case of lice, but not ticks, and *vice versa*. In this colony flock-masters are louder in their complaints of the troublesomeness of ticks, and as no experiments, so far as we know, have ever been conducted with a view to testing fully the best means of getting rid of such an unwelcome guest, it is not at all surprising that few sheep owners adopt uniform measures for its extermination.

The tick is a blood-sucking parasite, injurious to the health and comfort of sheep, propagates with much rapidity, and thrives in some parts of the country better than others, as in the case of fluke. The question is often asked, What is the best dip for killing ticks? Opinions on this subject vary much, some preferring one specific and some another, so that the inexperienced farmer is left in doubt as to which is the best to use. In some cases we are told that carbolic is really the best, whilst others adhere to the lime and sulphur and other mixtures. If arsenical dips are recommended, great caution is to be exercised lest the sheep are not destroyed as well as the parasites, and the same risk is to be run if the carbolic dip be too strong. Under these circumstances, one is inclined to go for the dip that will be safe and effective, or, at any rate, to exercise both care and judgment where a risk of danger is likely to be incurred. Lime and sulphur has the recommendation of safety, and has long been favourably known as an efficacious agent for the cure and prevention of scab, yet its merits as a reliable dip for the destruction of ticks are still somewhat doubtful. It has much to recommend it on the score of cheapness and purity, or the impossibility of adulteration; and if one dipping should prove ineffective, doubtless two at short intervals will suffice. It is said, however, that ticks are not destroyed immediately after dipping, but after remaining twenty-four hours in the wet fleece their life is found to be quite extinct. It becomes, however, a matter of importance to note where successes and failures occur, and the circumstances under which these take place—no matter what the materials are which compose the dip—with the view of disseminating the best information on the subject. The lime and sulphur dip has a great advantage over poisonous dips—that is, that the heads and necks of sheep can be ducked without risking their lives, and this

is a very important matter in connection with dipping. But it is said that it has the disadvantage of injuring the wool, and if this be the only fault, it can be considerably reduced by dipping at the time of shearing. It is, indeed, a difficult matter to get safety, efficiency and economy without some drawback, which, however, should not be held to be a hindrance when the destruction of parasitic life may be considered to be a matter of the first importance.

It may be observed that in the matter of disinfectants much investigation has been made, and yet, generally speaking, there appears to be a wide and important field for further research. An interesting report of careful experiments was given a few years back in the *Lyons Medicales*, of the properties possessed by the various agents employed for the destruction of minute life.

It was found that the dry germs of the cattle plague and anthrax are able to resist disinfectants, which destroy quickly the fresh virus, and that conditions which kill one class of bacteria are harmless to another. For instance, sulphuric acid, which is so destructive of some forms of microscopic life, has no power over the bacteria of anthrax, and chlorine and sulphur of carbon, which annihilate fresh virus, are powerless against dried virus. Pasteur found turpentine destructive of the true bacillus of anthrax, but inefficient in the case of anthrax. In mixing or diluting chemicals, it is highly important to notice, as an instance, that the power of carbolic acid when mixed with alcohol is neutralised, and therefore great care is needed to ensure efficacy in the preparation of dips.

Whilst it is found that lime and sulphur is highly efficacious for the cure of scab, and spoken of in many quarters for the destruction of ticks, and carbolic is more generally known as a potent agent for killing ticks, it may also be here observed that a soap in England was recently made from pure caustic potash and melted tallow, to which was added a small quantity of carbolic acid. This soap is said to be effective for the destruction of ticks and other insects, and has the merit of being easily made, without boiling, by a new cold process, which attracted considerable attention at the large wool exhibition held a few years back at the Crystal Palace, London. The advantage claimed for this soap, especially in the Colonies, is that stock owners can utilise their own tallow for the double purpose of a sheep dip and cleansing fluid, which is said to impart a brilliancy of lustre and softness of handle, and is much cheaper as a dip than carbolic alone. On this subject a series of articles appeared in the *Australian and New Zealand Gazette* some time ago, which have been reprinted by the writer, Mr. W. T. Menzies, in pamphlet form. Whether sufficient interest has been manifested in this subject to ascertain its merits we are not in a position to say. The following are the proportions given by Mr. Menzies:—Forty pounds of pure potash soap dissolved by boiling in 10 gallons of water, together with half a gallon of genuine carbolic acid added when the soap is dissolved, and then used in the sheep dipping tank in the proportion of 10 gallons of water for each gallon of dip thus made will

Correspondence.

Judging Thoroughbreds.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria).

SIR,—

At the principal shows in this colony there is nearly always a prize given for the best thoroughbred sire and mare, and does any one know a single instance in which the award has given satisfaction? The reason is not hard to trace, for the word thoroughbred never is properly defined by those framing the prize list; and it is the knowledge that their animals will not meet with fair competition that prevents very many of our best stud masters from exhibiting. A thoroughbred horse is one whose pedigree can be traced back through sire and dam to imported stock which were entered in the English Stud Book, and also whose pedigree can be tabulated six generations back without showing a missing link. Such, I venture to say, is the *only* thoroughbred, and yet at some of the spring shows stallions are awarded first prizes, whose great grand dam, or great grand sire, is unknown. Is it any wonder that a breeder of thoroughbreds or racehorses, for they are one and the same thing, views with contempt the action of judges in placing a three-quarter-bred brute (because he has size and bone) first before a purebred horse, who, from his high breeding, may, in appearance, lack the size and substance, but who is quality all over. Many a time in a show ring I have seen a horse placed first whose subscription was hard to fill at ten guineas, while there was one unmentioned who filled speedily at fifteen. It has often been argued in my hearing—"Give me a horse who was a good performer (racer), and who can carry a bit of weight, and who has lots of bone—he is bound to get the same as himself." Just so, some of those who have tried breeding by this experiment have paid for their obstinacy. Is there a single breeder of sheep who has crossed the merino with a lincoln that has ever found it a good thing to breed from the male progeny—mind, I do not say female progeny, because the female can produce something good—but the crossbred horse, that is a horse not wholly thoroughbred, cannot improve thoroughbred stock, just as certain as a three-quarter-bred draught horse cannot, if he be put to draught mares, get as good stock as a purebred draught stallion.

Among the many judges I have seen go into a ring to adjudicate upon thoroughbreds there were very few who actually knew the horses that had got our best racehorses, steeplechasers, or hunters. Where would King Alfred have been placed at the late show in Melbourne if shown as a horse fit to get steeplechasers, etc! Nowhere! and although that little wonder has been dead many years the doughty deeds of his sons will long be remembered. Would The Premier have been placed as one calculated to improve thoroughbreds—he was only a pony—but the blood was there, and his descendants, as yearlings, have brought such prices at auction as 2000, 1500, 1900, 1300, 1750, 1400 guineas, etc. Would Maribyrnong get a first prize if he were unknown as a sire? Perhaps he, as a daughter of his (who has bred a good winner) would be turned out of the ring as unfit to breed from because he had a broken leg. I maintain that, supposing a prize be given for a sire to improve thoroughbreds—it must mean to improve racehorses—and, if it does, it is a matter of impossibility for any judge to say which may be the best stallion to do so, unless he knows the pedigree. I know for a fact that at a show held in Melbourne a few years ago, one judge did not know the pedigrees of the horses, yet he has since stated that he would pay sixty guineas to send a mare to that horse placed third, and would sooner forfeit

ten pounds than allow either the first or second to serve a thoroughbred mare of his. Now, this is a fact. Does it not show that to breed a *thoroughbred* you must have something more than appearance in the sire. Well, what else do you want? Why, pedigree! And who is to judge if the pedigree is right? Why, of course, the judges! Therefore to make a show of thoroughbred horses a success the pedigree must be submitted to the judges, as well as the horse. When appointing judges of this class of horses, would it not be better to have men who are mixed up with them? Not utter strangers, who may not know the difference between a galloper and a puller.

Previously I mentioned that I did not object to breed from the crossbred mare, and I may state that mated with the good-shouldered good-headed thoroughbred you can this way produce excellent carriage horses, hacks, etc. The real Norfolk trotter was produced very similarly, and it confirms what I have previously stated, that though numbers of these horses have been imported here, there are none of their sons that can be put in the same street with them for appearance or action. Let any one interested in this question take the trouble to find out how the best steeplechasers, hunters, and hacks are bred. I very often ask such questions, and invariably find that the sire is always pure. Then let some one, who doubts what I have written, buy a stallion who has been a crack steeplechaser, and who is strength and bone all over, but whose dam is not pure; let him breed from him and see if he ever gets one as good as himself.

One more fallacy I would point out. It is a mistaken idea that size makes the weight-carrier. Look at the weights carried by The Barb, First King, Commotion, Malua, Navigator, Ringwood, and that wonder, Denmark. It is action that carries weight; but the judges we have never look beyond size and fat as a rule.

A. Y.

Horse Shows and Horse Breeding.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—

This being the Show season, I will, with your permission, say one word on Horse Shows and Horse-breeding.

There is nothing that a man is so much blindfolded in as in anything he breeds or brings up; and people do not differ more in appearance than they do in their opinions on horses. There is one thing, however, that all owners of animals for show purposes seem to agree upon, and that is, they must be fattened up like a prize pig. Over-fed, and what are called "stand-still" horses, in my opinion are of no use for any earthly purpose, and I would much prefer those with good, true action, which have what we call manner about them. I do not think there is a man living can tell by seeing two horses stand beside each other which is the best; it may be a horse to a hen from appearance, but the moment they are put in motion it alters the case altogether. The value of horses depends on the safe and gentlemanly manner in which they can perform their work.

It has become fashionable at some of the Shows in England, to have one paid judge, instead of two or three honorary ones, and it has been found to work well.

There is one thing I should very much like to see some of our Agricultural Societies do, and that is, to make it a standing rule that no entire horse for breeding purposes shall be allowed to compete for the Society's prizes unless the owner can produce a certificate at the time of entry that he is perfectly sound and free from all hereditary diseases.

Breeders of horses will then scarcely be half-way on the road to success. If they wish to breed first-class horses they must look to their dams, and see that they also

are sound, and of good formation, with true action, manner and good temper.

Although the sire may leave his stamp on the exterior conformation of his male progeny, the part the dam performs in the procreation of her species is infinitely greater than that of the sire.

The prevailing custom here for purchasers of horses for breeding purposes, is to attend our yearly parade and sale of imported sires and dams, and colonial bred stock, and, in some instances, they give almost fabulous prices for the sort or kind of horse they get. No inquiry is made as to his soundness. The owner or auctioneer gives them no warranty, and it is the exception and not the rule if one should occasionally be examined as to soundness.

They take them home, and begin to palm them off on their friends and the public; and, in the course of three or four years, they begin to find it out that his stock are not worth bringing up. Now, it would not have required a man to have been a wizard to have foretold them that horses of that description were not fit to breed from.

This is one of the causes, more particularly in the light breed of horses, of the unsound, three-cornered, nondescript animals we daily see in our public thoroughfares.

Penny wise and pound foolish systems will not do in breeding horses. If a man cannot bring proper knowledge and proper management to bear in stud farming he had better present his money to some charitable institution as it can end in nothing but disappointment, loss, and disgust.

Sandhurst, Sept. 28. JOHN AKED.

Poison Plant.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—

I send you a sample of a kind of weed which we consider poisonous at this season of the year. Can you obtain any information regarding it and oblige.

STOCKOWNER.

N.S.W., 21st. Sept.

We forwarded the weed to Baron Von Mueller government Botanist, who was good enough to furnish the following report:—"The little weed sent by you is an Euphorbia, namely Euphorbia Drummondii, closely allied to the South-European Euphorbia Chamæeyre. Though this plant looks so insignificant, it has done mischief on many a pastoral run, as it resists drought to a remarkable extent, and thus is apt to be much browsed on by sheep and cattle, when grass and herbage are failing. Being poisonous, like all other Euphorbias, it may become destructive to stock when largely consumed at any time. I have always advised to break up roughly such patches of ground, on which this perennial weed is growing copiously, and to sow on such places at the commencement of the cool season the best suited of pasture grasses and fodder herbs, particularly perennial species, as by these means the Euphorbia will become suppressed or suffocated, while the grazing capabilities of the ground would be increased. If even only the seeds of the strongest and most nutritive native grasses, and also of the various local salt bushes, were collected and scattered on place, where the Euphorbia abounds, it would become largely subdued."

VETERINARY LEGISLATION.—England having been the first country in Europe to protect veterinary surgeons and veterinary medicine from the damaging influence of unqualified men, the profession abroad is bestirring itself in this direction, and is striving to obtain similar privileges to those accorded us in the Veterinary Surgeons Act. In Germany and in France, where there is no law to suppress imposters or empirics, steps are being taken, we believe, to obtain legislative protection; and in a recent number of the *Recueil de Médecine Vétérinaire*, M. Bouley reviews in detail, and in terms of commendation, the different clauses in our Act of Parliament.

answer well for lice and ticks. Hot water is only required to thoroughly dissolve the mixture, as the dipping can be applied and be equally effective in cold as hot water. The cost of the soap dip is estimated in England at 3½d. per lb. No doubt trials have been made in these colonies to test its value as a disinfectant and wool-washing material, with what results we should be glad to know if any of our readers can inform us. The directions for making the soap are:—Dissolve one pound of pure caustic potash in its own weight of water with four pounds of melted tallow. Put this mixture aside for a day or two, when a perfect soap will be produced.

Altogether, the subject of treating sheep for the destruction of ticks and lice without injurious results, at the least cost, is one still claiming the attention of flock-masters generally. Those who have had experience of the various specifics for the destruction of lice and ticks, and especially of the carbolic, lime and sulphur, or arsenical dips, will greatly oblige us with any information on these matters they may be pleased to forward. Such particulars regarding the quantities of ingredients, their preparation and mode of application, with results, will be of great service to sheep farmers generally. Some find carbolic to be effective for killing ticks at 1 in 100 applied at blood heat, and object to use it at a greater strength on account of the risk to be run. If effective for the destruction of these parasites at this strength, it is a matter of the greatest importance that this fact should become widely known. In using carbolic for the destruction of *disease germs*, 1 in 40 has been the usual strength, but this is decidedly too strong to be safe in dipping sheep. 50lbs. of lime and 100lbs. of sulphur to 400 gallons of water are recommended as good proportions for this dip: the water to be boiled, and the mixture to be boiled for a quarter of an hour at least. In preparing the mixture, all lumps are pulverised, and then both ingredients are mixed dry; or, as some prefer it, they are made into a paste. The dip should be kept at about 100 degrees.

There is no doubt that some of the patented remedies have been found to be of special service to the flock-masters of these colonies; but still an economical, effective and safe medicament may be found in such simple materials as, for example, lime and sulphur, which are always of a uniform quality.

Report of the Secretary for Agriculture.

We have received the above report for 1884 in which the Secretary gives a succinct account of the business of his Department for the year. The volume altogether contains 148 large pages and comprises many interesting and useful papers. The Secretary states at the outset that he is hampered in his operations through the want of a sufficient staff and proper office accommodation, but nevertheless he seems to overtake a considerable amount of work. A weekly paper in a criticism takes exception to the small portion occupied by the Secretary's report,

but for what reason is not stated. It is related of Frederick the Great that in order to test a candidate for the position of chaplain he said he would himself furnish a text from which a sermon should be preached extempore. The candidate accepted the condition. On the Sunday following, at the end of the prayers, a sealed paper was presented to the preacher, who opened it, and found nothing therein. He did not, however, lose his presence of mind, but turning the paper on both sides, he said:—"My brethren here is nothing, and there is nothing; out of nothing God created all things," and proceeded to deliver a most admirable discourse on the wonders of creation. We wonder if, after having written a complete report, the Secretary for Agriculture was expected to descant on the subject contained in the sealed paper of the great king. Amongst the reports published with the volume, that of the Chief Inspector of Stock attracts attention by the strong opinions therein expressed, particularly with regard to the importation of stock, a subject on which Mr. Curr differs entirely from Mr. Bruce the Chief Inspector of New South Wales. We believe with Mr. Curr that absolute security from disease cannot be insured without prohibition, but take exception to his statement "that the importation of the primest sheep or cattle from Great Britain, Germany or other countries, in which the conditions of nature differ widely from those of Australia, is injurious instead of beneficial to our stock, and *per se* an evil." Facts are against Mr. Curr, who goes on to say—"My second objection to importation is that under our circumstances it is a proceeding at variance with the laws of breeding. In this you will notice I entirely disagree with Mr. Bruce who sets out in his memo, that the quality of our animals has been, and must continue to be, kept up by means of imported sires. In my remarks on this point I shall (the fundamental laws of breeding extending to all animals, and the conditions of nature in Australia being favourable alike to sheep, cattle and horses) illustrate what I have to say by reference to the merino sheep." Perhaps the merino of late years owes nothing to importations but Mr. Curr was careful to take the exception to try to prove a rule which will not apply to other stock. Take for instance, shorthorn cattle. The Duke of Brunswick (imported) has made a greater mark on the herds of the colonies than any colonial bull, and his stock have a wonderful show yard record. The Western District breeders use imported bulls, and the leading Booth breeder, although a prohibitionist, yet uses imported sires. In thoroughbred horses the stock of St. Albans (imported) carried everything before them last year, and this year a son of Musket (imported) has won the A. J. C. Derby and other big races. In draught horses again the Grand Draught Horse Produce Stakes has been won in the case of both the colts and the fillies for the last three years by yearlings by imported sires. In the face of these facts how can it be argued that our stock owes nothing to recent importations? Mr. Curr, who is an old writer on the subject, also treats of the breeding of saddle horses and his interesting remarks are well worth perusal. Still we do not agree with all his statements, and as the subject is one which is not yet nearly exhausted, we may have something to say on it in a future issue.

Triumph Oats.

THE Triumph Oats imported last year by the National Agricultural Society seem to be more than realising expectations. In our first issue we gave two reports of extraordinary yields in the Gippsland district—almost the only portion of the colony in which they had a fair chance—as it was late in the season when they arrived. Mr. John Finlay, of Wyuna, near Echuca, kept his seed till this year, when he sowed it early. He has shown us a bundle of the oats, which look remarkably promising. There are ten or twelve stems to a plant, and Mr. Finlay is confident they will reach over seven feet in height. On mentioning this to Dr. Plummer, that gentleman informed us that on his farm at Gisborne he grew 6½ bushels from the 4lbs. of Triumph seed sown last year. This year he sowed 6¼ bushels of these oats on 6½ acres of land. Beside them, on the same day, he sowed about four acres with eight bushels of the prize Tartarian Oats at the last West Bourke Show, and now, with less than half the quantity of seed to the acre, the Triumph Oats are the more forward and thicker crop of the two. From this it would appear that the Society has been instrumental in introducing a valuable addition to the cereals of the colony.

A Suggestion.

WE were pleased the other day when an intelligent country member came into the office and said it was worth subscribing to the Society on account of our Journal; and more pleased still to receive £1 from a new subscriber who became a member so that he might receive the paper. In order that such experiences may be continued, we now suggest to other members that they show the Journal to their friends, and let them know that it is supplied free to subscribers—at the same time pointing out the privileges of membership advertised on page 5. If each member could thus secure one new one, the subscriptions would, of course, be doubled, and the Society would be materially benefitted. We trust our suggestion will be acted on.

SALT.—FROM our familiarity with the value of salt as a condiment, and with its utility in the preservation of meat, it may readily occur to us that there are still other applications of this substance that are worthy the attention of physicians and sanitarians. The antiseptic properties of salt suggest a number of useful applications. In surgery, even in very strong solution, it would be harmless and might possibly replace the more active antiseptic in many cases. As a cleansing application to foul ulcers and wounds, salt solutions have been used from the earliest times. In cases of indolent action, with large, pale and flabby granulations, the astringent effect of the salt would doubtless prove of service, as well as in many cases of excessive mucous secretions. Another application of salt certainly merits more extensive investigation, viz.: the disinfection of night-soil and other sewage. In cities, a few handfuls of salt thrown daily into the water-closets, and an occasional handful thrown into the wash-basins, would go far, we believe, toward counteracting the noxious effects of the omnipresent sewer-gas, against which sanitary efforts have so long been directed. In the country a quart or more of salt used daily in the privy vaults would serve an equally useful purpose.—*New York Medical Journal.*

Meetings.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, October 13th, 1885.

PRESENT:—J. M. Peck, Esq., in the chair; Messrs. Job Smith, W. Learmonth, W. Thomson, D. Mitchell, A. Patterson, S. G. Staughton, F. S. Roberts, T. Learmonth, D. Munro, J. G. Brisbane, and D. R. McGregor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Finance Committee's report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts and recommending payments amounting to £163 3s. 8d., was read. Mr. T. Learmonth moved that the report be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Dr. Plummer, President, and Mr. Brunton, regretting their inability to attend the meeting. Received.

From H. Byron Moore, in reply to a letter from the Secretary, stating that with reference to the loan of hurdles and water carts at the late Show, the Victoria Racing Club had much pleasure in rendering the Society any assistance, and did not desire to make any charge.

Mr. Munro moved that the letter be acknowledged, and the hearty thanks of the Council conveyed to the Club. Seconded by Mr. Learmonth, and carried.

From Traralgon Society, asking the Council to appoint three judges for their Show, on the 19th November, one for draught horses, blood horses, and cattle respectively. Messrs. James Gibb, James Thomson (Queen-street), and Job Smith were appointed for the classes as named.

From W. McNab & Brothers, offering a prize of £5, with a view of establishing a Victorian Ayrshire Derby Sweepstakes similar to the one held in Scotland every year, to be competed for in 1888 by heifers entered as calves and dropped between the 1st of July, 1885 and the 1st of July, 1886. The entry fee for the Derby to be 10s. per head, to be added to the £5, and to go towards 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Mr. Thomson moved that the letter be referred to the Show Committee. Seconded by Mr. Munro, and carried.

From R. McCracken & Co., asking for the use of the Show Grounds for a picnic for their employees, on Tuesday, the 20th inst.

Mr. Munro moved that the request be granted on compliance with the usual conditions. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried.

From A. S. Caine, forwarding prospectus of International Exhibition, to be held at Liverpool, England, in 1886. Received.

REPORTS.

The Committee appointed to consider the letter from the Secretary for Agriculture *re* borrowing money on the security of the site of the Show Grounds, reported that they met, and after thoroughly discussing the matter, appointed the Hons. J. Buchanan and C. Young to see the Premier, and place the subject before him. At the interview, Mr. Service asked that a written statement of the history of the Society's position with regard to its past

and present sites, together with its revenue and other particulars be prepared and forwarded to him, when it would be considered by the Cabinet. That was accordingly done, and at the same time a request was made for a loan of £10,000 from the Government to enable the Society to pay off its overdraft, and carry out further improvements on the Show Grounds, the interest to be paid in October, and the principal to be repaid in ten equal instalments. Failing this request being granted, it was asked that the Government would give the Society power to offer security on which the amount required could be borrowed, which amount would be repaid as above stated. No reply had yet been received from the Government.

Mr. Munro moved that the report be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Thomson, and carried.

The Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Field Trial of Excavators entered for Sir William Clarke's special prizes, reported that they have fixed the date of the trial for Wednesday, the 4th of November next (the day after the Cup) at 10 o'clock a.m. They had two sites in contemplation, and the Secretary was going with the judges to determine which should be chosen.

Mr. McGregor moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

In accordance with notice, Mr. Peck moved that the Hon. T. Bent be elected an honorary member of the Society, as it was he who had secured the 3d. fares to the Society's Grounds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

In the absence of Mr. Brunton the motion of which he had given notice was postponed.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. McGregor gave notice of motion as follows:—"That Mr. H. Byron Moore be elected an honorary member of the Society."

A NEW PATENT.

Before the meeting closed, the Secretary called the attention of the Council to a model of Messrs. Tarver and Bryan's "Patent Oscillating Ridge Pole," for attaching to grain trucks, which the patentees were anxious to have adopted by the Railway Commissioners. The invention consists of a movable ridge pole fixed on a screw at each end of the truck, and kept in position by a small bolt being dropped into a slot. While the truck is being loaded the ridge pole may be lowered by withdrawing the bolt and turning it on the screw, when it falls on the side of the truck (it revolves to either side), on which it rests securely. The mechanism is extremely simple and very effective, and as the ridge pole is made of tubular iron, it is light and easily worked. By its use the tarpaulin covering the truck is kept in position in the form of a tent, and the inventors claim that by its adoption on the railways the damage from rain which grain now frequently sustains in transit would be prevented; and that the saving effected by it would soon pay for its cost. The members of the Council who examined the model were unanimous in their approval of the idea, considering it a very excellent invention, and one which as practical men they would have no hesitation in recommending.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a post-mortem examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Veterinary Notes.

CARBOLIC ACID FOR VETERINARY PURPOSES.

CARBOLIC acid is now deservedly considered an invaluable remedy for the treatment of external injuries and diseases of domesticated animals. It may be used from the strength of a weak eye-lotion to that of a powerful caustic. The pure crystallised acid only, should be used for medicinal purposes. The crystals are readily dissolved by placing the bottle containing the acid in warm water, and may be retained in a liquid state ready for use, by adding a small quantity of water, oil, glycerine, or vinegar, or made into an ointment with lard, or into a putty or paste, with chalk and carbolic oil. Carbolic soap and the various preparations have a remarkable power of cleansing foul wounds, correcting viscous discharges, stimulating the healing process, and effectually killing verminal insects infecting the skin of animals, such as ticks, lice, acarus, mange, ringworm, etc. They have a remarkable effect in soothing irritation and allaying pain, as met with in severe sprains and bruises, diseases of the skin, etc. In diseases of the feet the carbolic oil or ointment is generally used as a caustic-dressing for proud flesh (excessive granulations), poisoned wounds, the stings of insects or the bites of venomous animals; the acid may be used without being diluted. Where too much acid is accidentally spilt or applied to the skin, oil will check the caustic action. The addition of glycerine to carbolic lotions will be found useful when used in cases of sore back, cracked heels, etc. As an internal remedy it effectually eradicates worms, corrects offensive discharges met with in many chronic diseases, such as fistulas, withers, quilters, caries of the bones, etc. As a disinfectant and deodoriser it stands unequalled; and one of the best plans for fumigating stables is to evaporate the commercial acid by placing it in a jar and applying a spirit lamp, or pouring it on a hot brick, taking care not to ignite the acid. It is now generally used in England to disinfect stables, cow-houses, drains, etc., and towels saturated with the solution are hung in front of animals suffering from contagious diseases, such as pleuro, it is said, with good effect; also sawdust, saturated with the solution, is spread over the floors, etc. In India it is extensively used as a disinfectant, and medicinally as a dressing for unhealthy wounds, sores, and skin diseases, which are very common there; also in the foot and

mouth disease, and rinderpest, internally, with apparent benefit in checking, if not curing the disease, when taken at an early stage. I do not mean to say that carbolic acid will cure all diseases, but from its powerful disinfecting properties, and poisonous action on insectile life, it does good service in all those diseases where blood poisons are concerned. Recent researches tend to show that high cultivation and excessive stimulation of the vegetable food of animals has its counter effect in introducing into their bodies the germinal ova of entozoa, which become developed and deposited in vital organs, exciting disease and producing fatal terminations. In such cases the beneficial action of carbolic acid is apparent, and as it becomes better known it will be more generally used for many purposes. In a country like Australia, where valuable stock are scattered over thousands of miles, and professional advice cannot be readily obtained, carbolic acid has proved itself a useful remedy, and stockowners and farmers will find it to their advantage to use it in preference to the various compounds of vitriol and oil for external use, sold at high prices and under attractive names.

To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.

Sir,—Can you tell me the best thing to make the inside of a horse's hoof grow, and to keep out the maggots? I have a mare with a staked foot, which was done some time ago, when maggots got into it. The foot was dressed by a blacksmith, but is bad again, the hoof being spread out and very big.—Yours, &c. BREEDER.

Lilydale, October 3.

[The wound should be cleaned out, and a paste of 1 oz. of bluestone and 2 ozs. of Stockholm tar applied to it. The hoof should be pared down severely, and, if necessary, an old shoe or slipper should be put on.]

Farmers as Woolgrowers.

BY RICHARD BENNETT.

(No. II.)

In concluding my last article I promised to devote this one to the consideration of sheep breeding by farmers, and the adaptability of the several breeds of sheep to the climate and pasture of different grazing districts of the colony. As farmers as a rule possess few sheep individually, although they own fully half the sheep in Victoria collectively, let them keep in mind this piece of advice, "never keep bad or unprofitable stock." They cost as much to keep as good ones, without returning the same amount of profit. To attempt anything like general organisation among the farming community is, I am aware, a hopeless task, but a reform in the present system of management, or rather non-management of farmers' sheep can easily be initiated by the principal farmers in a district taking the lead. Take our Western Coast pastures to start with. The sheep most profitable to the farmer is the Lincoln, pure if he can get it, if not as near as possible. He is a sluggish sheep, fond of lying about; is not particular in his feed, so long as he gets plenty of it, has a large carcass for the butcher, and a very heavy fleece, for the Lincoln staple is the heaviest of all descriptions of wool; and, although not bringing within half the price of Merino, yields three or four times the weight, and when the butcher's value for the carcass is taken into consideration, he is double the value to the farmer than the Merino; besides he is full grown and marketable fully twelve months earlier than the latter. Going back

from the Coast into the North-eastern District and the Wimmera, the finer grades of Crossbreds and Comebacks do well. The pasture is not so heavy and rich, in consequence of which the wool is lighter and finer. All good wheat-growing land produces sound, fine wool, and it is a well ascertained fact that in seasons prolific in rust and blight in wheat, the wool grown in those districts exhibits sympathetic conditions, being generally light, fuzzy, and ill-conditioned, with a tendency to a break in the staple.

In districts verging on to the Murray the Merino is the sheep *par excellence*. It loves the heat; and the dry pasture in the summer is better suited to it than to any of the heavy breeds. It does not require so much water, and stands travelling to market better, keeping up its condition where heavy sheep would fall away. Having said as much as I consider necessary about the classes of sheep for different localities, let us now look a little into the average farmer's management.

To start with breeding—the influence the dam of any of our domestic animals exerts in developing good or bad qualities in her offspring, has not generally received the proper amount of attention to which such a very important matter is entitled; and its neglect has often been productive of great disappointment to breeders. Many are apt to imagine that in order to produce really first-class stock, the selection of a good sire is of primary importance. It is also as important that the dam should be possessed of equally good, and, if possible, better qualities. It not infrequently happens that the progeny of a really first-class sire is not only unlike him, but in some instances is a very ordinary animal; yet the breeder will possibly console himself with the reflection that he has the blood in him, and that his offspring will develop all the good points of his grand-sire. Never was there a more mistaken idea, or one more likely to lead to disastrous results to our breeders. Now, in order to carry on and perpetuate a system of improved breeding, the dam is as much, if not more, to be considered than the sire; it having been proved by some of the most eminent breeders in the old country that the dam develops her formation and temperament more than the sire. The general impression is that the sire impresses his points and external formation, while the temperament of the dam is developed. Many farmers imagine that if they breed from a really first-class ram, the qualities of the ewe are of secondary consideration; hence in a very great measure arises the perpetuation of such numbers of nondescript, ill-bred mixed sheep as are found among farmers, and which tends to swell the bulk of inferior low class wool thrown upon the home market. Now it is of the utmost importance to farmers as a grazing and wool-producing community that most unremitting attention be paid to culling and judiciously classing their ewe flocks. This is an operation that should be performed just prior to shearing—when the wool has arrived at its full growth; and requires the utmost judgment and discrimination on the part of the person so engaged. Indeed, so important an undertaking is it that where a farmer has the least hesitation in being able to cull and class his sheep properly, he will find it to his advantage to secure the services of a practical wool classer, taking care that he is furnished with credentials from first-class breeders or woolbrokers. Let every farmer cull his breeding flock every year, fatten and sell the culled ewes to the butcher, and re-place them with purchases from established breeders; and a frequent change of sire is likewise necessary. No farmer should breed his own rams. The most economical way is to select good flock rams from known breeders for the season, even if he has to pay a high figure. He only requires them once a year, and then but for a short time, and he is relieved of all further expense in their keep and looking after, for they must

either be kept by themselves or run with wethers; and rams kept on a farm are often productive of much irreparable damage. The system of leasing rams in the colony is not so general as it should be. It would pay large breeders handsomely, and immensely improve the bulk of farmer's wool. As it is at present, the majority of farmers in buying rams can only afford a very moderate price, and at such can expect to get but an inferior animal. It is to be regretted that our "Australian Sheep-breeders' Association" is framed on such conservative lines, and that its operations are not more widely extended among the small sheep owners. It is surely to the interest of all members composing it to elevate the character of Australian wool far and wide, and among all classes. By so doing they are increasing its demand in the home and continental markets to the depreciation of low class Cape and South American wools. In no other way is the standard of our wool to be raised to pre-eminence than by the large breeders taking an interest in the small sheep owners, and assisting them by every means at their disposal. The farming graziers are now a power in the land, and every year their flocks are assuming larger dimensions, and under the present system the quantity of low, ill-conditioned, nondescript wool increasing in bulk.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Breeding Stock Shows.

(CONTINUED.)

Prior to 1850, farmers were in many respects unable to avail themselves of what they saw or learned at shows. Some, of course, had even then education and means to give the improvements demonstrated in the showyard a trial and a fair chance. The bulk of the farming community, however, were not so favourably situated. They may have picked up some ideas at the various exhibitions, but straitened financial resources, as well as some other cause, precluded general adoption of the newer principles displayed at the periodical bucolic gatherings. Latterly the adaptation of novel machinery to more ancient undertakings has been a simpler process. Increased intelligence, and more thorough education on the part of farmers, enabled them to derive more benefit from what they observed, both in the bestial departments and in the implement section, than their fathers could have done. It is probably due to the memory of their fathers to say that the sons have had greater opportunities, not only in, but out of, the showyard. More immediately concerned with the latter, as we are just now, it has to be said that the educative influences of British shows has been much more decided since 1850 than before that date.

The writer's commission may not, strictly speaking, be held to embrace the exhibition of agricultural implements, but if we include that large and serviceable part of modern showyards there should not be danger of rebuke for digression. Agricultural machinery was not so early exhibited as live stock, but for thirty years or upwards the former section has been more or less attractive, at national shows at least, and latterly it has been so even at local or district displays, while it has swollen to marvellous dimensions at a few of the leading meetings in the kingdom. It is now-a-days, perhaps, more beneficial to practical agriculturists than the bestial sections, if not more popularly engrossing at the outset. In what other manner, it may not unfairly be asked, could farmers, eager to avail themselves of labor-saving machinery, and implement manufacturers, anxious to meet with farmers ready to adopt modern ideas, have been brought together? Shows, national ones especially, have done a world of good in that respect. They have afforded the farmer a chance of comparing his opinions of one manufacturer's machine or implement with others, and that is a privilege which has been discovered to be of great value to practical farmers. If every farmer, or nearly so, has not embraced this opportunity, the fault is that of the individual rather than of the showyard system.

There probably are not many who believe that shows never did any good. Generally, it may be said, there is substantial unanimity in

favour of the opinion that shows in their earlier history were decidedly beneficial to agriculture. It is sometimes said now, however, that the exhibition of live stock has had its day and served its purpose, and need not therefore be persevered with. Granted that the showing of horses, cattle, and sheep was, relatively speaking, of more advantage to agriculture a quarter of a century ago than now, the good effects of exhibitions are still sufficiently strong to justify adherence to the principle of live stock competition. It is not necessary nor desirable that there should be so many small shows over the country, carried on at least as they have latterly been, but we hope to be able to convince some who are rather sceptical, that shows and showing should not be abandoned, even though the benefits may not be so perceptible as they were at one time.

But for the existence of live stock competitions, as already indicated, farmers would not have had the opportunities they have long possessed of improving their herds and flocks. They would not have had the chance of comparing their own productions in a critical and careful manner with those of their neighbours or brother breeders in other parts of the country. The shorthorn would not have found its way to nearly all quarters of the globe if there had been no shows. The foreign demand for British pedigree stock has been mainly developed through the influence of shows. Foreign buyers generally come to Britain in the showyard season. Not that they are now so fond of the overfed showyard specimens as they were several years ago, but they see what the various breeds can be brought to with careful breeding, and above all, liberal feeding. They see what to avoid, as well as what to select, more satisfactorily in the showyard than they could otherwise do.

(To be Continued.)

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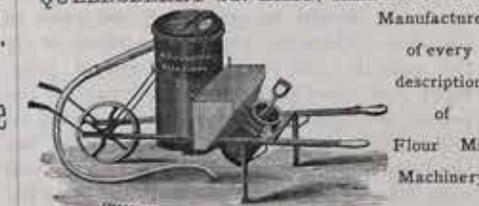
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Prizetakers Melbourne and Geelong Industrial Exhibitions.

J. WEBBER & SON,

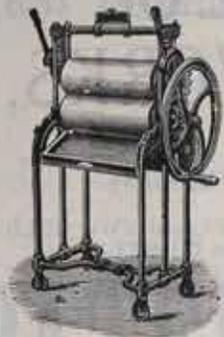
RYRIE ST., GEELONG.

Tallow Casks, Water Casks, Meat Casks, Churns, Cheese Vats, Tubs, and all descriptions of Dairy Utensils always on hand at reasonable prices.

Orders by Post promptly attended to and forwarded to any railway station in the Colony.

N.B.—Farmers, Storekeepers, and others wishing to obtain the highest price for their Butter, should use J. W. & S's. celebrated Wattle Kegs, as they guarantee it will bring a higher price than packed in other kinds.

WASHING MADE EASY.



ENTWISLE & KENYON'S
PATENT

"SAFETY" Lever Mangle & Wringer.

The Best Mangling and Wringing Machine ever produced.

LEADING FEATURES

1. Wrought Iron Frames, Unbreakable.
2. Pressure Instantly Applied or Released.
3. No Pressure on Rollers when Machine is not in use.
4. Ingenious Combination of Drip-board & Mangling Table.

A PERFECT MANGLE.

AGENTS WANTED.

GERMAN PIANOS & AMERICAN ORGANS
The "HALLER" Piano, 7s. 6d. per Week.

THE "VICTORIA" MANGLE & WRINGER.

The "ACME" Portable Seamless Coppers & Furnaces
Of Very Superior Manufacture.

CASH OR TIME-PAYMENT.

ALEXANDER & CO.,
41 SWANSTON STREET.

THROSSELL & TANKARD,
Maltsters,

MELBOURNE & SOUTH YARRA.

Office: 194 FLINDERS LANE EAST.

BUYERS OF PRIME ENGLISH BARLEY.

CASH ON DELIVERY.

PRIME SEED BARLEY FOR SALE.

The Mercantile Bank of Australia,

LIMITED,

Formerly the Australian Economic Bank Limited,

COLLINS STREET WEST.

CAPITAL - £1,000,000.

Subscribed, £300,000.

Paid-up and Reserves, £100,000.

DIRECTORS:

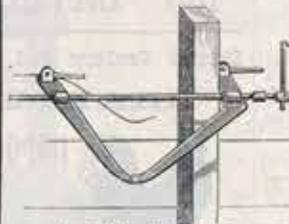
M. H. DAVIES, Esq., M.P. JOHN DANKS, Esq., J.P.
WM. ANDERSON, Esq. JOHN MOODIE, Esq.
T. B. MUNTZ, Esq., C.E.

FIXED DEPOSITS Received at Highest Current Rates.

Current Accounts & General Banking Business.

HENRY CORNELL, Manager.

DARK & BURY'S PATENT WIRE STRAINER.



This machine will do all work required by Fencers, as it will mend a broken wire, or strain a new one to the straining post equally well, no plugging or any fixing being required. The nuts on the levers, with the grips attached, work on a pivot, so if, when straining a new wire, the wire is not sufficiently tight when drawn up to the post, by reversing the grip on the lever against the post, it will hold the wire; while the other lever is let out the length of the screw, when by gripping it again with the straining lever, and releasing it from the other, the wire may again be drawn up to the post, and so on until the wire is tight. For mending a broken wire, the levers are opened out, and the ends of the wire placed in the grips, and then the levers are drawn together by the screw until the wire is sufficiently close to tie. Strain is self-supporting and weighs about 7lbs.

Agents | McLEAN BROS. & RIGG, Victoria.
 | J. C. GENDERS & CO., Adelaide.

Patent Sheep Labels. Ceiling or Floor Cramps. Horse Cattle and Sheep Brands. Pliers for Sheep's Ears. Stencil Plates in Zinc or Copper. Tattoos for Sheep. Docking Irons. Carriage Jacks, and all other Squatters' requirements supplied.

E. DARK & CO.,

19 LITTLE BOURKE STREET WEST, MELBOURNE.

WOOL AND GRAIN.

THE AUSTRALASIAN MORTGAGE AND AGENCY COMPANY LIMITED,

With which is Incorporated

HASTINGS CUNINGHAM AND COMPANY LIMITED,

WOOL AND GRAIN BROKERS.

THE AUSTRALASIAN WOOL STORES, MELBOURNE.

Auction Sales of WOOL every Friday during the Season, and of SHEEPSKINS, HIDES, TALLOW, KANGAROO SKINS, &c., every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday throughout the year.

Auction Sales of WHEAT, FLOUR, BARLEY, OATS, &c., every Wednesday during the Season.

Consignments fully Displayed and Carefully Valued by Experts prior to Sale.

PROCEEDS REMITTED PROMPTLY ON DUE DATE.

The Australasian Wool Stores,
Collins Street West, Melbourne.

THOMAS CRAINE,

Australian Carriage Factory,

MANUFACTURER OF

DEXTER AND OTHER BUGGIES

OF LATEST STYLES.

☛ All Materials of Best American Quality. ☛

Workmanship Guaranteed.

REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

PRINCES BRIDGE, SANDRIDGE ROAD,
SOUTH MELBOURNE.

FIRST ORDER OF MERIT AWARDED THIS PRESS AT THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1880.

D. FERRIER'S PATENT LEVER WOOL-PRESS,

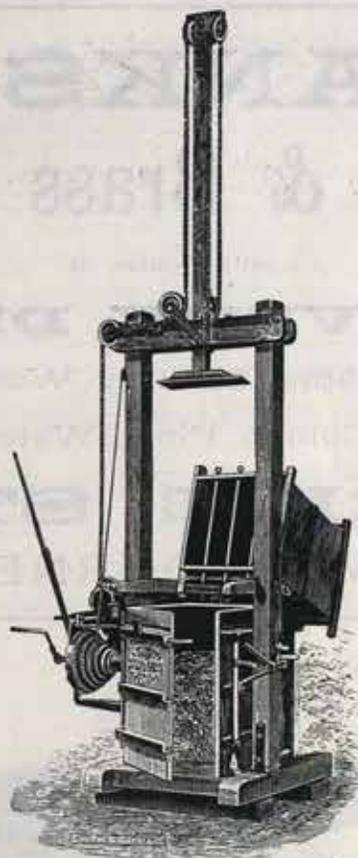
HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, MAKERS, GEELONG.

THE usual screw is dispensed with, and the pressure brought to bear by means of a strong rope or chain, working in sheave pulleys overhead, attached to a Ram, and winding on a fusee, which is made in the shape of a suddenly tapered screw.

The rope works on the large part of the Fusee, when the pressure is light, and passes down to the taper end as the pressure increases, being worked by a lever fixed on the centre spindle.

The top Box is hinged to side Brackets, and turns down on to the floor, which greatly facilitates the putting in of the wool, and renders any second floor unnecessary, and when filled is easily placed back in position.

When the bale is pressed and the sides down, the Ram is lifted by a small rope from the Fusee, turned by a handle.



It will be understood how very much quicker the power is brought into application by this means than by the ordinary SCREW PRESS, and double the work is got through by the same number of men.

Special attention is directed to the fastening of the Packs before the Wool is put in, which is done in an exceedingly quick and simple manner: four pieces of wood are fitted into the recesses of doors, which hold the Pack securely in position and to the side catches for fastening the doors, which are held in position by a vertical bar, and relieves them simultaneously.

The side door is also held in its place by a catch, which at any time can be relieved instantly, the door falling back and allowing the bale to be removed.

At the Melbourne Exhibition Competition this PRESS turned out 3 Bales of Scoured Wool in 28½ minutes, being considerably less than any other Press, although one had the advantage of being driven by steam.

TESTIMONIALS.

Dear Sirs,—It gives us much pleasure to inform you that Ferrier's Patent Wool-Press has exceeded our expectations. Before ordering we had in use one of Mr. Ferrier's self-made presses, and liked it well. We have seen the Travelling Screw Presses, which cost double the amount, but we would not exchange, as the Press we have is easier worked and takes up less room.

A. LESSER & CO., Coleraine.

Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Vulcan Foundry, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had two Wool-Presses from you of Ferrier's Patent, and have found them to be the cheapest and simplest in construction of any Wool-Presses I have seen. The one I had from you last year for the Fellmongery I most approve of, as it has some little improvements over the one I had for the store in 1877. These Presses if sent out with strong Lowmoor Iron Chains, I can strongly recommend, as I believe that no other can surpass them.

JOHN KELSALL.

Ballarat, September 13th, 1879.

To Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—The Ferrier's Patent Lever Wool-Press I had from you this season I used at Wurrong, Camperdown, and I found it simple and most satisfactory in its working.

December 30th, 1878.

Wooriwyrite, Camperdown.

THOMAS SHAW.

To Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—The Wool-Press I got from you is working very well, and is much admired by all who have been to see it at work, a great number having called. Such Presses should suit the large sheds in Riverina well, and if your Press was used there I think it would be soon in universal use in the larger sheds. I am turning out about 35 Bales a day with two men, but if they had a third man to sew the two sides of the Bale after coming from the Press, they could do about 45 Bales a day.

Muntham, October 27th, 1880.

JOSEPH B. PEARSON.

Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Vulcan Foundry, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—In reference to the Ferrier's Patent Press which you sent to us in October last, on the condition that if we did not approve of it after a Season's work we should be at liberty to return it. We are happy to be able to state that our Pressers speak highly of the speed and efficiency of the Machine, and that we are therefore willing to retain and pay you for it.

December 30th, 1880.

DENNYS, LASCELLES & CO.

N.B.—H. & N. are also makers of Improved Screw Presses, Hamilton's Patent Jets, Soaks, Tanks, and all other Sheep Washing Apparatus, and a

LIGHT WOOL-PRESS SUITABLE FOR FARMERS AND GRAZIERS.

A. C. STURROCK,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
SEEDSMAN AND PLANT MERCHANT,
153 ELIZABETH ST., MELBOURNE.
Samples and Prices on Application.

JAMES SPROULE,
COMMISSION AGENT,
Grain, Flour, and Produce
MERCHANT,
107 FLINDERS ST. WEST, MELBOURNE.

TATE'S
PARCELS POST EXPRESS
Delivery. Any Address in the World.
HEAD **FREDK. TATE, 11 Market St., Melbourne**
OFFICES **W. R. SUTTON & CO., Golden Lane, London, E.C.**
Full particulars of Rates, Agencies, and Instructions post free.

CURRIE & RICHARDS,
IMPORTERS OF
Plain & Corrugated Iron,
Manufacturers of Galvanized Iron Spouting,
305 & 307 ELIZABETH ST., MELBOURNE.

"Anchor" Galvanizing Works
SANDRIDGE ROAD
(NEAR PRINCE'S BRIDGE),
MELBOURNE.

WILLIAM HUNTER,
Galvanizer to the Trade.
Wholesale Ironworker and Galvanizer of
Cast and Wrought Ironwork of
Every Description.

D. WHITLEY & CO.
Grain & Flour Merchants,
COMMISSION AGENTS, &c.,
9 QUEEN STREET,
MELBOURNE.

MAWSON & CO.,
Produce Merchants & Commission Agents,
37 KING STREET,
AGENTS FOR
SUGDEN'S BONE MANURE. **Melbourne.**
GUANO.—First Class. For Sale. Regular Supplies.
MAWSON & CO. 37 King St., Melbourne.

JOSHUA BANNISTER & CO.,
Chaff, Hay, Butter, and
General Produce Merchants,
GEELONG.

CAULFIELD CUP.
WHITE & ALLAMBY
Have replenished their Stock in view of ensuing
season. Best ENGLISH GOODS ONLY kept
in stock.
AMERICAN HARNESS,
Single and Double, Carriage, Brougham, Gig, and
Buggy, in ALL of which none but the best
English and American Leather is
used in making up.
50 BOURKE STREET WEST.

SCENEY & ANDREWS,
WHOLESALE
Fruit & Produce Merchants,
CORNER OF RYRIE & GHERINGHAP STS.,
GEELONG.

On Sale—Chaff, Pollard, Barley, Onions, Ham, Sugar, Oats,
Wheat, Maize, Butter, Bacon, Bran, Peas, Potatoes,
Eggs, Tea, &c., &c.
N.B.—All kinds of Garden, Farm, and Dairy Produce Bought
and Sold.

JAMES L. BEST & CO.,
Dairy and General Produce Merchants,
STEAM CHAFF CUTTERS, AND
DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF FRUIT.
MOORABOOL ST., GEELONG.

by Special Appointment to the Marquis of Normanby, K.C.M.G. & under the Patronage of His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.D.

DANIEL WHITE'S
STEAM CARRIAGE WORKS,
244 AND 245 SWANSTON STREET,
And 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 & 21 STEWART STREET, MELBOURNE.

Awarded GOLD MEDAL for Special Merit at London Exhibition of 1873, and TWO GOLD
MEDALS for best Carriages at Melbourne Shows of 1883 and 1884, and THIRTY TWO
MEDALS (1st Prizes), at Exhibitions and Shows of 1872, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77,
78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85. Also, THREE FIRST AWARDS
OF MERIT (1st Prizes), at International Exhibition of 1880.

NOTICE.—Referring to above, D. WHITE desires to inform his numerous Customers and the Public
generally that he has secured and completed EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO HIS COACH FACTORY,
and with the increased accommodation and Steam Plant, and the Largest Stock of Seasoned Timber in
Melbourne, is now prepared to meet the increasing demand for his well-known Carriages and Vehicles.
The new premises are in Stewart Street, immediately opposite the present Factory.
Patentee of the Improved Carriage and Buggy Hood Apparatus, for raising or lowering the Hood from the
inside. Every description of Vehicle built from the best imported Materials and Well-seasoned Timber.

STICKLAND & SONS
COACH BUILDERS,

Beg to inform Squatters, Farmers, and others that, having enlarged and improved their premises generally,
they are enabled to keep a large and varied stock of Vehicles, which they invite all interested to inspect.

MAIL, VICTORIA, PONY AND OTHER PHÆTONS.

Also numerous TOP and NO-TOP BUGGIES, &c., NOW ON VIEW.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—
133 LATROBE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE.

Bristol Poultry and Fancy Bird Stores.

CHARLES FOX,
IMPORTER, EXHIBITOR,
BREEDER AND DEALER
IN
High-class Poultry
1 & 2 EASTERN MARKET, MELBOURNE



LOWER QUADRANGLE (next Arcade.)
Champion Prize Taker at past Shows. Exchanges made
any way. Fowls Eggs for Sitting. Orders despatched to any
part of the colony on receipt of P.O.O.

DAL. CAMPBELL & CO.,
Stock and Station Agents,
49 BOURKE ST. WEST, MELBOURNE.

AGENT AT TERANG, MR. HENRY MAWBEY.

STEVENSON & ELLIOT,

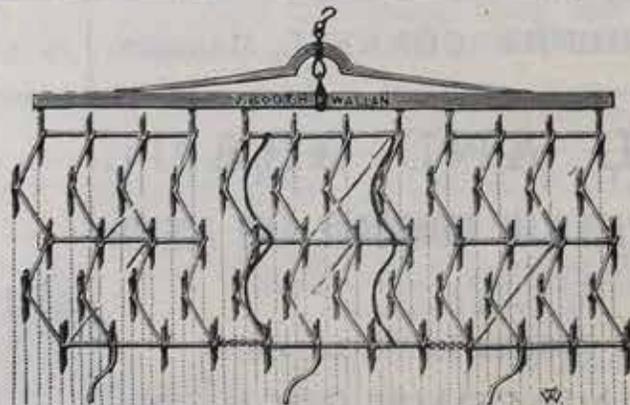
By Special Appointment to
H.R.H. the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.C.B., and
Carriage Builders
To His Excellency the Governor Sir HENRY LOCH, K.C.D.,
and all the late Governors for the past 25 years.
Have a large selection of CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, their
own build, constructed upon the most improved principles
and elegant modern designs, in which are used the best
workmanship and materials procurable, comprising Landaus,
Brabantia, London Victorias, Mail Phaetons, Waggonettes,
Bretts, Single and Double-seated Buggies, Dogcarts, &c.;
also Plain and Fancy Farmers' Waggon, built specially for
country use.
A variety of Second-hand Vehicles kept in stock.
Heraldry executed in correct style.

SHOWROOMS:
177 179 & 181 King Street, Melbourne.

Advanced Literature. Botanic Medicines.
In Great Variety.
Imported and on Sale Wholesale and Retail by
W. H. TERRY, "Harbinger of Light" Office,
84 RUSSELL ST., MELBOURNE.

Unique Catalogue of Books, or List of Botanic Medicines sent
Free on Application.

1 GOLD MEDAL.



15 SILVER MEDALS.

J. BOOTH,
Harrow Maker,
RAILWAY STATION, WALLAN.

HARROWS made to suit all kinds of soil, fitted with Iron or Steel Tynes.

These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tyn
cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884
and 1885 these Implements in competition with the leading Colonial-made and Imported Harrows,
secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing
a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents
throughout the Colonies. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List free on application.

Note Address--RAILWAY STATION P.O., WALLAN.

PRICE WILLIAMS,

FRANKLIN STREET, WEST MELBOURNE,

MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 8½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.

JOHN DANKS & SON,

Engineers & Brass Founders,

MANUFACTURERS OF

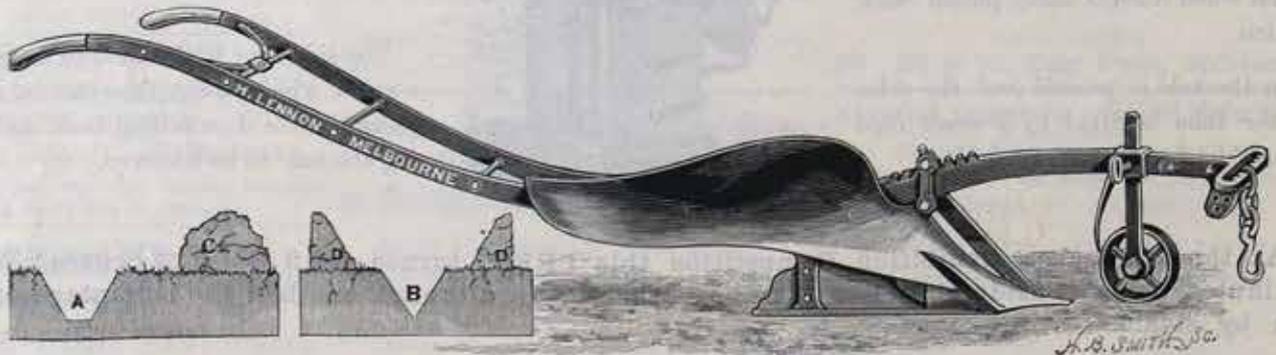
PUMPS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Fire Engines, Baths, Sanitary Ware, Gas Fittings,

Iron, Lead, and Compo. Pipes, Water Supply Goods.

42 BOURKE ST. WEST,

MELBOURNE.

**HUGH LENNON'S****World-famed Agricultural Field Implements and Harvesting Machinery**

Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes

Three and Four Furrow Ploughs.

Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and dam-sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.

Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators

Drain Ploughs, for irrigation purposes.

Vineyard Ploughs,

All fitted with H. L.'s Patent Wrought Iron Shares. A clear saving of 50 per cent.

👉 ALL KINDS OF HARVESTING MACHINERY IN STOCK. 👈

CATALOGUES FREE ON APPLICATION.

Manufactory and Show Rooms: Opposite North Melbourne Railway Station.

JAMES M'EWAN & CO.,

Ironmongers & Iron Merchants.



THE IRON TURBINE WIND ENGINE is made entirely of iron, and therefore is more durable than any other Wind Engine. It cannot shrink, swell, rattle, or be torn to pieces by the wind, and weighs no more than the ordinary Wooden Wheel Engine.

The Fans are constructed on the Turbine principle, being so curved that each one passes the wind on to the next, thus getting all the power out of it. The wind glides through them like a stream of water, following the curve, and still using its momentum, until its escape, so that none of the force is lost. This peculiar construction of the wheel causes it to give more power than any other wheel of the same diameter in the market.

The Engine is self-regulating. The first sharp gust will blow it edge on to the wind, and it will then weather the fiercest gale without injury, and drop back to work again as soon as it is over.

The Governing Device is very simple. It can be adjusted to make from 20 revolutions per minute to 60 in a moderate wind, and without blowing out of gear, and will always blow out in a gale. There is also provision for changing the length of stroke.

Special attention is paid to the construction of the Machinery or Engine proper, only the very best materials being used. Polished shafting and habbit-lined boxes with cavity between the bearings in which is placed packing to hold oil, to prevent the necessity of frequent oiling. The pitman bearing is provided with a glass oiler that will hold a week's supply, so it is necessary to oil only when you can see from the ground that the glass oiler is empty.

The great and steadily increasing demand for these Engines is sufficient proof that their quality is unquestionable, and that they are especially adapted for this country, where the hot winds and occasional fierce gales forbid the use of any material liable to be affected thereby. They are now running in all parts of the Colony, and the universal opinion is, that they are the best.

Farmers will do well to remember that for watering stock, irrigating gardens, &c., a good Wind Engine is the most economical, simple, and efficient power that can be used, while for a water supply for domestic purposes or fire prevention it is a most important and valuable adjunct to a residence.

The first cost of the Iron Turbine Wind Engine is practically its only cost. It requires no skilled labor and next to no attention. Regular oiling is all that is necessary to keep it in order for years.

We also supply pumps of various kinds to suit different depths, &c. Also, Derricks if required.

Full instructions for erection of supplied with each Engine.

SEND FOR CATALOGUES.

General Importers of All Classes of Ironmongery & Station Supplies, Galvanized Iron, Fencing Wire, Machinery, &c.

81, 83, AND 319 ELIZABETH ST., AND 4, 6, AND 10 LITTLE COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE.

MACHINE BELTING.

Saddlers by Appointment to His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.

MACHINE BELTING.



FACTORY:

LITTLE BOURKE ST.



TANNERY:

FLEMINGTON.

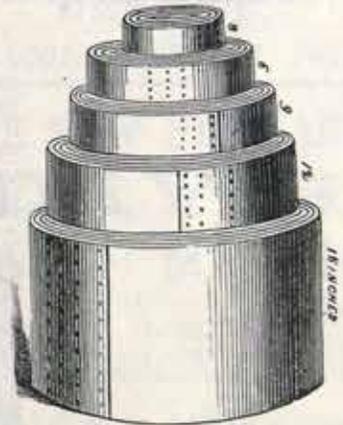
D. ALTSON & CO.

Saddlers & Tanners,

25 BOURKE STREET WEST.

Contractors for Machine Belting, Saddlery, &c., to the Government, War & Naval Departments of Victoria.

Prices and Samples posted free on application.



HOSE.

BUCKETS.

A Perfect Fence.



A Perfect Fence.

BUCKTHORN SOLID STEEL FENCE,

(GALVANISED),

Punishes Cattle without damaging them. The only Fence awarded GOLD MEDAL. Annual consumption in the United States and Canada, over 12,000 tons.

THE BUCKTHORN FENCE

Perfectly Galvanised, is not only useful, but also very ornamental, as, by its width, it can be seen from a distance. It makes the employment of top-rails unnecessary. Having almost DOUBLE THE STRENGTH of other barbed wires, it requires FEWER POSTS and is more DURABLE. The BUCKTHORN FENCE has been adopted generally throughout any district where it has once been tried.

ANCHOR BRAND FENCING WIRE.

ANCHOR BRAND WIRE NAILS.

The ANCHOR BRAND Wire is made of Steel or Iron, and both are sold at same Prices.

A WARRANT will be given to Purchasers that the Wire is of the best quality, and that it will stand any test any other brand of Wire will stand. The ANCHOR BRAND Wire at the same time will always be sold at lower prices than any other Wire, the makers being determined to secure the Australian market for themselves. The same applies to Wire Nails.

For Prices and Particulars apply to

HIRSCH & KAEPPEL, 62 FLINDERS LANE WEST,

Or any of their Local Agents throughout the Colony.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



VICTORIA

Vol. I.—No. 4. [Regd. as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1885.

GRATIS.

"If 'twere done when 'tis done,
Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

CATERER

CHARLES D. STRAKER,
Three Crowns Hotel,
WEST MELBOURNE.

Caterer for the Victorian Racing Club, The National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and the Victorian Coursing Club.

Orders for Banquets, Piques, Dejeuners, Weddings, Suppers, on the shortest Notice in Town or Country.

N.B.—Tents and Caterer's Requisites on Hire.

THO. H. YOUNG,
Customs, Shipping, and
COMMISSION AGENT.

Bonded Goods Cleared and Forwarded.

Merchandise and Private Effects sent to any Address in the World.

Shipping Documents meet with Promptness and Dispatch, and Goods forwarded as directed.

THO. H. YOUNG,

PHOENIX CHAMBERS,
MARKET STREET,
MELBOURNE.

ADDRESS—
TEL. No. 643.

JAMES FRY & COMPANY
(LIMITED),

Millers & Grain Merchants

AND
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS.

Subscribed Capital - £88,000.

DIRECTORS—

JAMES FRY, Managing Director.
JAMES JOHNSON. THOMAS ROXBURGH.
WM. W. FRASER. WM. MCGRIE.

HEAD OFFICES—

ROBB'S BUILDINGS,
Collins Street West, Melbourne.

Ballarat Flour Mills, Ballarat.
Wimmera Flour Mills, Horsham.
Nattinuk Flour Mills, Nattinuk.
Budjik Flour Mills, Kaniva.
Donald Flour Mills, Donald.

GRAIN STORES at JUNG JUNG, WAIL, LUBECK,
NUMURKAH, DIMBOOLA, DONALD, and Agencies
at all the principal Railway Stations.

Jas. Fry & Company's Celebrated 5 Stars Flour.

Consignors of Wool and other Produce and Advances
made thereon.

Every description of Agricultural Machinery and Implements,
by all the best Melbourne Manufacturers and
Importers on sale on favorable terms.

Town Agents for transaction of every description of Farmers
business requiring Confidential Care
and attention.

Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
STORAGE ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS.

J. F. & Co. Limited are prepared to ship Wheat if desired
on Farmers' account for sale in London on
advantageous terms.

£60,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security

J. B. SCOTT,
Britannia Bone Mills,
PORT MELBOURNE.

BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring
Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has
received from H. W. Emerson MacIvor:—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my
eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of
detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration
in this material from your Factory, was search in vain.

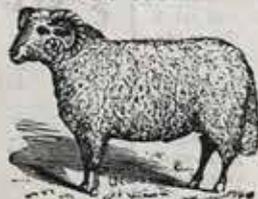
I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,

LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
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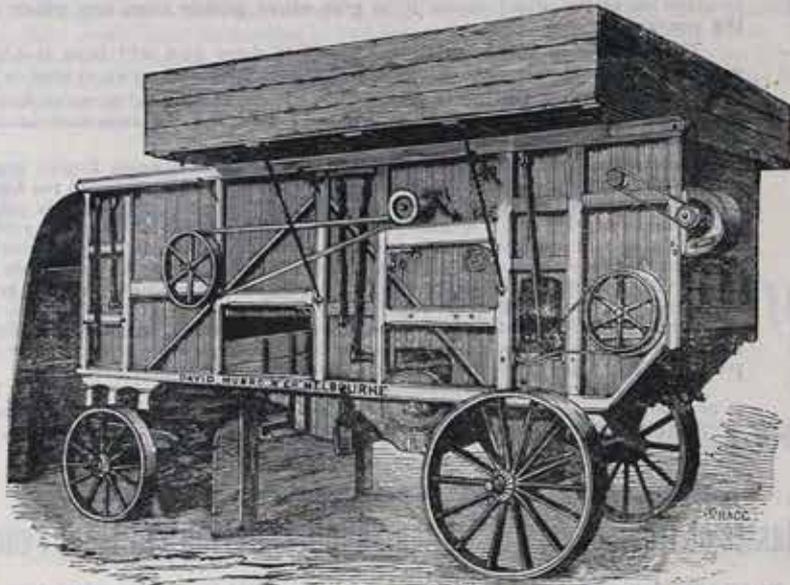
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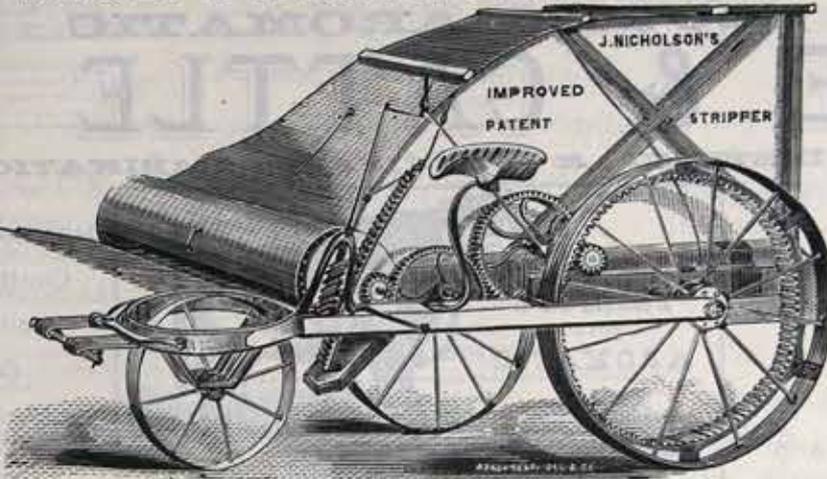
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 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
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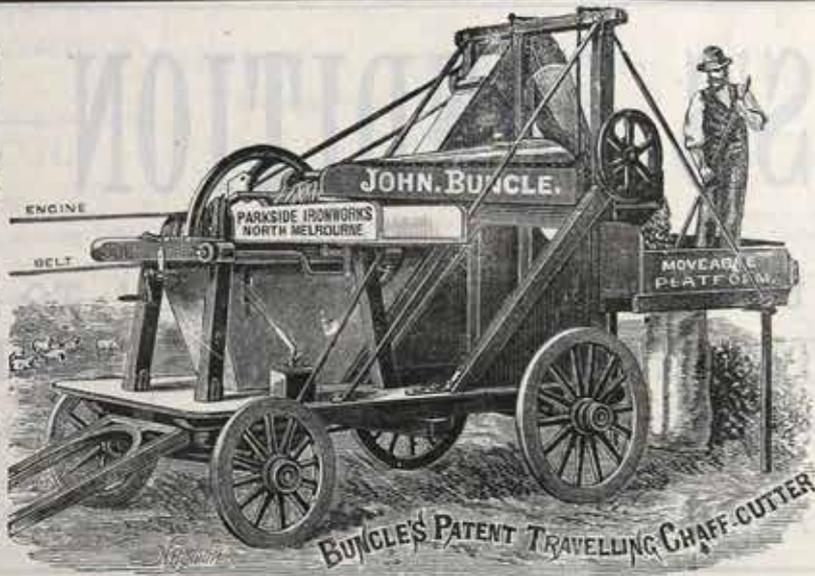
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WRITE FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES.

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, NOVEMBER 13th, 1885.

Parturition in Mares.

The losses horse-breeders sustain in the foaling season are frequently very heavy. In fact such severe inroads are made into their breeding stock at that particular time, that many who have entered with spirit into the enterprise have been compelled to give it up. There is, however, something very fascinating in breeding a good horse—most men naturally love the animal—so that the occupation is often continued even after it is well-known that it does not pay. In high class mares of any description there are many deaths; while in heavy draught mares particularly the losses are very severe, and the heavier and better the stock the more danger there is in reproduction. To establish this fact it is only necessary to remind our readers that many of our very best draught-mares have been lost in foaling. We are aware of one breeder who had a nice little stud of heavy mares which was gradually reduced till every one died in foaling; and in fact, to give a list of well-known high-class mares lost in this way would occupy more space than is available. In the early days before extra heavy draughts were bred and fed up in the overdone style which now prevails, and when horses of a fair class were produced and allowed to run on their natural pasture in ordinary condition, there were few losses, for a mare would foal without assistance and get up and walk away with her foal beside her immediately afterwards. Now-a-days, however, it is not far from the mark to say that it takes two mares to produce a three year old colt—in other words with losses and misses—taking one year with another, a breeder will have about one animal fit for sale at the age stated for every two mares in his stud. This is not very encouraging to anyone who contemplates horse-breeding, and to ordinary readers may seem absurd—but those who have come through the ordeal will endorse it to the letter. It should also tend to increase one's estimate of a good horse when he is aware of the difficulty of producing such an animal. It is questionable whether it really pays any man to breed horses; that is, counting losses, and taking everything into consideration, such as capital invested, feeding, grazing and expenses. Still, when once a stud is established, there is a certain amount of produce every season which brings in a yearly income, sufficient to induce the continuance of the enterprise—for enterprise it is in the original meaning of the word. In almost every case the men who make names for themselves as successful horse breeders, in addition to keeping mares also stand their sires for the season, and from this source derive no inconsiderable portion of their profits. Many of the losses

of mares and foals, however, are preventable. Breeders should remember that all their high-class animals are in a degree unnatural, for they have been bred up and improved into a sort of artificial state; consequently at the critical time of parturition they require particular attention. As a rule owners are not sufficiently thorough in the means they adopt during what is generally spoken of as the season. The usual course with those who do take any trouble is to put the mare—about the time she is expected to foal—into a small enclosure and look at her at intervals during the night, but this is not sufficient as we shall presently show. Some people seem to think that there is a sort of mystery about a mare foaling. The writer of Stephen's *Book of the Farm*—a standard work—actually says that he never saw a mare foal, although for years he had been anxious to do so. He admits that he was in the habit of going and returning at intervals, and thus lost his opportunity. This is the course to which we object. If it is intended to watch a mare it should be done thoroughly or it may about as well not be done at all, for she may be quite right when the intermittent watcher sees her, and five minutes after he has left may be in difficulties, then when he comes back he is too late to be of any service. It is an excellent plan to have a large loose box or roomy covered enclosure in which to put a mare at night when near foaling, and to have a room attached in which an attendant should sit up all night, and have her continually under his eye. He should also be in a position to be able to at once call up further assistance. The cost may be objected to, but it should only be looked on as a sort of premium paid for insurance, and it must be admitted that even only one good mare saved in a season would more than pay for half a dozen watchmen. Then again as there is a good deal of sentiment in horse breeding no amount of money can compensate a man for the loss of a favorite mare; he may think more of one particular animal than of all the rest of his stud. After a breeder has tried to carry out a pet idea by mating a certain mare with a particular sire, it is terribly disappointing and annoying to lose even the foal; while the chagrin is increased when both mare and foal go. Still many a one has been so lost in foaling which might easily have been saved by a little attention at the proper time. A fair general idea when a mare will foal can usually be formed, but in order to arrive more definitely at the time she should be milked—that is after she shows an udder it should be tried occasionally. When the milk first comes it will be thick, glutinous and dark in color, but when on trial the white pure milk flows out the mare will foal in almost every case in from twelve to twenty-four hours. It is quite unnecessary to watch the mare before this change in the milk, but thereafter she should be constantly under the eye of an attendant. This rule will be found an excellent one, and with practice it is wonderful how nearly the exact time of foaling can be arrived at. General appearances are often very deceptive, and a mare may be watched for a fortnight unnecessarily; so that by the adoption of the above course a great deal of trouble is saved. It may scarcely be credited, but it is a fact that the

owner of perhaps the most celebrated draught mare ever imported to Australia, watched her at intervals during every night for a fortnight expecting her to foal, and though very fat at the time, she was not even in foal. Had he tried the milking test he would soon have found out his mistake. It may be said that as parturition is a natural process no assistance should be required, but the effort to breed extra big heavy stock together with the artificial way in which mares are kept, have so altered the course of nature that assistance in very many cases is absolutely necessary, and the terrible losses yearly borne by breeders are evidence that this is a matter to which sufficient attention is not given. We believe that in almost every case both mare and foal can be saved if prompt assistance is rendered, and we urge on breeders in their own interest to adopt a more thorough, careful and methodical system of looking after their mares during the season. In short we advise that the suggestion herein given be acted on, feeling confident that thereby many heavy losses may be prevented, and that the extra cost and trouble will be amply repaid.

1855
2
1858
The Ballarat Show.

WE had the pleasure of visiting the twenty-seventh annual exhibition of the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society, which was held last month on the show grounds adjoining the shores of the witching Wendouree. The day was delightful, and as we took a seat apart on the spacious grand stand, our eyes a moment dwelt on the animated scene below, but were soon attracted by the waters of the famous lake stretching out immediately beyond. Some bald coots rose and flew on lazy wing from place to place about its reedy centre; wherein we fancied we could hear the gentle breeze's well-remembered strains—for, lost in reverie, our thoughts ran back to youthful days in spring, when riding about the great Koo-wee-rup, with water almost to our feet, and swans in numbers all around, we were wont to draw rein beside one of their nests, and alighting thereon, stand listening to their marvellously melodious notes blending with the weird wailing of the wind amongst the tall and tangled reeds. But other matters soon claimed attention, and on going round the yards, the very fine show of draught stock—"the hairy-leggit yins," as Scotchmen call them—at once attracted notice. The thoroughbreds were only fair, but the hacks and hunters were unusually good, and the jumping of the latter excellent. Still it was far from being as sensational as that at the last Albury show, where it is worth telling that one lady rode a sixteen hands high thoroughbred colt at racing pace over three hurdles in succession several times; and another repeatedly rode over a stiff four feet six fence in splendid style. The Shorthorns and Herefords were not particularly attractive; but some really good dairy cattle were exhibited, though in low condition, which showed that the district was a rather late one, and not the part of Victoria

"Where smiling Spring its earliest visits paid."

No sheep were shown, there being a separate

exhibition for them at an earlier date. The swine classes were very creditable, for there were many "porcine beauties" for the admiration of those who understood wherein their beauty lay. There was a fine lot of dogs and poultry of almost all descriptions—the latter being both numerous and of high quality. An important feature of the Show was the machinery and implement department, in which a huge thresher was a conspicuous object. The elevator of this machine, which is made to move slowly from side to side and deliver the straw over the whole length of the stack, is a capital contrivance. With its automatic feeder, its band-cutter, and other ingenious appliances, this thresher is altogether a wonderful machine. There was keen competition in the chaff-cutters—a famous maker saying he thought he had never before been run so close. Many stylish vehicles were exhibited. In the well-lighted, roomy sheep shed, which was utilised to great advantage at this Show, there was a large number of miscellaneous exhibits, including a splendid collection of pot plants, flowers and bouquets, and comprising such articles as pianos, sewing machines, fancy work, and even tinware and dairy produce—altogether forming a most attractive department, and one in which the ladies were inclined to linger long. Some good wines were shown, the arrangement of the place in which they were set out being very satisfactory to exhibitors. The steward here told a good story. A gentleman once brought a reputed judge into the room to taste two samples of wine. The steward set down the wines and two glasses, but thoughtlessly filled both from the same bottle. He had scarcely done so when he was aware of his mistake, and was much perturbed in mind; but as no one had noticed him, he determined to let matters take their course. The connoisseur took up a glass, and after going through the usual preliminaries tasted it, and in a self-satisfied tone pronounced it a sound, pure, excellent wine. He then tasted the other, but immediately set it down with an impatient gesture, saying it was fortified and unnatural, together with a good deal more, which under the circumstances was of course very ridiculous. As the grounds were remarkably free from dust, and the exhibition comprised so many interesting features with such pleasing surroundings, it was no wonder that as the day wore on the attendance grew very large. Altogether this prosperous Society, whose lines seem indeed to have fallen in pleasant places, may well be congratulated on the success of their twenty-seventh show.

1885
1874
The Tatura Show. 1874

THE eleventh exhibition of the North-Eastern and Goulburn Valley Agricultural Society, held at Tatura last month, was the occasion of the bringing together a large number of entries and a crowd of visitors. The people seemed in excellent spirits, which was doubtless accounted for by the grand season they were having—the grass throughout the Goulburn Valley being knee deep, and the crops remarkably luxuriant. Some of the splendid fields of wheat in their fine expanse of level, dark green growth, vividly

suggested the idea of great billiard tables, so even was their surface. They certainly gave promise of a most abundant harvest. Amongst the exhibits, the draught horses made a very fine display—the show of mares, with some really good foals at foot, being one of the most interesting classes on the ground. No pure bred animals of very striking excellence were shown in the cattle classes, though there were a few fair exhibits; but the fat cattle were wonderfully good—a pair of grand cows being the fattest we have seen for some time. As the condition of cattle turned off country is an excellent gauge of its quality, judging by these cows there must be some splendid land in the Goulburn Valley. A few good sheep, both Longwools and Merinos were shown. There was not a much grain on the ground, which was accounted for by the show being held at this season of the year. The district has already gained a great reputation for wheat growing, which this season's crop will doubtless enhance. In the machinery department the strippers, which were the principal exhibits, showed the mode of harvesting adopted in the district. There was a large quantity of ladies' fancy work, which seemed to combine a good deal of the useful with the ornamental. The sight of the show, however, was the butter, of which there was considerably over 100 exhibits. The elaborately designed trophies of fancy worked butter were simply marvels of construction. At the luncheon, which was served in very good style, the speeches savoured more of politics than is usual on such occasions; but coming events cast their shadows before—the elections are approaching. Although the Tatura Show has not been long established, it already excels many others in much older-settled districts.

A Complaint.

We regret to have to complain that matter from our last issue appeared in the columns of a weekly paper without the slightest acknowledgement. While making this complaint we wish to state that we should be pleased for two reasons to see our articles copied if we received credit for them. The first reason is that it would be evidence of their worth, and the second that as it is our wish to disseminate useful information, the fact of them being copied would insure their more effective distribution; thus assisting in our object—but we certainly do expect to have such articles acknowledged.

Meetings.

The ordinary meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, at which it was not expected that there would be much business of importance to transact, has been postponed from the 10th till the 17th inst. in consequence of the president and a number of members of Council being desirous of visiting the Bacchus Marsh show.

Federation of Agricultural Societies.

A meeting of the Central (Victorian) Board of Agriculture was held in the offices of the National Agricultural Society, Kirk's Bazaar, on Thursday, the 5th inst. Present—Dr. Plummer (in the chair), Messrs. J. Castles, Echuca; J. B. Miller, Murtoa; W. Thomson, Kyneton; H. S. Parfitt, Wangaratta; J. A. Taylor, Bairnsdale; J. Knight, Shepparton, and J. L. Dow, M.L.A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Amongst the correspondence, a letter was read from the Secretary of Agriculture, referring to the request of a deputation from the Central Board, stating that the treasurer was unable (the estimates being closed) to consider any application for additional expenditure, and further, that in view of the large vote to agricultural societies, the Minister did not see how the amount could be increased for the purposes intended.

The chairman stated that it appeared the board was thwarted in its efforts by some adverse influence.

Mr. Dow said the scheme of federation had in a measure been brought about by the *laches* of the Agricultural Department. He considered that a Minister who wished to make himself popular would have an excellent opportunity of doing so by joining and assisting in this matter hand in hand. A great deal of routine preliminary work—hard work—had been done, which only required to be followed up to make the movement a success.

Mr. Thomson moved that a deputation be appointed to wait on the Premier and Treasurer, with a view to obtaining the necessary assistance.

Seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried.

A committee of the whole was then appointed to draw up a statement of the objects and requirements of the board in order that the deputation might place these before the Premier.

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Mr. Thomson moved that the secretary be instructed to write to the Minister of Lands stating that the Central Board of Agriculture, as representing the agricultural societies of the colony, approved of the islands in the Murray being granted to the Council of Agricultural Education.

Seconded by Mr. Knight, and carried.

BILL FOR FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES.

Mr. Taylor moved that Mr. Dow be asked to give notice in Parliament next Tuesday of his intention to introduce a bill into the Legislature to promote the federation of the agricultural societies of Victoria.

Seconded by Mr. Castles, and carried.

The board then adjourned till the following day.

Trial of Excavators.

A PUBLIC trial of excavators entered for Sir William Clarke's special prizes at the August Exhibition of the National Agricultural Society was held on Wednesday, the 4th inst., on the North Melbourne Swamp, near the Hotham Cricket Ground. The competitors were required to sink a tank 18ft. wide, 48ft. long, and 6ft. deep, the sides having a slope of 1 to 1, and the end slope being 1 in 3; the usual gradient in tank sinking. There were eleven entries at the show, but

only two came forward for competition. These were Mr. S. McCaughey's patent four-wheel automatic earth scoop or excavator, entered by Messrs. D. Munro & Co.; and Messrs. Robinson & Sons' patent champion automatic wheel earth scoop. The following description of the two scoops is taken from the *Argus*:—

"The McCaughey automatic scoop is carried on four wheels, and is worked by two horses, the driver riding on a seat upon the fore-carriage. The scoop, which holds a third of a cubic yard of earth, is completely automatic in its action, two easily worked levers putting the different parts of the machinery in and out of gear. When not at work the scoop travels clear of the ground, and when its driver wishes to fill it he moves a lever which lets the lip of the scoop fall into gathering position. When the scoop is full, the driver, by means of the other lever, puts the raising racket gear in motion, and the forward motion of the carriage lifts the lip of the scoop into a horizontal position. The load is now clear of the ground, and is carried to any required point to be deposited. Upon reaching the depositing place, the first lever is again touched, when the lip of the scoop falls, the scoop turns over, and rights itself again, leaving the load of earth on the ground, or on the heaps. All these processes are gone through without stopping the team, and as raising, lowering, and tilting of the machine are accomplished by means of the power of the horses, the work of the driver is light.

Drains of the ordinary size are made by means of the McCaughey scoop, in Riverina, for 1½d. per yard, the squatter finding teams, scoops, and providing for the horses and men. Tanks are excavated for 3d. per yard under the same circumstances. Contractors supplying their own plant and finding their own horses and men could, it is estimated, make good wages at 6d. per yard for excavating tanks. A man with a plough and two horses will plough enough to keep three of the scoops going, and a ploughman with a team of four horses can do the ploughing for five scoops. Recently a pit for ensilage was made with one of the scoops upon Mr. McCaughey's station. The pit was 110ft. long and 12ft. wide, the side being nearly perpendicular, as the width at the bottom was 10ft. The price of the scoop is £47.

The Champion automatic earth scoop is of much simpler construction, and leaves more to be done by the man in charge. It is carried upon three small wheels, and is guided by means of two handles. The driver walks behind, holding the handles. When the scoop is full it is raised by means of pressing upon the handles and an automatic door falls down in front to keep the earth from falling out. The load is thus carried on the wheels clear of the ground, and is deposited by the turning over of the scoop. The handles are self-catching and self-releasing, so that they cannot be carried over with the tilting of the scoop. These scoops are sold at from £22 10s. to £35, according to size; the cost of the two-horse scoop being £25."

A 'Lennon' plough was used in breaking up the ground for the McCaughey scoop, which made faster progress with the work than the other. After the tank had been sunk rather more than 3½ feet, the bottom became so soft that it was considered unsafe for the horses and the work was stopped. Both the scoops worked well, and the judges awarded the first prize of £40 to Messrs. D. Munro and Co. for the McCaughey, and the second of £10 to Messrs. Robinson and Sons. The Honorable F. T. Cumming and William Irving Winter with Mr. Rees Davis, who acted as judges, made the following note:—"The judges regret that the ground was so soft after sinking 3½ feet that the work had to be stopped, but they consider there was quite sufficient excavation done to enable

them to arrive at a satisfactory decision, and therefore award the prizes as stated." After the trial an adjournment was made to the adjoining hotel, where Mr. Munro proposed the health of the judges and Messrs. W. I. Winter and T. F. Cumming responded. The health of Sir William Clarke, the donor of the prizes, was proposed by Mr. Lennon, and received with enthusiasm. Mr. McCaughey responded to the toast.

Judging by Points and Suggestions.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—

Noticing in your No. 3 an article upon the difficulty of obtaining honorary judges at shows, and receiving from them accurate decisions, leads me to seek the attention of your readers to a proposal that, pending the arrival of the time when the employment of professional judges at all shows shall be generally adopted, there should now be introduced a system of judging by points. The public like the three-judge (honorary) system, but it is frequently unsatisfactory to the exhibitors and to the judges themselves where there is a strong difference of opinion, or no opinion at all, perhaps, from two out of three judges. If the judges were supplied with a schedule of points for each description of stock judged, and were required to fill in these points, and then tot up their judgment from them, they would be led to adopt an accurate mode of assessing relative points of merit in the exhibits placed before them, and the publication of these schedules in the more important judgments would show why the prizes were awarded first, second, and third, which information ought to be taken, if prizes are to be of any value, as a guide to improvement of breeding. Especially is this information wanted, also, in the judging of implements and machinery, and, indeed, judges at field trials find it almost impossible to arrive at anything but a haphazard decision unless they do judge by points.

As the Department of Agriculture does not come so much into contact or co-operation with Agricultural Societies throughout the colony as it should do, and some day will do (after the manner of the American system) your Society could meet one want of this nature by undertaking for all Societies, for an annual fee of say £2 or £3, the advertising (briefly) of their annual show and ploughing match dates, with dates of closing entries, and names and addresses of Secretaries. You could also undertake to receive, at the office of your Society, in Kirk's Bazaar, copies of all prize lists of shows and matches, with entry forms. A large number of Melbourne people are interested in information of this kind, and it would be of advantage to them and to the several Societies throughout the colony (or the colonies, for that matter) to have a central place, such as the offices of your Society, where they could rely upon finding a copy of official prize lists, &c. Besides which, the secretaries of societies and other persons interested in prize list literature could, by looking over the various modes of compiling lists and regulations get many hints as to overcoming difficulties they meet with in the management of their Societies. A further expansion of the idea would be the filing for reference of the annual reports and rules of the various Societies, and the reception of papers from them which could be epitomised in your *Journal*.

A Directory of office-bearers of Societies, and of dates of holding regular meetings, might also be added at some future time, but it would be as well to commence with the one service first mentioned by me.

In conclusion, permit me to say that the National Agricultural Society has done well to establish a monthly journal, and will, I think, neglect its national character as a Society if it does not endeavour to foster other Societies, so far as they will allow themselves to be assisted, by giving them the opportunities I have suggested of making use of the columns of your *Journal*, and of your Kirk's Bazaar Office, to give publicity to their matches and shows.—Yours, &c.

CHRISTOPHER CRISP.

Bacchus Marsh, Oct. 19.

[The National Society receives and files the prize lists of the Agricultural Societies of Victoria, as also those of the leading Societies of the adjoining Colonies; and the file is largely availed of by Agriculturists. The office is always at the disposal of Societies for meetings, and, indeed, it is the policy of the Council to render every assistance and information possible to kindred institutions. This *Journal* also is established to assist in this object, in which connection the excellent suggestions of our correspondent will not be lost sight of.—EDITOR.]

Correspondence.

Judging at Shows, &c., &c.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—Allow me to congratulate your Society on the excellence of its journal. If you continue as you have commenced, success will crown your efforts. I have read with much interest your article on Judging at Shows, and will at once state that the single judge system has much to recommend it, and I emphasise your last paragraph, "Give it a trial." There is considerable dissatisfaction among the breeders of stock all over the world at the present trio system of judging. If a glaring error has been made, not one of the three will admit it, and naturally blames the other two—in short, exhibitors can get no satisfaction from the present system of judging. I can fully appreciate the apt remarks of Mr. Hugh Lennon, and with your permission will relate an incident that really occurred in my own experience. Some years ago I was living in the North-Eastern District of your fair colony. I purchased a very fine Lincoln ram from a breeder in the Western District. An important show was to be held at an adjoining township, and I determined to show (with other exhibits) the ram. I found that my neighbour was going to the show as a judge of sheep, so we shared one buggy, and the ram was put up behind. After the judging was over I met my neighbour, and he voluntarily asserted that he was thoroughly convinced that my ram was by far the best on the ground; that he had stuck up for him for first place and champion, but that the other two judges were against him, and he only got second prize. The Wangaratta Show came off about a week later, and I determined to show the ram there, just to see if the judgment would be reserved, as I knew the same exhibits were to be present. The day before the show there found myself, neighbour, and ram *en route* for the show. This time my neighbour was not acting as a judge for sheep. I was busy myself during the show day among the cattle, but when we had finished I went to the sheep section to see how the ram had fared. I was delighted to find two blue tickets on his pen, he having gained first prize in his class, and also champion as the best Lincoln on the ground. There was a very demonstrative gentleman admiring the ram when I came there, and he addressed me

thus: "Ah, Sir, this ram has got his right place to-day. When I was judging the other day at (mentioning the place where the ram was placed second), I said he was the best ram I had seen in the district, but the other two judges were against me, and I was disgusted that he was placed second." Just at this juncture my neighbour made his appearance, and I instantly accosted him by stating that he had sold me at the former show. He said, "What do you mean?" I replied, "Just hear what this gentleman has got to say." Judge No. 2 reiterated his statement, and swore that my neighbour and No. 3 judge were against him, and of course he was powerless. These two men abused each other so much that I was utterly ashamed, and left them in disgust. Who really was the culprit I do not know to this day, but it shows that so long as a man can shield himself behind other two, he will be regardless of consequence. Some men also, although well meaning and fair judges, have not the moral courage to stick up for their own opinions, and are led away by a man who has much to say, but knows very little.—Yours, &c.
J.L.T.

South Australia, Oct. 31st, 1885.

Stock Judging at Agricultural Shows.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

Sir,—I have been very pleased to see that the public are taking so much interest in the judging of thoroughbreds and other stock at our National Shows, and are giving their views through your journal, which, I venture to predict, will in time be productive of much good. Still I cannot agree with all your correspondent "A.Y." says about judging. I have been very intimately connected with the National Show ever since its formation, and think, as a rule, that the judges' decisions have given general satisfaction. I know there have been exceptions; but what I find most fault with in "A.Y.'s" letter in your last issue is that the pedigrees of the horses should be given to the judges. I think such a course would cause more dissatisfaction than ever, as we all know how very jealous breeders are about the particular strains of blood a horse or bull may have in his veins. Some would have nothing but Stockwell blood, others Melbourne, &c., &c., or in cattle, Booth or Bates. I recollect hearing one of our oldest breeders say, after Fisherman was imported, that he would not let that leggy brute cover one of his mares for £50; but, as results have shown, Fisherman has done perhaps as much to improve the breed of the thoroughbred as any horse that ever came to the country. But had you put the pedigree of the most perfect horse in the colony before the above breeder, who was looked upon as a good judge, and the horse being a Fisherman, he would have sent him out of the ring at once as no good, which, I venture to say, would be a greater injustice than giving a half-bred horse a first prize. "A.Y." instances King Alfred. I question very much had he been shown with the most fashionable pedigree in the world, without having been proved at the stud, whether you could have found a single person who knows a horse who would have given him a first prize against a horse like the Peer. At the same time most breeders, I have no doubt, would prefer the former after his stock had been proved. Such being the case, what becomes of the judging by pedigrees? If, on the other hand, I am wrong, then send the pedigree to the judges, and keep the horse in his box. In cattle the prejudice against the different strains of blood is, I think, even stronger than in horses. For instance,

Mr. P. would no more think of putting one of his pure Booth cows to a Bates bull than he would to an Alderney. On the other hand, Mr. K. would as soon think of sending one of his pure Bates cows to an Ayrshire bull as he would to a Booth. Both strains are splendid animals, but as Dr. Jenkins, a noted N.S.W. breeder, used to say, both breeds, he thought, could be improved by crossing. So if you had a judge that thought the Booth cattle the best, what show would a beast with a Bates pedigree have of taking the first prize. I do not wish it to be understood that I am opposed to pedigree stock; but what I would advocate is that it should be made a condition in entering, that all pure stock should have the sire and dam given for say five or six generations, which would be a guarantee to judges that the stock were pure, and then they could go for form, which I am a believer in.—I am, &c.,

A WELL-WISHER OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondent: who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a post-mortem examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Veterinary Notes.

USE AND ABUSE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

The careful discrimination between the use and abuse of medicine is a subject of great importance to all persons who are interested in live stock, and we propose making a few remarks with a view of causing those who have not studied the actions and uses of medicine systematically to reflect before administering medicine haphazard, thereby often doing more harm than good. It is a common practice to give large and dangerous doses of medicine which are never required, and mixing a number of medicines together, the action and effect of which no one can tell. We are indebted to homoeopathy for having in a great measure reformed the pill and bolus days of ancient allopathy, but we regret to see an indication of relapse back to the old system of saturating the system of the patient with medicine instead of relying on correcting error of diet and management, and only using such medicine as will assist nature, instead of retarding her unalterable laws. It would be well if two-thirds of the medicine in use were reserved for human subjects who have some power of protecting themselves, but veterinary patients have no option but swallow what is rammed down their throats. It is an old saying and a true one—"To know the disease is half the cure." The first step in adopting rational treatment is to observe the deviations from health, such as defective or excessive secretions, the exalted or depressed action of the different vital organs; and our efforts should be directed to restore the healthy balance upon which health depends, and we must look to rest as the great restorer, next diet, next sanitary surroundings, demand attention. If

we expect medicine to do any good we must give it a fair chance, to rely upon it alone leads only to failure and disappointment. Good nursing effects cures without medicine, but medicine without nursing is powerless to more than relieve for the time; but the temporary relief is often followed by an aggravation of the complaint if the cause is neglected or allowed to continue. The food of the animal should always be regulated by the work performed, taking care to give food that will supply the requirements of the system without taxing the digestive organs to get rid of deleterious materials or excess of quantity. Better to err on the safe side, as animals like men often dig their graves with their teeth. Food moderate in quantity, of good quality, and given regularly, is the golden rule never to be forgotten. Those medicines should be selected that will mildly stimulate healthy function, without producing violent action which is followed by re-action, which is calculated to retard instead of effecting a permanent recovery. Better to repeat than give a large dose as a rule, and to give single medicines combined only with others that will assist the action of the medicine on which we rely to effect the purpose intended. Indigestion in graminivorous animals is prone to result in acetous fermentation which leads to irritation of the bowels, and the rapid formation of carbonic acid gas, etc. In all such cases an alkali is indicated such as bicarbonate of soda, or ammonia in diluted solution, combined with ginger or gentian; this followed by copious drenches of warm water, or allow the patient to drink of chilled or cold water, will effect a cure of colic without the common remedies of turpentine, oil, etc. When there is torpidity of the bowels or overloading, a mild physic ball is necessary; the administration of aloes in solution, oil, etc. is objectionable, and causes the horse much annoyance, and by the pronounced and nauseous taste left in the mouth causes the animal to resist future drenches and drinking fluid which would assist the action of the medicine, and would have to be forced upon the patient, who has sufficient to contend with without rough handling, and giving repeated doses of medicine instead of being allowed frequent drinks in small quantities of cold water, which is most grateful to the animal, and expedites a cure. The following story is suggestive, and although not referring to veterinary medicine, by transposing the word "lady," it might be made to apply to the lower animals: "A lady of ripe age recently died in America and willed a large chest to her physicians. The doctor with great care had the chest removed, believing it to contain valuables, judging from its heavy weight. On opening the chest it was found filled with all the medicine intact that he had prescribed for his patient during thirty years."

The Infective Process of Disease.

By G. T. BROWN, Professor of Cattle Pathology, Royal Veterinary College.

As distinct from *infectious*, the term *infective* has a significance which is necessary to recognise.

Dr. Burdon Sanderson, in his lectures on the subject at the Brown Institution in 1877, states the case so clearly that it is impossible to put the points before the reader in a more convenient form than in the following extracts from the *British Medical Journal*, in which the lectures were published in December of 1877, and January and February 1878. First, in regard to the infective process, Dr. Burdon Sanderson says:

"The adjective *infective* is an adaptation of a word which has been long in use in Germany, but is new to English literature. I adapted it,

raises a herd, a stud, or a flock so much in public estimation as a series of hardly-won showyard laurels. Well that, by increased demand and consequent enhanced prices, benefits the breeder in question, provided always that in order to gain these prizes he has not sacrificed too many of his best animals. It may be doubted if the public benefit to the same extent; but if they are gainers at all, as we believe they are, by having the widened field of selection, furnished by shows, within their reach, they should have little reason to complain.

Why should the word sacrifice be applicable in the sentence before last? It is a fact, that the preparation of stock for showyards has for many years involved and still implies a sacrifice, more or less complete, of the breeding properties of the animals. In the early days of showing over-feeding was not so common. By and by, however, competition became so keen that excessive feeding was practised, as was also a good deal of trimming otherwise, and these services have been in a large measure successful in prize gaining. The more is the pity. The over-feeding or pampering of breeding stock for the sake of showyard glory is the worst feature of the agricultural exhibition system of modern days.

We shall endeavour to point out the means by which that mischief may be mitigated, but we are not sanguine of seeing it entirely prevented. Various attempts have been made to grapple with the evil, but they have only been very partially successful. For one thing, there is great difficulty in drawing the line here, as in many other matters, simply because a degree of obesity that will injure the breeding properties of one animal will not seriously, if at all, impair the procreative powers of another. Hardly two animals are affected alike by a similar accumulation of fat and flesh. Judges can scarcely be expected to incur the responsibility of setting aside animals that may seem too fat for breeding. If that is to be performed, it should be by a specially appointed committee. The task, however, would be a delicate one, and injustice would be ill to avoid. Animals might be condemned as hopelessly fat for breeding, which would go on for years thereafter breeding regularly, while some would be admitted which would fail as breeders. Of this there was striking evidence a few years ago at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show in the shorthorn heifer class rising three years. A heifer of great scale, but very fat—more like a Smithfield than a breeding show animal—was relegated to fifth place in the prize-list on account of her apparently over-fed state, and many onlookers approved of the judges' award, thinking that the animal was too fat for breeding. Strange to say, however, the heifer not only had a calf in due time, but eventually came in for the first money prize, all the heifers in, to all appearance, a more moderate state of feeding, placed before her originally, having failed to produce calves.

The evil of over-feeding with which modern showyards have become associated is so great, that a committee of inspection, or probably we should rather say of acceptance, of live stock into a national show might be tried. It might not work very well, but an endeavour should be made to suppress excessive fattening of breeding animals by other means than casting the responsibility on the judges. A carefully-selected committee would be the best tribunal before which the obesity of the stock could be tested. While this proposal is worthy of a

fair trial, it may be doubted if the eye or the hand either is capable of absolutely or accurately determining the point. The truth, we presume, is, that it cannot be accomplished anything like infallibly or precisely. If the line of demarcation, however, can be indicated in a general way, or with substantial justice by an experienced and select committee inspecting the stock as they enter the yard, then we say let this proposal have a chance of displaying what it can accomplish.

Freely will it be conceded that, in an earnest attempt to gain some showyard notoriety, the breeding properties of many really fine animals have been in a large measure sacrificed, owing to the high-pressure system of feeding which has unfortunately become almost essential to success in modern national showyards. It has often been said that breeding stock should be shown, comparatively speaking, in a natural state of feeding. That is all very well as regards local shows, where the stock have only a few miles' journey. A good judge will then have no difficulty in picking out the best beasts. They will be in a good fresh state, and should be little the worse of the journey to the competing ring. It is, however, a very different thing with national shows, or in the case of stock having to undergo a long and fatiguing passage on rail. Take, for example, grass-fed animals—horses, cattle, or sheep—brought from Morayshire to Dumfries, and how will they look on their arrival, or for some days thereafter? Very much jaded indeed. Frequently has it been said, and with much truth, that there are many judges of a fat or fully-developed animal, but very few positively sound judges of lean or grass-fed stock; in other words, a fat animal is much more easily judged than a lean or moderately conditioned. Judges, however, could be got to award prizes fairly and equitably to ordinarily fed breeding animals; but how would the beasts look after a journey from one end of Scotland to the other? Judges might know them, but they would be almost ashamed of them. The long railway passage would shake the animals beyond recognition unless they were in very high condition. Before quality and contour can be preserved over a long journey, there must be not only a great deal of fat and flesh outwardly developed, but no inconsiderable quantity of fat inside. That fact is the greatest barrier to a successful endeavour to suppress the over-feeding so much complained of at breeding shows.

While we thus cannot suggest a complete cure for the greatest evil connected with breeding stock exhibitions, a substantial mitigation of the adverse influences is within the range of probability. There should be no necessity to feed so very highly as some people do in any circumstances; but it must be admitted that, without liberal diet and careful treatment otherwise, exhibiting at national shows is perfectly purposeless.

Though the showing of live stock has done good service to the agriculture of Britain, and has in a large measure, if not wholly, fulfilled its purpose, it should not be allowed to cease. The country requires the continuance of shows, but a stage has been reached when exhibitors and societies can look around them and consider whether or not they are in every respect on as sound and serviceable rails as they might and should be. If this is done, the result should not be doubtful. Exhibitors should, on reflection, be convinced that they need not fatten so hard, or at any rate so many animals, to

achieve their purpose. Societies should see that over-feeding is discouraged by every conceivable means, which can hardly be said to have yet been the case.

The advantages of shows are much less striking and apparent than they were thirty to forty years ago, and the disadvantages greater than they were at one time. True as this is the country is not prepared for a cessation of bestial exhibitions. Fewer shows, especially of the district nature, should probably be held. So many of the local shows now overlap in area embraced that amalgamations would be beneficial. In Ayrshire, Renfrew, and Lanark, for instance, there are several parish shows and a large number of district ones. These, by means of amalgamation of societies, might be reduced by one-half with convenience to the public and advantage to the counties named. Then, in Aberdeenshire alone there are nearly thirty shows held annually. Less than half that number would fully cover the country, large as it is. As a rule, pretty much the same animals are shown at three or four of these meetings, if not more, both in the west and the north-east of Scotland. That lends a sameness and a modified interest and freshness to the shows, which they would escape if fewer were held. In the number of shows, therefore, as well as the feeding of the animals, the judicious limit has in some parts of the country been surpassed. In the south-eastern, as also the central and far northern counties of Scotland, shows are not nearly so numerous—the average being not more than three in a county. The Highland and Agricultural Society has done its best to discourage the occurrence of several shows covering to a greater or less extent the same district or country. Recognising the overlapping of not a few local and district show areas, the Society two years ago resolved not to give its "district show premium" to any local society which has any portion of its domains occupied by another society or societies. Though the Highland Society's prizes thus find their way to "fresh" animals in the different districts year by year, there is nevertheless a great deal of sameness in the collections of stock in those parts of the country where, as already stated, exhibitions are so numerous. The National Society cannot do more to encourage amalgamation of district shows than it is doing. The local societies, however, should see the propriety of decreasing the number of small shows.

Some people assert that, notwithstanding the existence of shows over a wide range of country for thirty or more years, and despite the increased attention paid to the breeding and rearing of first-class stock, the best animals of the present day are not better than, if as good as, the best more than a quarter of century ago. We do not share that opinion. The matter, however, is capable of explanation. First or early impressions are proverbially difficult to efface. The above assertion is usually made by agriculturalists who began their show-going career thirty odd years ago, and were naturally impressed by the finer animals which they first saw in competition. These gentlemen have been attending exhibitions steadily since, so that, through lack of novelty to them, they were not so likely to be enamoured by what they witnessed as they were at the outset. Moreover, there is a tendency, with increasing experience and spread of general intelligence, to form higher ideas as to what an animal should be than are entertained by men setting out in the world. These facts and circumstances account in a large degree for the statements we

in 1872, because the word "infectious," which I might otherwise have chosen, had come into common use and acquired a secondary meaning, which rendered it unfit for my purpose. That purpose was to bring under one designation two sets of morbid processes—those by which (if I may use the expression without being understood to mean something special by the word seed) the seeds of disease are introduced from outside; and those by which disease, having already taken root in the organ or tissue, affects (or, as we say, infects) the whole organism.

"Thus, for example, erysipelas is, without doubt, an infective disease; for, quite apart from any conclusion which may be arrived at as to its being determined by the introduction of some morbid material from outside, there is no doubt that, from the moment that the disease has established itself in the organism, the affected parts act towards neighbouring parts as sources of infection.

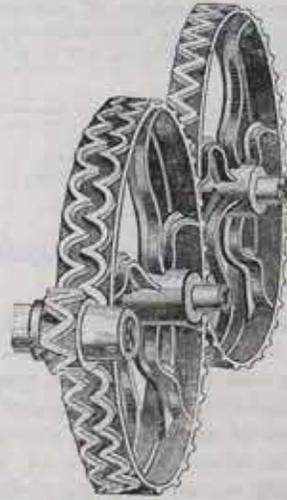
"It was this fact—that of the property of exudation-liquids to excite inflammation in healthy textures—that I endeavored to express in my paper on the Infective Products of Inflammation, communicated to the Royal Medical and Surgical Society in 1873; and I am going to ask your permission to refer to it, in order that I may bring what I then said into relation with what has been said and written by others since. Starting from the accepted notion that by inflammation is meant simply the sum of the local pathological effects of an injury, I distinguished inflammations into two classes, infective and non-infective. In the non-infective (or normal) inflammations, the pathological effects are co-extensive with the injury, so that no tissue is destroyed excepting so much as has been spoilt by the *nora* itself; in the infective, the surrounding tissues are damaged and to a greater or less degree destroyed by the extension of the pathological process. It is this destruction of tissue which seems to me to constitute the source of the common infectivity of wounds. When no tissue is disintegrated beyond the limits of the injury, there, reparative processes at once begin. Wherever the solution of continuity is surrounded by a zone of damaged tissue, there is potentially an infective focus; and the question whether it will extend its influence beyond the limits of the part primarily affected depends on conditions which, however they may originate, have their seat of operation exclusively in the wound itself.

"In 1872, I thought myself justified in inferring, on the basis of observation on the traumatic affections of animals, that an essential condition of development of infective action in a wound or an inflamed serous membrane was the presence in it of the organisms which I had two years before characterised as microzymes. I still think so. I still believe that to the chemical processes which give rise to the production of infective products these minute organisms are not only accessory, but necessary. But the conviction of this fact appears to me to afford no ground for accepting the theory that, under ordinary circumstances, contagion is brought ready-made into a wound by organised germs from the atmosphere. I am led to emphasise this statement by the circumstance that it has lately been suggested that I have changed my views on this subject. I think I may venture to say that there is no foundation for the suggestion. I have always maintained that the facts we already possess relating to the development of organisms belonging to the same group as bacteria, in association with pathological processes, are such as to make it impossible to doubt that such organisms exercise an important part in those processes; but, as regards the theory that the common air

we breathe is constantly charged with infective organised particles, *apart from and without reference to its having previously come into contact with any specific source of contagion*; and that, when a wound goes wrong, it does so because these ordinary air-particles find their way into it—I have never neglected any opportunity of saying that, to the best of my judgment, such a theory is based rather on what I venture to think the misapplication of an analogy than on the direct observation of what actually goes on in the wound itself."

These views were stated seven years ago, and notwithstanding anything which has occurred since in reference to the history of pathogenic organisms, they may now be quoted as a temperate and logical exposition of the subject.

According to Dr. Burdon Sanderson, the *infective process* in disease is a process which originates in the organism without the introduction from without of any special virus or germs of any special disease, while the *infectious process* is the result of the introduction from without of the special germs of a particular disease—such as small-pox or scarlet fever—and the process culminates always in the development of the same disease. Therefore infectious diseases in each case depend on the action of the poison of a previous case of the disease, and never, under any conditions, on changes which occur in the organism from the action of ordinary causes of disease. An infectious disease cannot arise *de novo*, or independently of the germs derived from the particular disease.—*The Veterinarian*.



Lennon's Patent Web-gearing for Strippers.

WHATEVER tends to lessen the draught of machinery or implements must be of great importance to the agricultural community, and when such improvement is attached to a stripping machine it cannot fail to engage the special attention of farmers.

It is now generally admitted that the stripping machine is the most important factor in the harvest-field, and, in conjunction with the winnower, has done more than any other class of machine in rendering the farmer independent of labour whilst garnering in his harvest. The improvement—which has been patented by Mr. Hugh Lennon, of North Melbourne—consists of patent endless web-gearing as per illustration; the gearing wheels are of the male and female order, and its chief novelty consists in having a zig-zag web round the periphery

of the one wheel instead of cogs, while the other is marked with corresponding indentations. The advantages of this style of wheel over the ordinary toothed one are that the friction is considerably lessened whilst its strength is so enhanced as to render it almost unbreakable.

The inventor deserves much credit for the ingenuity he has shown, as the gear is stated to be entirely new and never before attached to machines of any kind. It is guaranteed to stand any ordinary wear or pressure, and from the fact that it runs especially light and causes less draught than any other gearing, should be hailed as a boon by the practical farmers of the country. It is a matter for congratulation that Victoria is keeping well to the front with inventions and improvements in labour-saving machinery, and it is not too much to say that we also possess an agricultural public, who can offer valuable suggestions of practical worth to the mechanic, and who are able to appreciate anything good or useful. Mr. Lennon may be complimented on the successful issue of his invention.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Breeding Stock Shows.

(CONTINUED.)

They meet the breeders and arrange visits to the leading herds and flocks of the varieties which the foreigners intend to patronise.

One of the most remarkable evidences of the extent to which successful appearance in the showyard promotes the foreign demand, was furnished by the late Mr. M'Combie's career as a breeder and feeder of polled cattle. His great achievement at the Paris Exhibition in 1878—beating all breeds and all nations with his group of polls—did more probably than anything else if not to begin, at least to spread, the now considerable demand for polled stock in America and Canada. We all know how largely that foreign demand has contributed to the rapid advance in the price of polled stock, amounting to nearly 100 per cent, in little more than a year.

Among the advantages of shows must be prominently ranked the improved marketing facilities which they afford to pedigree stock breeders. In addition to the impetus which the presence of a considerable number of foreign buyers usually imparts, there is often a good deal of inquiry after really good animals on the part of home breeders and dealers. The direct selling and buying opportunities of the showyard are thus, and have long been, by no means infinitesimal. They operate as an inducement to bring stock into the competition arena which might otherwise be left at home, and would be missed. Of course there are many other inducements. The honour of winning a first prize in a strongly-contested class at either local or national shows, the latter particularly, is justly appreciated very highly. It is no mean feat, and is something of which to be proud. Apart from the pride of the thing, leading showyard honours go far to "make a man's herd." There is probably nothing that

have heard in the showyard coming from men now well up in years to this effect—"Wall," pointing to some huge beasts, "these are really not so grand as some of the winners of the same breed that I remember thirty-five years ago."

But the greatest benefits of shows have not been displayed by the improvement of the top specimens or "stars" of the various breeds, considerable as that, doubtless, has been. The good results of the education which exhibitions and keen competition imparted, have been more manifest in the general improvement of the ordinary rent-paying stocks of the country than in the showyard specimens. Of the latter, however, there has been a material advance during the last quarter of a century, both in numbers and quality. To farmers of ordinary intelligence, visiting county and national shows, it has been demonstrated that cattle of the beef-making, as distinguished from the dairy races, possessing medium-sized clean bone, wide chest, sharply cut symmetrical head, and bright eye, with mellow "touch," are the kindest and best feeders. Many a shrewd agriculturalist who seldom if ever appears as an exhibitor at a national show, has profited by what he has seen in the breeding shows and also in the great fat stock gatherings. The lessons of the latter have taught successfully, we may say, thousands of farmers to give more attention to the production of stock with comparatively light offal and an increased quantity of beef on the back, and over the chine, where the most valuable meat is. More liberal feeding, and greater attention to details in mating and management, have impressed themselves successfully on the minds of hundreds of agriculturists in the showyards of the last forty years.

(To be Continued.)

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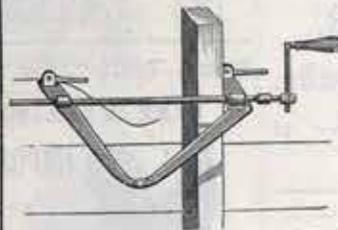
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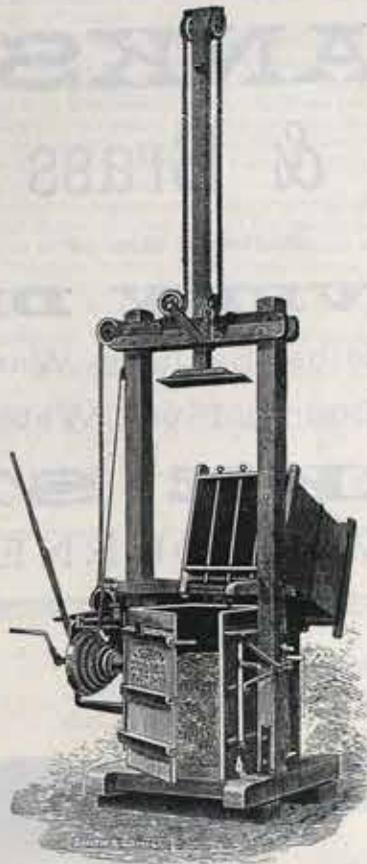
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THE usual screw is dispensed with, and the pressure brought to bear by means of a strong rope or chain, working in sheave pulleys overhead, attached to a Ram, and winding on a fusee, which is made in the shape of a suddenly tapered screw.

The rope works on the large part of the Fusee, when the pressure is light, and passes down to the taper end as the pressure increases, being worked by a lever fixed on the centre spindle.

The top Box is hinged to side Brackets, and turns down on to the floor, which greatly facilitates the putting in of the wool, and renders any second floor unnecessary, and when filled is easily placed back in position.

When the bale is pressed and the sides down, the Ram is lifted by a small rope from the Fusee, turned by a handle.



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At the Melbourne Exhibition Competition this PRESS turned out 3 Bales of Scoured Wool in 28½ minutes, being considerably less than any other Press, although one had the advantage of being driven by steam.

TESTIMONIALS.

Dear Sirs,—It gives us much pleasure to inform you that Ferrier's Patent Wool-Press has exceeded our expectations. Before ordering we had in use one of Mr. Ferrier's self-made presses, and liked it well. We have seen the Travelling Screw Presses, which cost double the amount, but we would not exchange, as the Press we have is easier worked and takes up less room.

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Dear Sirs,—I have pleasure in stating that I have had two Wool-Presses from you of Ferrier's Patent, and have found them to be the cheapest and simplest in construction of any Wool-Presses I have seen. The one I had from you last year for the Fellmongery I most approve of, as it has some little improvements over the one I had for the store in 1877. These Presses if sent out with strong Lowmoor Iron Chains, I can strongly recommend, as I believe that no other can surpass them.

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To Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—The Ferrier's Patent Lever Wool-Press I had from you this season I used at Wurrong, Camperdown, and I found it simple and most satisfactory in its working.

Wooriwyrite, Camperdown.

December 30th, 1878.

THOMAS SHAW.

To Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—The Wool-Press I got from you is working very well, and is much admired by all who have been to see it at work, a great number having called. Such Presses should suit the large sheds in Riverina well, and if your Press was used there I think it would be soon in universal use in the larger sheds. I am turning out about 35 Bales a day with two men, but if they had a third man to saw the two sides of the Bale after coming from the Press, they could do about 45 Bales a day.

Muntham, October 27th, 1880.

JOSEPH B. PEARSON.

Messrs. HUMBLE & NICHOLSON, Vulcan Foundry, Geelong.

Dear Sirs,—In reference to the Ferrier's Patent Press which you sent to us in October last, on the condition that if we did not approve of it after a Season's work we should be at liberty to return it. We are happy to be able to state that our Pressers speak highly of the speed and efficiency of the Machine, and that we are therefore willing to retain and pay you for it.

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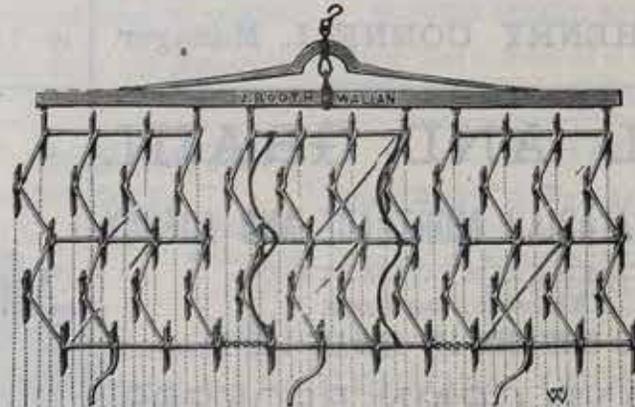
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STEAM CHAFF CUTTERS, AND
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These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tyne cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884 and 1885 these Implements in competition with the leading Colonial-made and Imported Harrows, secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents throughout the Colonies. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List free on application.

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THE IRON TURBINE WIND ENGINE is made entirely of iron, and therefore is more durable than any other Wind Engine. It cannot shrink, swell, rattle, or be torn to pieces by the wind, and weighs no more than the ordinary Wooden Wheel Engine.

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The Governing Device is very simple. It can be adjusted to make from 20 revolutions per minute to 60 in a moderate wind, and without blowing out of gear, and will always blow out in a gale. There is also provision for changing the length of stroke.

Special attention is paid to the construction of the Machinery or Engine proper, only the very best materials being used. Polished shafting and habbit-lined boxes with cavity between the bearings in which is placed packing to hold oil, to prevent the necessity of frequent oiling. The pitman bearing is provided with a glass oiler that will hold a week's supply, so it is necessary to oil only when you can see from the ground that the glass oiler is empty.

The great and steadily increasing demand for these Engines is sufficient proof that their quality is unquestionable, and that they are especially adapted for this country, where the hot winds and occasional fierce gales forbid the use of any material liable to be affected thereby. They are now running in all parts of the Colony, and the universal opinion is, that they are the best.

Farmers will do well to remember that for watering stock, irrigating gardens, &c., a good Wind Engine is the most economical, simple, and efficient power that can be used, while for a water supply for domestic purposes or fire prevention it is a most important and valuable adjunct to a residence.

The first cost of the Iron Turbine Wind Engine is practically its only cost. It requires no skilled labor and next to no attention. Regular oiling is all that is necessary to keep it in order for years.

We also supply pumps of various kinds to suit different depths, &c. Also, Derricks if required.

Full instructions for erection of supplied with each Engine.

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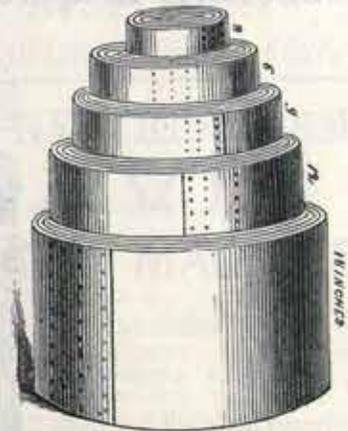
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Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

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MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 8½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.

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Engineers & Brass Founders,

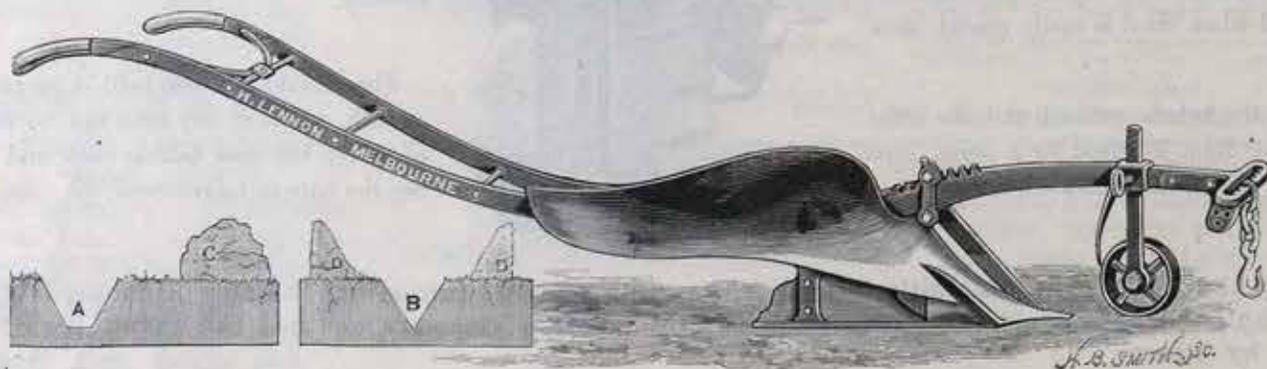
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Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

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Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes

Three and Four Furrow Ploughs.

Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and dam-sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.

Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators

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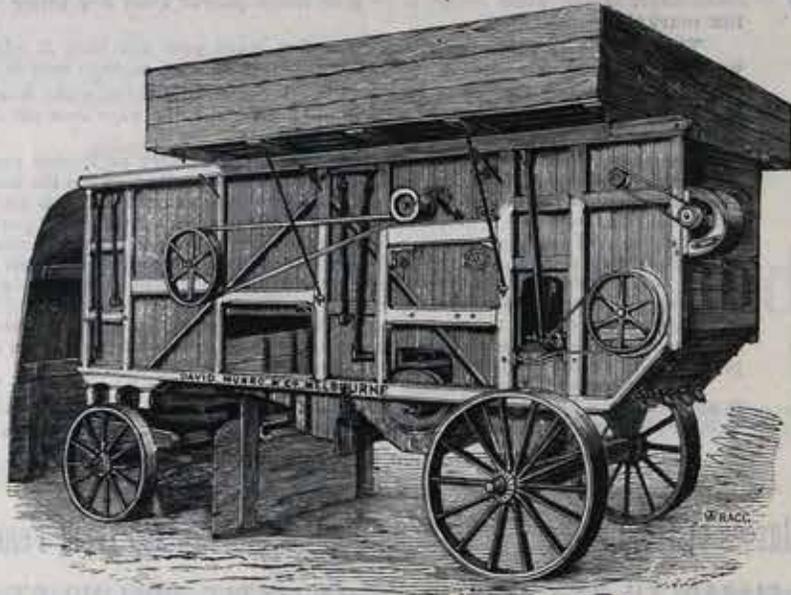
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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



VOL. I.—No. 5. [Read, as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 11TH, 1885.

GRATIS.

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Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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Caterer for the Victorian Racing Club, The National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and the Victorian Coursing Club.

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Town Agents for transaction of every description of Farmers
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Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
STORAGE ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS.

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£60,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security

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BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring
Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has
received from R. W. Emerson MacIvor:—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my
eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of
detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration
in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,

LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

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The Best, Cheapest, and Safest Dip in the Market.
Used by all the noted Breeders of Sheep
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REDUCED to 5s. 6d. per Gallon in Casks and 6s. in
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The Mount Hute and Ecclestone Flocks are dipped in this
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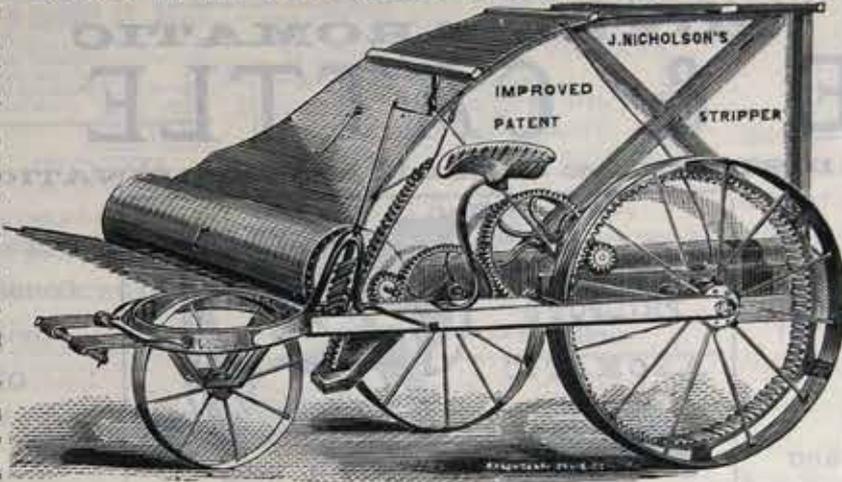


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more and better butter. Highest
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 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
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The Most Successful Harvester in use.

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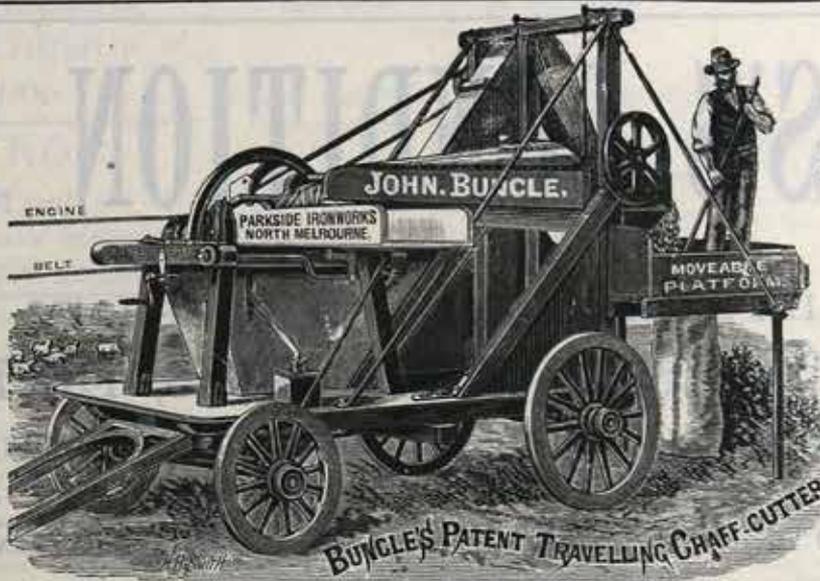
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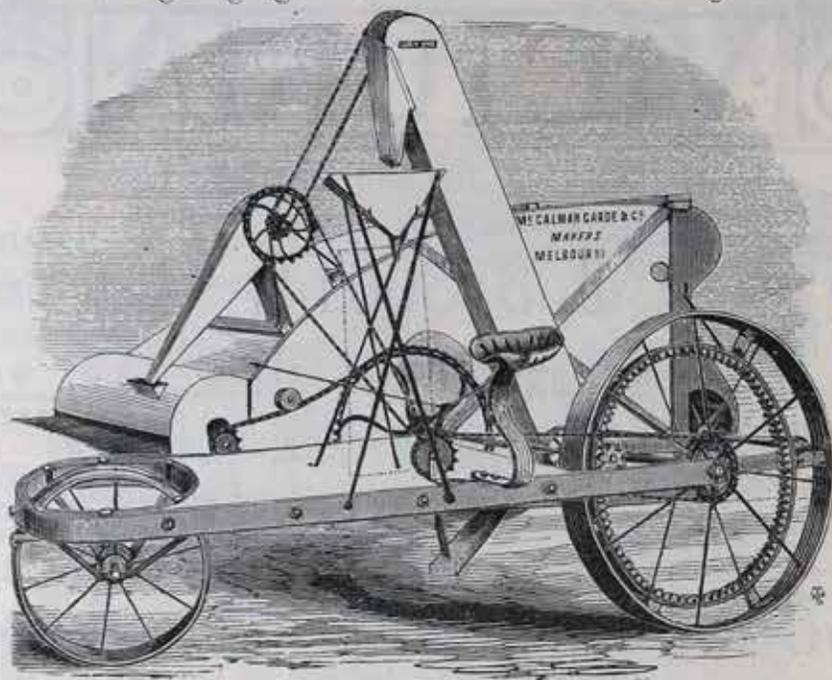
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6 First Prizes and 5 others Awarded at the recent National
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 Rough and Smooth Bullockhide, Hogskin, Bush and Town,
 Saddles, which for Shape, Price, and Quality, cannot be equalled.

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They hold AUCTION SALES of WOOL twice each week
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NATIONAL

Agricultural Society of Victoria.

Shorthorn Derby Sweepstakes, 1887.

Hereford	do	do	1887.
Ayrshire	do	do	1887.
Alderney	do	do	1887.

A Sweepstakes of £1 each, 10s. at time of nomination,
 and 10s. at date of general entry for Show, with
 £5 added in each case, to be divided and awarded as
 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes, at the Society's Exhibition,
 1887.

Nominations for the above Sweepstakes for Heifers
 of each breed respectively, calved between 1st July,
 1884, and 1st July, 1885, will be received till 1st
 March, 1886, inclusive. Nominators to fully describe
 the colour of each entry, and state the name of sire,
 dam, and sire of dam, together with the date of
 calving, and accompanying same with nomination fee
 of 10s.

Shorthorn Derby Sweepstakes, 1888.

Hereford	do	do	1888.
Ayrshire	do	do	1888.
Alderney	do	do	1888.

A Sweepstakes of £1 each, 10s. at time of nomination,
 and 10s. at date of general entry for Show, with
 £5 added in each case (that for the Ayrshire Derby
 being the gift of Messrs. W. McNab and Bros.), to be
 divided and awarded as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes, at
 the Society's Exhibition, 1888.

Nominations for the above Sweepstakes for Heifers
 of each breed respectively, calved after 1st July, 1885,
 will be received till 1st March, 1886, inclusive. Calves
 dropped after that date to be nominated within one
 month of date of birth. Nominators to fully describe
 the color of each entry, and state the name of sire,
 dam, and sire of dam, together with the date of
 calving, and accompanying same with nomination fee
 of 10s.

THOMAS PATTERSON,

SECRETARY.

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

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Agricultural Society

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 is published monthly (on the Friday
 after the Council Meeting in each
 month), is also forwarded to each
 member.

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 tary at the Office, or to Mr. JOHN
 HEDRICK, the Collector.

THOMAS PATTERSON,

SECRETARY.

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
 addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar,
 Bourke Street West, Melbourne.

Business communications to the Publishers,
 Somerset Place, 6 Little Bourke Street West.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
 requested to forward to the editor the dates on
 which their respective exhibitions will be held,
 also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
 they are published.

FEBRUARY.

- 17.—Grantville and Jeetho Society.
- 25.—Mornington Society, at Berwick.

MARCH.

- 11.—Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Pentland Hills Society, at Myrmiong.
- 17.—Baringhup and Maldon, at Baringhup.
- 24.—Glenlyon, Franklin & Daylesford Society, at Daylesford.

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The Journal

OF THE

National Agricultural Society

OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 11th, 1885.

Agricultural Federation.

THE scheme for the federation of the Agricultural Societies of Victoria which was initiated a little over a year ago, has been quietly and unobtrusively gaining ground till it has reached a stage, when the advantages which will accrue from its operations are becoming apparent, and the objects it has in view are commending themselves to general public attention. So much might have been expected, for unlike other ideas for the furtherance of the agricultural interest, this scheme originated with the agriculturists themselves. A committee of practical men appointed at the most representative Agricultural Conference yet held in the colony, drew up and agreed on its principles, and having done so, submitted them to the various Agricultural Societies, when any suggestions received were duly considered by the committee, and the scheme was finally adopted in the form in which it now obtains, and in accordance with which the societies have been federated. The scheme is therefore directly the result of the action of the agriculturists endeavouring to advance their own interest, and promote the welfare of the community in the way which they themselves consider likely to be most effective; hence its steady advance to successful organization, and its very evident promise of good results, although so many previous projects differently originated have proved defective. First of all, there was the old Board of Agriculture, a body nominated partly by the State, and in part by the societies, which at first promised well. Its model farm, and other ideas, as well as itself, however collapsed; political influence being its curse—so say those who know. Then a Department of Agriculture was established and an experimental farm, but after existing for a few years, political influence again interfered, and it was practically abolished. Efforts have since been made to give it a proper standing, but agriculturists are not satisfied that it yet fully meets the requirements of the times. Then again—and it is said to be due to this federation movement by the farmers—an Agricultural Colleges Act has been hurriedly passed, but not only those in whose interest they are to work, but the members of the Council themselves, have expressed dissatisfaction at the constitution of the body, and have already endeavoured to get more direct representation by the agriculturists;

there being too much of the political element, which it would appear has been the cause of failure in everything of the kind yet attempted. The very fact of all these efforts having been made to organize schemes for the advancement of the interest shows that something has been and is required; but the ideas have always been commenced at the wrong end. Now, however, when the agriculturists—wearied of the legislation they have had thrust on them—are taking the matter into their own hands, there is hope of success. In his last work on *Protection or Free-trade*, Henry George says: "We have but to look around us to see how easily a small special interest may exert greater influence in forming opinion and making laws than a large general interest." This is exactly what has been the case here, the agricultural interest which is really the largest, from want of organization, being dominated by smaller ones. But things must right themselves eventually. The discovery of gold was the cause of agriculture being practically neglected, but this could only be for a time, as its results are comparatively transient. Only one crop of the precious metal is obtained and then the matrix becomes barren, while of grain and herbage the earth yields her increase every year. The permanent source of Victoria's wealth must be the produce of her soil, and her capabilities in this direction are immense. In a speech delivered over three years ago by the Marquis of Normanby, he said in alluding to irrigation: "It is not for me to prognosticate what the result of this attempt will be, but this is undoubtedly certain that if by scientific means, and by a reasonably moderate use of funds, you are able to obtain such a supply of water as will irrigate any considerable portion of this colony, it will, I believe, work a greater revolution in the country than anything else you can do. With the climate you have, if you possessed a sufficient amount of water, you might grow almost anything you like." It appears that his Excellency's prognostications are to be realised, for practical steps are now being taken to utilise all the available water in the northern areas. But, after all, there is no irrigation like the gentle rain from heaven, and the southern and south-eastern portion of the colony much of which is practically a *terra incognita*, with its splendid rainfall, is not yet half appreciated. However, when it is better known and opened up, and when the northern areas are as far as practicable irrigated—when the rural population of Victoria, departing from their inherited grooves, engage in the cultivation of the many products, and the rearing of the various classes of stock, for which her splendid soil and climate are suitable—then will she become an agricultural country in the widest sense of the term.

As this is the colony's manifest destiny is it not meet that agriculturists should anticipate their requirements, and be up and doing? Hitherto their voice has been as nought in the Councils of the State. It should not be always so. Already a change is taking place which must be followed up. The numbers are available, which, if properly organised, could dominate the State instead of, as hitherto, lacking due representation, and being regarded as mere nonentities. The Revd. Charles Strong, in an inaugural address lately, said "One of the greatest discoveries of modern times has been that of the power of organisation," and the scheme of federation of the Agricultural Societies is the very organisation to greatly increase their usefulness, and give the farming community a power in the land to effect results scarce realised yet. And it is necessary that the societies should endeavour to extend the sphere of their operations. They now have an application before the Government for a considerable increase in their annual subsidy, and while they will, if they show good grounds for such or even further increases, be able to secure them it cannot be expected—in these utilitarian times when institutions, like men, must justify their existence—that the Government grant is to go on increasing unless good work is shown for the money—though, should results be commensurate with expenditure, the latter may be increased indefinitely. The writer of the able article on advantages and disadvantages of breeding stock shows, being reprinted in our columns, questions whether exhibitions are of as much practical utility in England as they were for a time after they were first instituted, and as history repeats itself, the societies here should omit no opportunity of adding to their office, and increasing their functions beyond holding shows. No one can question the fact that exhibitions have done much good in this colony. In no country has more enterprise been manifested in introducing high-class stock and improvements in agricultural requirements, and we believe the spirit of emulation awakened and kept alive by shows has been a great means to this end. Something else, besides general inamimation, with a spurt once a year to hold a show and obtain a share of the Government grant—as has been the case with some societies—should, however, be aimed at. Instead of narrow, selfish, jealous, individual action, a broader idea of their functions should obtain, and an effort should be made by concerted action to promote the common weal. No Achilles-like sulking alone, while the general body is engaged in the conflict, should be indulged in by any society; but each should be more eager than the other to render mutual assistance. There is plenty of work to be done. To cite a case in which societies, when their Federation scheme is fully in

operation, could be of immense service, we may mention the collection of the Agricultural statistics. What better machinery could exist for this purpose than the societies themselves when organised. Some few years ago, a large grain broker in the City mentioned this to us, stating that if the societies would only take this matter up and collect the agricultural statistics, so that they might be in hand in proper time, it would be an immense boon, not only to the Agricultural, but to the Commercial Community as well, and it would give the societies great additional prestige. We put the idea on paper, and talked it over on several occasions, but could not see how it was to be carried out while the societies were not acting in concert; but it is the very work for the federated societies—they could do it satisfactorily, and at a saving to the State. Then again, what better machinery could exist for dealing with the diseases in stock and other matters in this connection, which would be seen to by men personally interested, and could be done effectively and at a great saving to the country. The Federated Societies should also publish an organ of their own, which could be worked up to have a powerful influence in the land, and become a really good property. That such a publication would be a great success is evidenced by the interest taken in and encouragement received by this journal—though commenced only on a small scale. These, however, are merely adjuncts to the scheme, and it is needless to set out in detail its great direct advantages; suffice it to say that when the deputation which lately waited on the Premier—who was doubtless prepared to consider the matter of little importance as has hitherto been the fate of agricultural subjects in political high places—explained them to him, he confessed himself most favourably impressed with what he believed to be a good movement; in fact he said as much in its favour as a man in his position could be expected to say. This admission shows the real merits of the scheme. A bill is being prepared to submit to Parliament, to give the Federation legislative recognition, and set the scheme in motion. It has been drawn up by the Victorian Board of Agriculture on principles laid down by the Federation Committee, and approved by the societies, a good deal being borrowed from the American system, without any slavish adherence to its lines. The system is a great success in America, and why should Victoria not accomplish all that has been done there and “go one better.” It should be the object of the farming community to use their influence to get this measure passed into law in a form which will enable their organisation to be of practical utility to the country; thus following up the good work already done. Various as have been the efforts to institute satisfactory organisations in

their cause, and discouraging as have been the failures hitherto, they should not be disheartened, but keep pushing on, and success will at length crown their efforts. In an unreported speech, on one of the frequent occasions when Lord Lytton—himself an old Harrow boy—used to gather his schoolfellows, of whatever age or date, around him during his Indian Viceroyalty, we understand he once illustrated the main upshot of his Harrow education by a Petty Sessions story out of Lincolnshire. The keeper, having given evidence against the poacher, was under cross-examination by the prisoner:—‘How do you know,’ he was asked, ‘that I was ever there?’ ‘How do I know,’ was the reply; ‘I both saw you and I heard you, and I should have known you afterwards anywhere. When we come on you t’other side the cover there was only you and another, and we was four, and I shouted out, ‘What’s the use of fighting odds like this? You’d better give up, and come quietly.’ ‘Give up,’ says you, ‘give up be blow’d!’ you says. The identification was complete; and, continued Lord Lytton, ‘that was the maxim by which he too had been guided all his life; and, whether his guests were grinding in a Government Office like himself, or pig-sticking, or pursuing nobler game in the wilds, or laboriously obeying military orders at an outpost, he was sure that they also felt the influence of their early Harrow days in the poacher’s maxim—‘Give up be blow’d.’ Let this be the motto in this cause. Events move quickly in these times, and now that agriculturists are on the right track, let them but pursue their advantages—believing that their star is in the ascendant, and there is no telling what may yet be attained.

Cattle Derbies.

A young lady who happened to overhear the above subject mentioned—with the love of sport characteristic of Australians—exclaimed “Oh! are you going to make the cattle race—that *will* be fun!” In order to disabuse the minds of our readers of any such intention, we wish, while calling attention to the advertisement elsewhere, inviting entries for these sweepstakes, to explain that the prizes will be awarded under the usual system adopted at shows, although the name Derby is generally associated with racing. It is necessary that the sweepstakes should have a distinctive title, and as the Ayrshire Derby sweepstakes for 3 year old heifers has been, and is a great success in Scotland—the idea is being followed up here, and as man is an imitative animal, not only the principles but also the name as well, has been adopted. The question of establishing the Derbies was raised by Messrs. W. McNab and Bros., of Tullimarine, offering £5 as a prize for an Ayrshire Derby, for 1888. The council of the National Society has accepted the offer and now calls for entries for a Derby

not only for Ayrshires, but for Shorthorns, Herefords and Alderneys as well. In order to bring the stakes into operation as soon as practicable, a Derby sweepstakes for each breed has been opened for 1887, to be competed for by heifers of the several breeds mentioned, calved between the 1st July, 1884, and 1st July, 1885, which must be entered before the 1st March, 1886. Entries for the Derbies for 1888, for heifers calved after the 1st July, 1885, will be received up to 1st March, 1886, and all entries after that date (up to 1st July, 1886) must be made within one month of the birth of the animal. When the Derbies are duly established, and in proper working order all entries will have to be made within one month of the birth of the animal, but this cannot come into operation till the entries for 1889 are being received, which will be after the 1st July, 1886. The object of nominations being made at such an early age is to secure a large entry which will make the stakes more valuable. If entries were deferred till breeders obtained a knowledge of the merits of the animals likely to compete, it would very considerably reduce the nominations, in the same way as if the V.R.C. Derby entries were not received till after the Maribyrnong Plate of the previous year were run, the stakes would not be worth much money. The amount of nomination fee and other particulars will be found in the advertisement, to which we hope breeders will respond, for the matter is well worth attention; as in addition to the value of the prizes, the herds whose representatives succeed in winning these Derbies will have their reputations greatly increased thereby.

The Bacchus Marsh Show.

A visit to the Bacchus Marsh Society's Show, held last month at Maddingley, necessitated a coach journey from Melton over a road, which at its approach to the Marsh is famed for being one of the steepest in the colony, and the scene of several accidents. A ride down the decline on the overloaded coach on show morning, therefore savoured somewhat of the sensational; particularly when one of the passengers made it known that he had been smashed up there once before; and more than one held their breath while the descent was being made, wondering whether the break would stand. However the grounds were reached in safety, when it was found that the Society had made great efforts to ensure the success of the first exhibition. They had put up substantial improvements and had secured a numerous entry of exhibits, which, taken altogether, made a very creditable turn out. The draught horses and the thoroughbreds were very good indeed, in fact they were the strong features of the show. There were not many pedigree cattle, although there were a few fair Shorthorns, Herefords, and Alderneys, but there was a numerous and first-class lot of dairy cows. There was a good show of sheep, more especially in the long-wool classes; also some pens of good pigs and poultry. Machinery and implements were not extensively shown. The

MOTIONS.

In accordance with notice, Mr. Brunton moved that the bye-laws be altered to allow of each member of the Society having a ballot paper forwarded to him by post for the election of members of Council. The motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

Mr. McGregor, in accordance with notice, moved that Mr. H. Byron Moore be elected an honorary member of the Society. Seconded by Mr. Gibb, and carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Mr. McGregor moved that the Secretary write to the Premier inquiring what decision the Government had arrived at with regard to the Society's application for an advance (on loan) of £10,000 to enable the Council to pay off the overdraft, and carry out further improvements on the show grounds. Seconded by Mr. Currie, and carried.

Mr. Peppin stated that as he intended to leave the colony for some time with the object of recruiting his health, he asked that the Council grant him three months' leave of absence.

Mr. McGregor moved that leave of absence be granted to Mr. Peppin; seconded by Mr. Hurst, and carried.

Mr. Bunce moved that the question of erecting a grand-stand on the Show Grounds be taken into consideration by the Works Committee; seconded by Mr. T. Learmonth, and carried.

The meeting then closed.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, December 8th, 1885.

Present—Dr. Plummer (president) in the chair, Messrs. D. R. McGregor, James Malcolm, S. G. Staughton, W. Thomson, Job Smith, John Bunce, John Finlay, and James Gibb, M.L.A.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee's report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts, and recommending payments amounting to £34 14s., was read.

Mr. Thomson moved that the report be adopted, seconded by Mr. Staughton, and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Postponed letter read, from Secretary Vegetable Products Commission, asking the Council to appoint a representative to give evidence.

Mr. Gibb moved that Mr. Henley, Everton, Mr. John Davis, Essendon, and Mr. Moran, Botanical Gardens, be nominated, and their names sent to the secretary of the Commission; the secretary of the Society to write informing the gentlemen of their appointment, and requesting them to give evidence; seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

From H. Byron Moore, thanking the Council for their courtesy in electing him an honorary member of the Society.—Received.

From D. E. Martin, secretary for Agriculture, stating the Council of Agricultural Education proposed to obtain for free distribution to farmers, copies of Mr. Deakin's report on Irrigation, and asking if the Society would undertake

its distribution amongst its members, and if so, how many copies would be required.

Mr. Thomson moved that the secretary reply informing Mr. Martin of the number of copies required, and stating the Society would undertake their distribution; seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

REPORTS.

The President reported that a letter had been received from the Premier, stating the Government would not advance on loan the sum of money asked by the Society for building purposes, but if the Council would draft a bill conferring on the Society power to borrow money on mortgage, he would consider it. The secretary had seen Mr. McKean the Society's hon. solicitor, and a bill, the same as that previously submitted to the Law Department, had been handed to Mr. Service, and was being considered.—Report received.

The Show Committee reported that they recommended the establishment of Derbies for the several breeds of cattle at the Society's shows (full particulars in another column).

Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Malcolm, and carried.

The Works Committee reported that they were unable to come to a conclusion about the erection of a grand stand on the show ground until informed as to the amount of money available for such a building.

Mr. Thomson moved that the report be referred back to the Works Committee, and that they obtain from the architects an estimate of the cost of such a building as would be required; seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

The secretary was instructed to write to the secretaries of the Ballarat and Albury shows respectively, for information regarding their stand.

The meeting then closed.

Correspondence.

Judging at Shows, &c., &c.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria).

SIR,—Before expressing an opinion as to the best method of carrying this out, I must enter my protest against such imputations as are to be found in the article treating on this subject; published in the first number of your journal and taken from the North British Agriculturist. In this article it is broadly stated that if it be known previously to a show who are to be the judges, exhibitors will try to corruptly influence their decisions. As far as this country is concerned, on that head I need say nothing, for if such practices are even attempted, or any of a like character, I am certain they are few and far between, and we should all be culpable were it otherwise—as I will show—and he who lightly, or without certainty as to the truth of his words, insinuates that self-interest or favouritism has guided the decisions of judges is as guilty as they would be were he correct. It is hard for us to credit that such a state of things can exist in any part of the old country as would make secrecy necessary in the appointment of judges,

for if it be so, the majority of the leading agriculturists must in different degrees be implicated, because they choose the judges, and if they carelessly or wilfully appoint men who can be bribed and otherwise influenced, they are as bad as the exhibitors and judges; and further it comes back upon the majority of the agricultural population, inasmuch as the executive of Agricultural Societies nominates their judges, and as the members of the society appoint the executive; the latter come in for their share of condemnation for electing men capable of such negligence or wickedness. My experience leads me to believe that here awards are honestly made if the propriety of them is at times questioned, and probably an error may have been committed; but because they are called in question, it by no means follows they are incorrect. But to come to the best way of getting this thankless work done—I fail to see that changing the present system for a single judge, is bound to work the miracle expected of it by some people. I take it for granted that in the opinion of their nominators, no incapable men are at present proposed to fill the office of a judge, and if there was one only to be chosen, the same judgment would have to make the appointment, therefore if three 'right' men are not now chosen there cannot be that number in Australia, or the right one would possibly be missed under the proposed change. It appears to be laid down by the advocates of the single judge system that there is for each class of stock one perfect judge, and only one to be found in the community, and that if three were not required, this one would be fixed upon whereas he is now overlooked, or if chosen, has no influence in the show ring. This latter is scarcely likely, but might be—but my contention is the single judge is as likely to be an unfortunate appointment as it is said the three have been. I have no doubt but that if one judge without prejudice and with an accurate knowledge of the class of stock he had to adjudicate upon was always appointed, one would be enough, but how few such judges are there to be found? Have not most stock-breeders an honest belief that some particular type or strain in the different breeds of cattle sheep and horses is immensely better than all others, and prizes would go to animals showing the greatest number of points peculiar to their favorite line, although they may be only the crotchet of the individual and his party.

If one judge, paid or otherwise, was appointed to decide at many exhibitions, the decisions would be all one way, and soon only that type would come into the show ring, and the public would lose the advantage of seeing and judging for themselves of the different varieties, without the losing breeders changing their stock. Would the Booth man change his cattle for Bates, or the Bates man his for Booth Shorthorns? Then if there were many single judges, the decisions would be as much at variance as at present—different men going for their particular style of animal. It might be well for it to be known whose judgment decided the awards. This could be arrived at by only two men going into the ring at one time. If they agree, the decision is theirs; if they do not, the third man is called in, and he must decide, and the award is his. Holding that honest discussion over the merits of an animal may in some degree rub off the sharp angles of extreme views, I am in favour of two heads instead of one. I have seen it stated that because judging at coursing matches is done satisfactorily by one man, the single judge system at agricultural shows would be as successful; but there is a difference, and it is this: The judge at a coursing match has only to use his eyes, and see the points a dog makes. The merit of his making them is laid down for him in hard and fast rules, and he has no discretion, while the stock judge has. If judging animals by points was established, there would be no similarity, unless actual

exhibits of dairy and farm produce were first-class, and showing what the district was capable of producing. The success of the show was, however, marred by the weather. A strong wind blew clouds of dust across the ground, and cold driving showers of rain not sufficient to lay the dust made matters very disagreeable. Still there was a good attendance of local people, who seemed to regard this as the normal state of affairs and made the most of it. It is expected that the railway will be made right through to the Marsh before next show, which should give a great impetus to this Society.

The Traralgon Show.

THE first show of the Traralgon Agricultural Society was held last month under the most favourable auspices. The weather was everything that could be desired, and the extensive grounds—nicely situated, not far from the railway station—were covered with a fine sward of green grass, and were entirely free from dust. It did not escape our notice, however, that close to the yards was a fine, steep, semicircular slope of ground, which should have been secured as part of the site, as it would have made a splendid amphitheatre or natural grand stand from which to view the show below. We fancy had a Bagot or a Moore had anything to do with laying out the site, he would have worked this in in some way, and made a grand feature of it. The draught horses, as at so many shows, were the principal class, a large number of very good stock being shown. There were not many thoroughbreds, but a number of what are called roadster stallions were paraded. The hunters and ladies' palfries made a good show, the former giving the crowd a treat in some good jumping. There were a number of breeding cattle shown, but all of an ordinary type. Two fine teams of working bullocks were, however, exhibited. A few useful sheep and swine were penned. The produce, especially the butter and cheese, was particularly good, as might be expected in this moist climate. A considerable quantity of machinery and implements was shown. The people mustered in great force, there being a splendid attendance, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the outing. Altogether, the show for the first one in a new district was very creditable, and as there are some right good men at the head of affairs, everything passed off pleasantly, and the success of the Society seems assured.

The Kyneton Show.

"One of the best shows out of Melbourne!" This is an expression frequently applied to the large up-country shows, and nowhere is it more applicable than to the exhibition under notice, which was held on the 26th of last month. The event was under vice-regal patronage, his Excellency the Governor and Lady Loch being present, and as the day was a most enjoyable one there was a large attendance of visitors. The show of draught horses, both in num-

bers and quality was exceedingly good, as, indeed, is usually the case here, for Kyneton is famed for its heavy horses, the cool moist climate tending to grow them short in the cannons and hairy in the legs. There was a great muster of thoroughbreds, hunters, hackneys, and ponies, so that the horsey man was in his element at this show. The shorthorns were an attractive section, some very high-class exhibits being shown. A great number of dairy cattle were exhibited, but it did not appear that much discrimination had been used by their owners in selecting them. Some good fat cattle were penned. The sheep were very fine, both in longwools and merinos, the wool having been kept on them for this—the last show of the season. Some very good pigs were shown, and there were a number of pens of poultry and pigeons. Dairy produce was a very strong feature in the show, and the attractiveness of the building in which it was set out was increased by a large number of beautiful flowers and a quantity of ladies' fancy work. The machinery and implements made a fair display, and the drays, buggies, and other vehicles formed a very large and interesting class. Altogether it was a really good all-round show, the only drawback being that the exhibits were too crowded. It is, therefore, satisfactory to know that the Committee has been successful in securing new and more extensive grounds, which they expect to have in readiness for the next exhibition. They have not taken this step before it is necessary, for the present grounds are quite inadequate to properly display the splendid annual turn out of the resources of their district.

Meetings.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, November 17th, 1885.

Present:—Dr. Plummer, President, in the chair, with Messrs. J. Hurst, W. Learmonth, A. Patterson, F. Peppin, D. R. McGregor, J. Garton, F. S. Roberts, S. G. Staughton, J. Currie, J. M. Peck, T. Learmonth, J. Bunce, J. Gibb, M.L.A., and the Hon. J. Buchanan, M.L.C.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee's Report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts, and recommending payments amounting to £100 14s. 9d. was read.

Mr. Garton moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Peppin, and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From J. F. Levein, Minister of Agriculture, forwarding a copy of Regulations for the grant of two hundred and fifty pounds, for the encouragement of Invention of Machines, for reaping and harvesting grain. Received.

From J. J. Shillinglaw, Secretary of the Royal Commission on Vegetable products, asking the Society to nominate a gentleman to give evidence upon the Vegetable products, other than wheat, for the growth of which the climate of Victoria is suitable.

The Hon. J. Buchanan moved that the appointment be postponed until the next meeting, in order that the Council might be enabled to make a judicious selection; seconded by Mr. Patterson, and carried.

From G. P. Barber, President Villiers and Heytesbury Agricultural Association, stating they had offered a special prize at their late show, for the best plan of a silo, the best method of making ensilage, and the best mode of weighting the fodder in the silo; and asking the Council to appoint a judge to whom the plans could be referred.

Mr. McGregor moved that Mr. F. Peppin be appointed, seconded by Mr. W. Learmonth, and carried.

From J. Wilson, Junr., Secretary Mornington Farmer's Society, asking the Council to appoint Judges for the horse, cattle, and produce classes, at their Show, to be held at Berwick on the last Thursday in February.

Messrs. W. Learmonth, Job Smith, and J. Hurst, were appointed for the classes, respectively, and Mr. D. R. McGregor, as a second judge in Cattle.

From A. N. Thomas, secretary West Bourke Agricultural Society, inquiring whether the Society was favourable to the establishment of a Victorian Clydesdale Stud Book, which in the interests of breeders is now considered a necessity. His committee thought that in the event of such a work being established it should emanate from the National Society, and if it were undertaken, his Society would heartily co-operate.

It was mentioned that the Council already had the matter under consideration, and Mr. McGregor moved that this letter be referred to a Committee consisting of the President and Messrs. J. Gibb, A. Patterson, J. Hurst, and W. Thomson. Seconded by Mr. Brunton, and carried.

REPORT.

The Show Committee reported that they held a meeting on the 13th inst., Mr. Job Smith in the chair, when they considered the letter from Messrs. M'Nab Bros., of Tullamarine, offering £5 with the view of establishing an Ayrshire Derby.

They resolved that Messrs. M'Nab's letter be received, and their offer accepted with the proviso that the sweepstakes be for two-year-olds instead of three, and on this condition they recommend the establishment of an Ayrshire Derby to the Council.

They also instructed the Secretary to write to Messrs. M'Nab Bros. to ascertain if they concurred in this alteration.

A letter was read from Messrs. M'Nab Bros. in reply, urging that the Derby be for three-year-olds as proposed by them, because, if offered for two-year-olds, breeders would be having them calve before the show, and stocking them up in order to make them appear to better advantage, which would be decidedly objectionable in such young animals, and would tend to ruin them instead of doing the good intended. Mr. Gibb moved that the letter be referred back to the Show Committee, and that they be also authorised to consider the advisableness of establishing Derbies for other breeds of cattle; seconded by Mr. Hurst, and carried.

47½ million acres. On nearly every acre of land there has during the past five years been a reduction of rent either voluntarily or compulsorily. If we estimate the loss all round at not more than five shillings per acre per annum, that would be twelve millions sterling docked from the yearly income of the landowners. At the more probable average of ten shillings per acre, the reductions in the landowners' incomes would be as much as twenty-four millions sterling. Next as to the farmers. The area of land under crop this year is given at 14,847,000 acres, or say fifteen millions. The capital employed in its cultivation estimated at £10 per acre would represent one hundred and fifty millions sterling. Taking the farmers' profit at 10 per cent. less than it was a few years ago, the loss to that one class must be at least fifteen millions a year, notwithstanding the large remissions and reductions of rent which they have received in the interval. Next there is the stock farmer. He occupies, according to the returns, over twenty-five million acres of pasture, and owns ten and a half million head of cattle and nearly thirty million sheep. In the Three Kingdoms his capital cannot well be less than two hundred and fifty millions—probably it is a good deal more. It may be said that cattle-raising pays as well on the whole as it has ever done, but with sheep the case is very different. Compared with what they were seven or eight years ago, the incomes of the sheep farmers have shrunk ten millions sterling from the causes shown.

Adding together twenty-four millions of loss to landlords, fifteen millions to arable farmers, and ten millions to sheep farmers, the result is a loss of close on fifty millions a year to the food-producing class.

One great cause of the losses on sheep-farming is the competition from the decrease in the price of wool, and its greater production. Imports from foreign countries on an average were two-thirds of the bread they ate. They imported besides immense quantities of barley, oats, and maize, though the meat imports were only about one-twentieth of the home production. They also imported a large amount of cattle food to supplement their own. Notwithstanding this we see thousands of paupers, and other thousands, in a state of semi-starvation.

Mr. Chaplin said "that agriculture was in such a state that he was prepared to do anything for it, even to reverse the fiscal policy of the last thirty or forty years. But he hoped and trusted that agriculturists would not believe for one moment that there was the slightest chance either of a duty being imposed upon corn or of a tax upon imported meat, for as the demand is and must be ever in excess of the supply, this fact alone indicates that they are not fit articles upon which to impose a protective duty. One of the purposes of protection is to stimulate production, so as primarily to produce sufficient for the satisfaction of home wants."

Mr. Williamson, M.P., said "that the country was agitated by two opposite sets of opinion. The two views may be indicated by the following alternative questions, viz.:—Ought we to look at the present depression in agriculture as an economic fact to be deplored, but temporary in its duration? or, Are we bound to look at it as chronic, and which an intelligent legislature should seek by legislative acts to remedy? To the first must be given a strong affirmative answer; and to the latter an emphatic negative."

But this gentleman does not tell us how things are to mend. It was best to look on the bright side, and, Micaber like, see what would turn up.

At the annual meeting of the United East Lothian Agricultural Society, Mr. Williamson said:—"There was a story of a Scotch divine, who, when expounding Scripture, was in the habit of saying—'Noo, my brethren, we come to a very difficult passage, but just look it boldly in the face, and pass on.' There was no doubt they were met in times of very considerable agricultural depression. During the past season they had been favoured with fine weather, but still there was a great deal of depression, and a cloud was hanging over the agricultural interest, of which at present they did not see the silver lining. It would be presumptuous in him to attempt to analyse the causes that had produced that depression, or to prophesy what hope there was for the future. Even those who did dogmatise, and those who wrote in the newspapers or spoke at lectures, had nothing to tell them as to the future, and the only safe prophecy was that of the French—'He who lives will see.' What they were suffering from so much just now was uncertainty.

At all times uncertainty attended the labours of agriculturists, but they had now to contend with foreign production and the extent to which their markets could be flooded with foreign produce." This is as against their own farmers.

As showing the importations in making up the grand aggregate of 200,000,000 bushels of wheat which are consumed annually in Great Britain, it appears that the United States rank foremost, with 76,800,000 bushels; Russia next, with nearly 25,000,000 bushels; and then India, with 21,000,000 bushels (Great Britain only contributing last year 4,500,000 bushels in supplying the deficiency), making a total of 112,800,000 bushels imported from these countries alone. Then if we add the imports of live stock, dead meat, bacon and hams, &c. (calculated at £28,037,000 sterling in 1884), and other importations from the Continent and elsewhere, we must come to the conclusion that Great Britain, as a whole, is utterly unable to support her large and increasing population from her own resources, and that with her worn out lands, variable climate, and lessening prices, she is played out as an agricultural country. Even if she were endeavouring to turn her soil to other crops than cereals, the uncertainty of the weather, and its unsuitableness for ripening fruits or other products, would prevent such a course being adopted; and the question then arises, if with reduced rents, a peasant proprietary, or other proposed remedies, she would have any prospect of a revival of prosperity as an agricultural country. These remedies I will consider in my next.

A. G. YOUNG.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Breeding Stock Shows.

(CONTINUED.)

Those who imagine that live stock shows have served their purpose, and should now be given up, ought to consider the position in which agriculturists would find themselves if such gatherings were abandoned. It is a very sober pursuit or profession that cannot afford one red letter day in the year. The occurrence of the local, the county, or occasionally also the national show, serves somewhat to break the monotony of a toilsome and frequently rather dull life. Agricultural labourers, as well as landowners and occupiers, find much to interest them in large and representative exhibitions. They obtain information therein which they could not derive by any other known means. Their own ideas of either an animal or an implement can be, and generally are, compared with those of other people equally well able to judge, and perhaps more experienced.

The mere holiday or pleasurable aspect of the shows is not to be altogether overlooked, especially in a profession which has not very much conviviality, gaiety, or luxury about it; but it would be a dark day for agricultural exhibitions if nothing more could be said for them than that they afforded a pleasant "outing" to the people of the district, county, or country. As has been indicated already, there are stronger pleas for the continuance of shows than the holiday pleasures. The rivalry, as before stated, which shows impart amongst exhibitors of the various pedigree breeds of stocks is calculated to promote the cause of breeding. If a breeder happens to get on the wrong rails—if his stock threatens to display a positive defect or blemish, appearances alongside others in the showyard are more likely than anything else to convince him of his mistake and to set him earnestly to rectification. So long as agricultural shows effect such a salutary purpose as that, their continuance merits every encouragement, even though some of the objects they once served may have been more or less fully accomplished.

It must not, however, be assumed that we urge the increased attention of all societies to shows and prize-giving for stock. Many associations, including the Highland and Agricultural Society, the Royal Agricultural Society of England, &c., have now other fields of interest and investigation opened up to them by which they can benefit agriculture, more perhaps, because there are greater arrears, so to speak, than by further augmentation of the premium sheet of live stock. Our contention is, that the inducements offered to exhibitors of cattle, sheep, horses, and pigs should be continued in all the main centres of agriculture at least, but that the time has come when other departments of farming should share more extensively than has yet been the case the

attention of the various societies. That can be managed without detracting from the inducements which the live stock prize lists now possess. These should be sufficient, or nearly so, to ensure the continuance of good representations of the different breeds at the various shows. Therefore societies should devote no inconsiderable portion of their increasing resources to the, in the past, more neglected, but very important branches of agriculture, such as field experiments with manures, the propagation of new and improved varieties of plants-roots, &c.

Hitherto we have concerned ourselves mostly with the advantages of exhibitions. We have endeavoured to show that, while the number of exhibitions in some parts, notably the south, west, and the north-east of Scotland, should be reduced by the amalgamation of two, three, or four societies, which overlap each other; that while less benefits are now-a-days likely to be derived from shows than was formerly the case, it would be injudicious and undesirable to allow agricultural exhibitions of a representative character to decline. Before proceeding with a description of the means by which breeders, feeders and exhibitors could independently of the actions of societies, mitigate the evils of which showyard frequenters complain, let us refer to the disadvantages of the showing system.

The most frequently raised objection is, that the breeding properties of many valuable animals are impaired if not entirely sacrificed, by the over-feeding with which the exhibition of breeding stock, at national shows particularly, has latterly become associated. Allusion has already been made to this unquestionably great drawback. We do not consider that it can be entirely obviated except by the discontinuance of breeding stock shows, and then, in our opinion, the country would be paying too dearly for the remedy. The cure, in fact, might be worse than the disease. But something considerably short of a complete cure would give general satisfaction. The country must have its shows, especially its leading ones; and, keeping in view the many indirect advantages of these exhibitions as educative institutions, the existence of some direct disadvantage can be borne with.

Our position is simply this, we must make up our minds to some disappointment, and even sacrifices, in order to continue the exhibition system, which has done so much for the agriculture of the country, and which, though not quite so effectual now as it once was, would nevertheless be greatly missed. Modify the mischief resulting from the shows as far as possible, and considerable modification is practicable, but adhere to the exhibition principle alike as regards breeding and fat shows. Such, in brief form, is our advice.

Next to the injury to the procreative faculties of breeding stock, we have the exhibition system charged with unprofitable and excessive consumption of costly concentrated foods in the preparation of stock for the chief fat shows. In this instance, of course, there are no breeding properties to spoil, but economical production of good useful meat is at stake. Economy in the training of animals for the leading national fat shows find little or no recognition. That cannot be disputed. No food which the beasts can eat is spared, no labour or attention which may promote the development of the animal is withheld. To produce what? Really prime well-mixed eatable beef or mutton. We fear not. It is more frequently fat and blubber that are produced by the extravagant feeding practised for the fat shows. At any rate, the fat and unpalatable food furnished by beasts pampered for the great Christmas shows usually predominates over the flesh.

The principal national fat shows, however, are not quite Christmas markets. They are meant to accomplish something more than merely provide a lot of prime meat for the butchers' shops at that festive season. They are, so far at least, intended to instruct the agricultural public as to the varieties of stock capable of the greatest development at the earliest age. In this respect the Smithfield and Birmingham Shows of recent years have shown substantial advances on the exhibitions of some years ago. Early maturity is much more prominent than it was even half a dozen years back. Excessive obesity, and we fear, directly viewed, unprofitable production, are still visible, but that is not likely to disappear, though it will further diminish with time and experience.

(To be Continued.)

A REMEDY FOR THE CHICKEN CHOLERA.—Mrs. I. W. Langston, of Johnson Co., Mo., states that a tablespoonful of wood ashes and one do. of soda, mixed with sufficient corn meal to make it palatable, will, when given to chickens, prove to be an infallible remedy for the cholera.—*Farmers' Review.*

measurements or weight decided the award.

The comparison of judges of the Supreme Court and stock judges has been ridiculed in your journal, and it has been stated there can be no analogy, on account of the great superiority of the former over the latter; but, in my opinion, the great intelligence of these men, their equal training—their education, which has been intended to produce the same result, and has been made in the same groove—should make them take the same view of the weight of evidence, and the construction to be put on words. Yet it does not, and they are not pronounced incapable; neither is it said one only should decide all cases, nor are they said to differ from interested motives; but if one set of stock judges upset the decision of another set, they are at once condemned. There is an appeal from the decision of a single judge to the Full Court, and further to the Privy Council, and who complains? But in stock matters one man must decide, with no right of appeal. Whatever system is adopted, losers will in many cases grumble, and men who know little will try to make out they know much, by differing from the recognised authorities of the day. On the whole, I think two judges, with the odd man for umpire, in the way described in a former number of your journal, might be advantageously tried.—I am, &c.,

FREDERICK PEPPIN.

St. Kilda, Nov. 27, 1885.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S. will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a post-mortem examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Veterinary Notes.

WATER.

This familiar and important fluid may be recognised when pure, by being transparent, without colour or taste, and performs the most important functions in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, entering largely into their composition as a constituent part. It is seldom or ever found perfectly pure. The water which flows within or upon the surface of the earth, contains various earthy, saline, metallic, vegetable or animal particles according to the substances over and through which it passes. Rain and snow water is purer than that generally met with, although also found to contain whatever floats in the air or has been exhaled with the watery vapours. Animals require water to soften or dissolve solid foods, so as to facilitate their mastication and digestion—to maintain a due bulk of blood and the structures of the body—to keep substances in solution or suspension whilst moving in the body—to supply elements in the chemical changes of the body—to enable the waste material to be carried away from the body, to discharge superfluous heat by transpiration through the skin, and by emission through the other outlets—to supply in a convenient form heat to or abstract heat from the body. Some of these functions are performed by water

in its liquid state, and others when it is in a state of vapour. The subject of the purity of water is one of the leading questions of the day, and efforts are made to show which sources are pure, and which impure, and how contamination may be avoided; but we are met on the threshold of the inquiry with the question, What is pure water? and no absolute standard has yet been agreed upon. All known natural water possesses elements such as salts of lime, magnesia etc., which are required by the body, and must be obtained from either solid or liquid food; if they are foods, how can they be regarded as impurities? Such water as nature has supplied must therefore be regarded as normal, and its constituents as a necessary part of it. But if this be admitted, we shall not have got rid of the question as to what is purity in water, for the same elements which exist in normal water are found in water which must be called abnormal, but in much greater quantity, and as some of these have been obtained from foreign sources and are injurious to health, they may be called impure. Normal and abnormal water are distinguished only by the amount of certain substances which are common to all. Rain water on reaching the earth dissolves animal and vegetable substances, as it runs off quickly it percolates through the earth, in the latter case it will have lost much of the animal matter it had dissolved on the surface. But when collected in water holes its character may be entirely changed by subsequent admixture, such as animal excreta, decaying vegetable, or other matters known as dirt, hence normal water should be preferred from unpolluted rivers, lakes, or from artesian or other wells.

Insufficient or excessive supplies of water are alike injurious, but animals in health and with constant free access to water rarely take more than is good for them. Excepting for a few hours previous to any great exertion and when much overheated or prostrated, it is unnecessary to restrict the water supply to horses. A moderate amount of water is essential to digestion; an excessive quantity injuriously dilutes the gastric juice. Horses when tired or hungry should have a few swallows of water, or better still, a bucket of gruel before feeding. A copious draught of water taken immediately after a rapidly eaten meal, hurries the imperfectly digested food too rapidly into the large intestine where it is liable to set up colic or inflammation.

Some of the Diseases and Accidents connected with Parturition.

From a Paper by Captain Russell, read at a Meeting of the Lincolnshire Veterinary Medical Society.

IT WAS a surprising fact that the effort of parturition should be so frequently attended with serious results; merely an effort of nature, not the result of the disease. But in the majority of cases no doubt those difficulties could be traced or were due to alterations in structure brought about by the necessarily artificial existence of the animal in a state of confinement, or at least unnatural existence. The first subject he desired to notice was the existence of tumours in connection with the uterus or the vagina. They varied in shape and position, and a careful examination was important, with a view to determine the characteristics of the tumour. Fibroid and cancerous tumours were generally situated within the uterus. Papillomatous tumours were frequently found in the vagina. Manual examination could alone determine what was to be done in any case. Rigidity or spasm of the neck of the uterus was not unfrequently met with in the cow or ewe, which was not due to any disease, but rather to an irregular action of the muscular fibres. In all ordinary cases the fingers of the operator, with time and patience, would overcome all difficulties. 'In-duration of the cervix' was in reality entirely due to a diseased condition of the parts during delivery. An operation was most safely to be

accomplished by the use of an instrument invented by Professor Walley. Carelessness in the operation was the cause of nine out of ten cows or mares being barren. Another accident arising from the act of parturition was rupture of the wall of the uterus, which might be induced from a diseased condition of the parts or by the effects of the foetus. Many cases could be traced to the carelessness of the owner of the animal in not seeking professional aid soon enough. Rupture of the vagina occurred in different aspects. Accidental or rough treatment, prolonged labour, causing the parts to become dry, were frequent causes. When the rupture was superiorly placed a recovery might be effected, but when it was laterally placed such rarely was the case. For inversion of the uterus a truss was about the best thing. Inversion of the bladder—more common in the mare than in the cow—if taken in time, could be easily replaced. Retention of the placental membranes was of common occurrence. Whole volumes had been offered the profession upon parturient apoplexy, and yet apparently they were in ignorance of the cause of the terribly rapid and speedily fatal complaint.

The pages of the veterinary journals teemed with theories as to the cause and proper treatment to be pursued, but one might have a case which would explode all theories, and leave one hopelessly in the dark as to the cause. In his opinion the cause was to be found in the artificial life of the cow. The disease rarely affected mares. In nearly every case the animal had been allowed to gorge a quantity of indigestible food, and kept from exercise at least a fortnight before the event. In many cases cows were left to get through their trouble in the field! Parturient fever was apparently unknown in some parts of the kingdom and was an everyday occurrence in others. The plan he recommended to prevent an attack was to give the cow plenty of daily exercise at least once a fortnight before the event, not too much of any kind, and, if very fresh, a good purge about ten days before she was expected to calve. So soon as she had calved give her Mag. Sulph. Zingib., &c., according to size, weight, &c. Allow no hay for three days, and keep her perfectly quiet and free from excitement. His general treatment in cases of parturient apoplexy had always been fairly successful.

The President.—I cannot invite you, gentlemen to ask questions upon this paper, as Captain Russell is not present. I shall be glad to hear any remarks that may be made.

Mr. Field.—Can you explain, Mr. President, how it is some districts are so much more liable to parturition diseases than others?

The President.—As far as my practical knowledge goes, the better they are cared for the more liable they are to such diseases, and the majority of cases are in better-bred animals. If I go into a yard where there are a lot of animals badly cared for there we have very few cases.

The Veterinarian.

On the Present State of Agriculture in Great Britain.

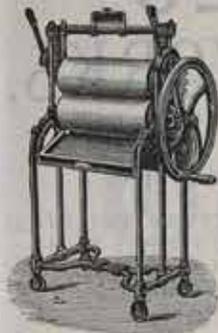
THE following remarks are the result of observations made while visiting Britain last year, and perhaps may be useful to agriculturists and others here. I give extracts from various authorities to support my own opinions, which some might suppose to be prejudiced.

My chief object is to induce those interested in this colony to endeavour, by immigration, to get some of the thousands who are living in a state of hopelessness to come out, where they may obtain good wages, and live in comfort.

There is, undoubtedly, a consensus of opinion that agriculture is in a bad state. After ten years of variable and unsatisfactory harvests, there was a prospect of a return to better ones in 1884, which was to a certain extent realised. But the large stocks of wheat and flour on hand at the end of 1882 (with the liberal supplies which, despite low prices, came from abroad), paralysed the market, and although for some years the import trade had been unprofitable, the hopes of improvement either to importers or farmers were not realised.

As wheat in January was selling at 89s. per qr., and gradually receded to 30s. 10d. in December, or less than 4s. per bushel (a price which would pay no one, notwithstanding the great reductions in rents), the losses must have been enormous. This may be gathered from the recently published Agricultural Returns for 1884. From these we learn that the total rented area of the Three Kingdoms is fully

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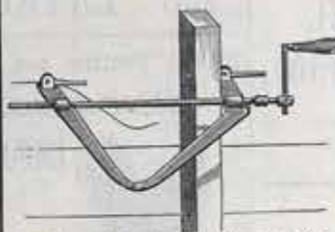
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HOW TO PRESERVE EGGS.—Pour four gallons of boiling water on four quarts of quick lime and one pound of salt; when cold mix into it two ounces of cream of tartar, and stir well with a stick. The following day you may put the eggs in very carefully not to crack them. After the lime has been well stirred in the boiling water a large part will sink to the bottom, on which the eggs will rest. The mixture should be made in a wooden vessel, and when cool poured into a well-glazed earthen vessel or pan with a cover. Add water from time to time as it evaporates, and see that the liquor always covers the eggs.—*Farmers' Gazette.*

The thinning of fruit on over-bearing trees is an operation few think of attending to. Peach trees are prone to carry too much fruit, and the result is in no way satisfactory. The tree concentrates its energies on the maturing of the seed, and the edible and valuable portion of the fruit suffers, and with it the tree likewise. The man who thins out his fruit judiciously may reckon upon quite an equal weight of fruit and a very much better quality, while at the same time the tree itself will not be severely taxed in maturing so much seed. This is exactly the part of the economy of the fruit-bearing tree that it is strained by too heavy a crop. The formation of the flesh and edible portion causes no great strain, and yet that is all that we esteem valuable. Another important operation with all fruit-carrying trees is that of mulching. All the help we give the bearing tree to do its best will be repaid with interest.—*Planter and Farmer.*

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R. SMITH'S

PATENT

Giant Complete Harvester.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS:

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The Patentee having thoroughly tested the efficiency of this Machine in the field for himself, has every confidence in recommending it to farmers generally, or those needing the use of such a Machine, as it will greatly expedite their harvesting operations, and effect a very great saving, as the following Testimonials will substantiate.

The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR. R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.

Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize: and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,

GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

MR. R. SMITH.

Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it done; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,

GEORGE EXELL.

MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.

Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendid, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,

ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
Stock Yard Hill.

MR. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort.

Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Winnowers. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly,

TONKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

Memo. to MR. RUPERT SMITH.

January 26th, 1885.

Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked upon the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors.) In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,

P. DUE, Farmer,
Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885.

This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.

Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.

C. F. SUTHERLAND.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way, and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.

Remaining yours faithfully,

G. DAVIS.

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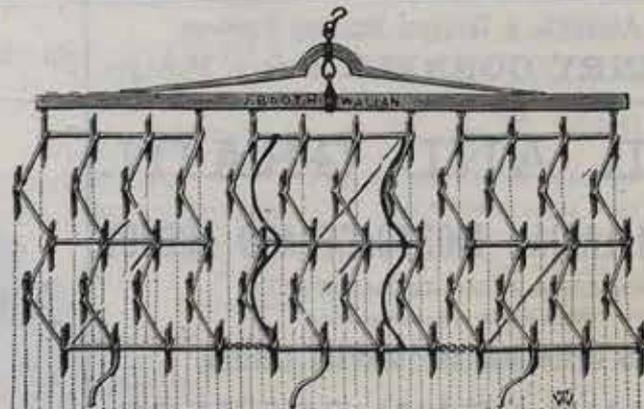
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cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884
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The Fans are constructed on the Turbine principle, being so curved that each one passes the wind on to the next, thus getting all the power out of it. The wind glides through them like a stream of water, following the curve, and still using its momentum, until its escape, so that none of the force is lost. This peculiar construction of the wheel causes it to give more power than any other wheel of the same diameter in the market.

The Engine is self-regulating. The first sharp gust will blow it edge on to the wind, and it will then weather the fiercest gale without injury, and drop back to work again as soon as it is over.

The Governing Device is very simple. It can be adjusted to make from 20 revolutions per minute to 60 in a moderate wind, and without blowing out of gear, and will always blow out in a gale. There is also provision for changing the length of stroke.

Special attention is paid to the construction of the Machinery or Engine proper, only the very best materials being used. Polished shafting and babbit-lined boxes with cavity between the bearings in which is placed packing to hold oil, to prevent the necessity of frequent oiling. The pitman bearing is provided with a glass oiler that will hold a week's supply, so it is necessary to oil only when you can see from the ground that the glass oiler is empty.

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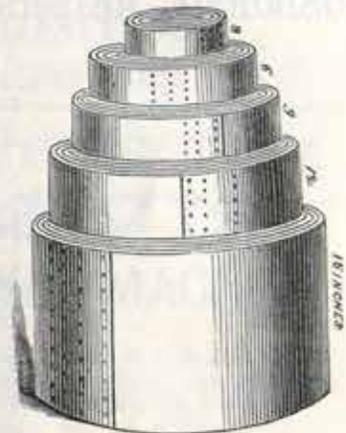
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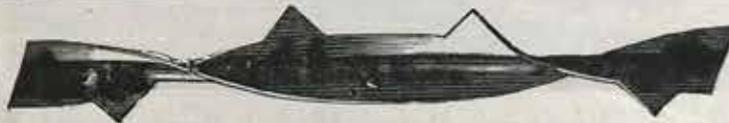
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A Perfect Fence.



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BUCKTHORN SOLID STEEL FENCE,

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Punishes Cattle without damaging them. The only Fence awarded GOLD MEDAL. Annual consumption in the United States and Canada, over 12,000 tons.

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Perfectly Galvanised, is not only useful, but also very ornamental, as, by its width, it can be seen from a distance. It makes the employment of top-rails unnecessary. Having almost DOUBLE THE STRENGTH of other barbed wires, it requires FEWER POSTS and is more DURABLE. The BUCKTHORN FENCE has been adopted generally throughout any district where it has once been tried.

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The ANCHOR BRAND Wire is made of Steel or Iron, and both are sold at same Prices.

A WARRANT will be given to Purchasers that the Wire is of the best quality, and that it will stand any test any other brand of Wire will stand. The ANCHOR BRAND Wire at the same time will always be sold at lower prices than any other Wire, the makers being determined to secure the Australian market for themselves. The same applies to Wire Nails.

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Or any of their Local Agents throughout the Colony.



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FRANKLIN STREET, WEST MELBOURNE,

MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 8½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.

JOHN DANKS & SON,

Engineers & Brass Founders,

MANUFACTURERS OF

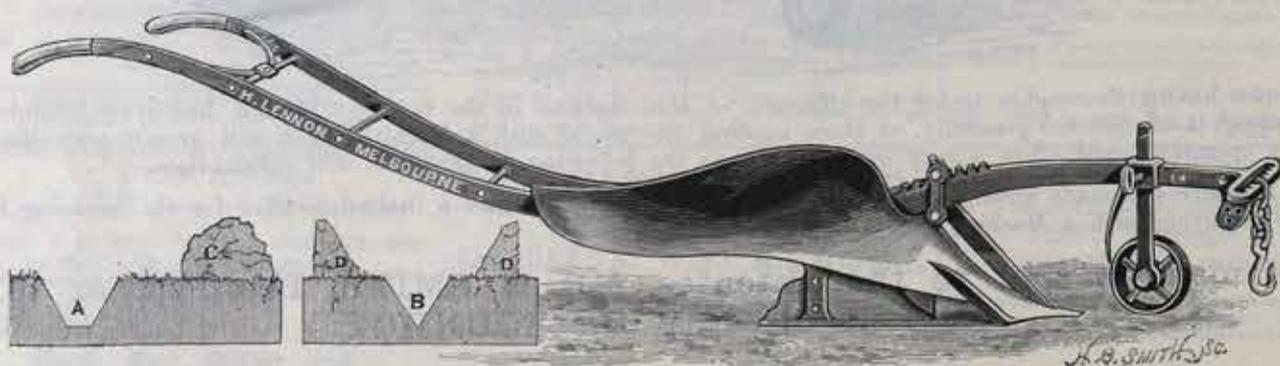
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Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes
Three and Four Furrow Ploughs.
Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and
dam-sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.
Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators
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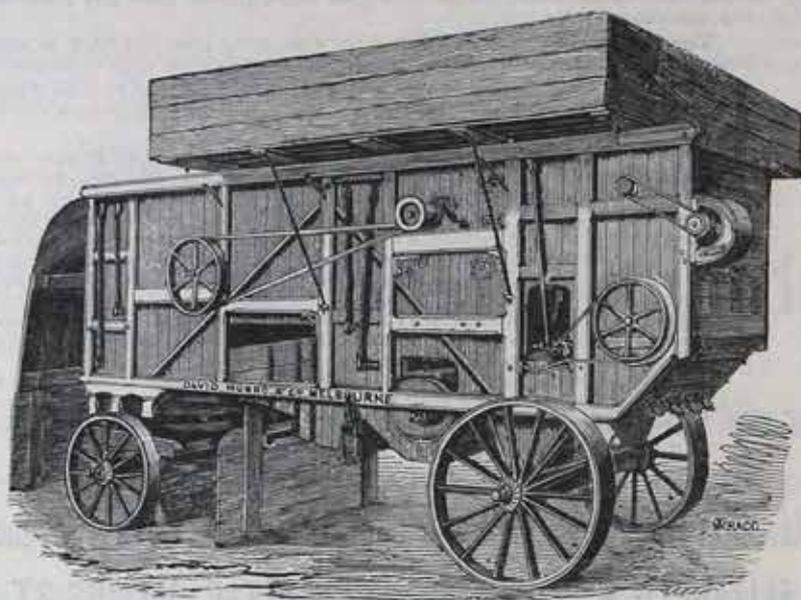
DAVID MUNRO & CO.,

MACHINERY MERCHANTS,

Importers and Engineers,

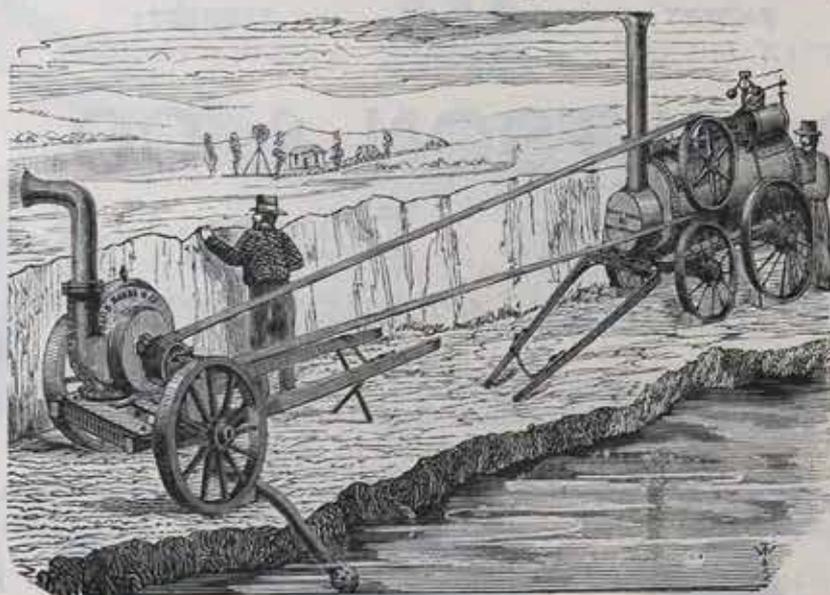
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RUSTON, PROCTOR & CO.'S COLONIAL PRIZE MEDAL STEAM THRESHING PLANTS,
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OSBORNE Reapers and Twine Binders, Ploughs, Horseworks, Chaffcutters, &c.



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REFERENCES KINDLY PERMITTED BY PURCHASERS OF THESE CELEBRATED PUMPS.

"VICTORY" SELF-ADJUSTING METAL WINDMILLS.

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ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE POSTED FREE ON APPLICATION.

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154 QUEEN STREET, MELBOURNE.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



VICTORIA

Vol. I.—No. 6. [Repl. as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, JANUARY 15TH, 1886.

GRATIS.

"If 'twere done when 't's done,
Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

CATERER

CHARLES D. STRAKER,
Three Crowns Hotel,
WEST MELBOURNE.

Caterer for the Victorian Racing Club, The National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and the Victorian Coursing Club.

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(LIMITED.)

Millers & Grain Merchants

AND

GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS.

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GRAIN STORES at JUNG JUNG, WAIL, LUBECK,
NUMURKAH, DIMBOOLA, DONALD, and Agencies
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Consignors of Wool and other Produce and Advances
made thereon.

Every description of Agricultural Machinery and Implements,
by all the best Melbourne Manufacturers and
Importers on sale on favorable terms.

Town Agents for transaction of every description of Farmers
business requiring Confidential Care
and attention.

Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
STORAGE ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS.

J. F. & Co. Limited are prepared to ship Wheat if desired
on Farmers' account for sale in London on
advantageous terms.

£80,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security.

J. B. SCOTT,
Britannia Bone Mills,
PORT MELBOURNE,

BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring
Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has
received from R. W. Emerson MacIVOR:—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my
eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of
detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration
in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,

LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

LITTLE'S PATENT DIP.

The Best, Cheapest, and Safest Dip in the Market.
Used by all the noted Breeders of Sheep
in the Colonies.



(NON-POISONOUS)

REDUCED to 5s. 6d. per Gallon in Casks and 6s. in
Drums, making 1000 Gallons of Dip for 55s.

The Mount Bate and Ercildoune Flocks are dipped in this
fluid every season, and the Manager writes—"Out of 20,000 Sheep
dipped last season we did not find a single tick." To those who
do not dip, it will be found most useful for the following
purposes:—As a Gaitie Wash, and for Mange, Canker "Grosse,"
Cracked Heels in Horses, Ringworm in Horses or Cattle,
Thrushes in Horses' Feet; for washing Dogs, Uleets, Wounds,
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GOLD MEDALS,
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UNEQUALLED FOR RANGE OF WORK AND EASE OF
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Are cash Buyers of all Dairy Produce at highest market rates
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Account Sales promptly rendered.
Advances if required.

Also, Sole Agents for
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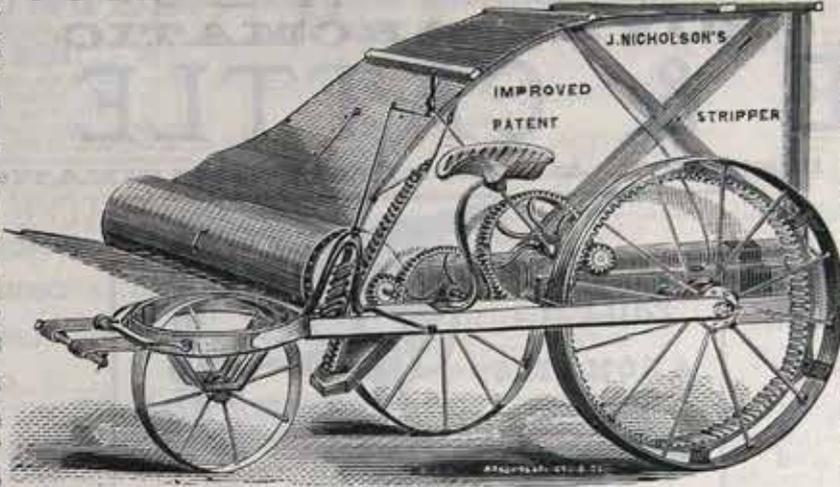
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extremely simple, and requires no
mechanical knowledge to keep in
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 FIRST PRIZE, Champion Gold Medal, National Agricultural Show, Melbourne, 1884.
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 FIRST PRIZE, Corowa, N.S.W., Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Ingleswood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Shepparton Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sydney Show, N.S.W., 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, March, 1883.

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PATENT SPUR GEARING STRIPPER.

The Most Successful Harvester in use.

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 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
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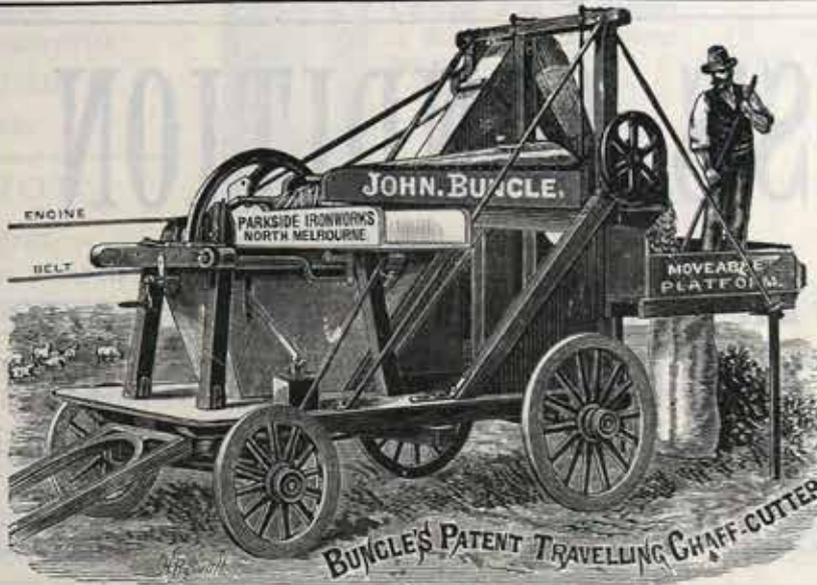
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With Corn Crushers Combined.

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With Chaff-bag Filling Machines

And all supplied with the latest new & improved Feed Rollers.



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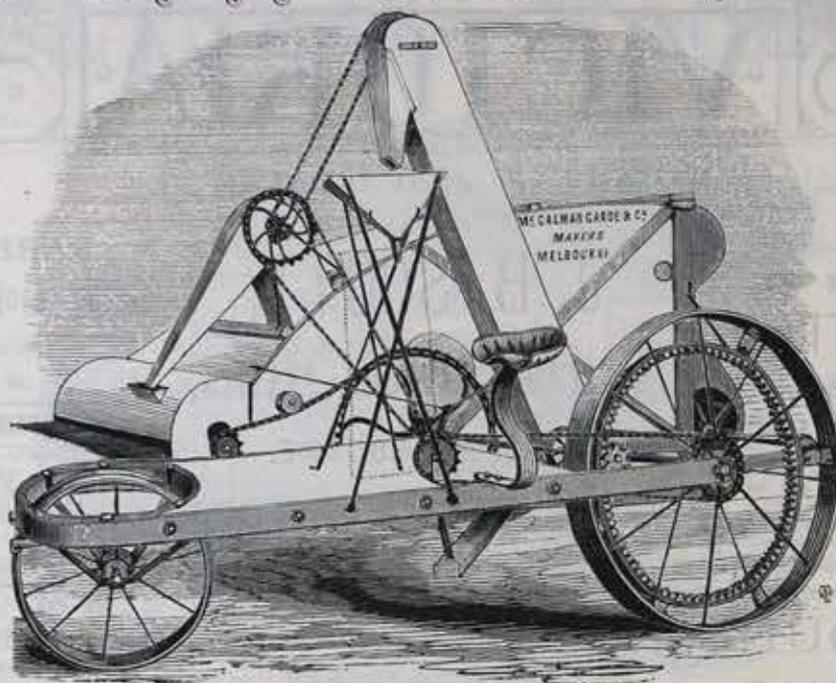
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All Kinds of Implements kept in Stock to select from at their Manufactory.

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Farmer's Barometers, with Thermometers,
Guaranteed Instrument, 25/.

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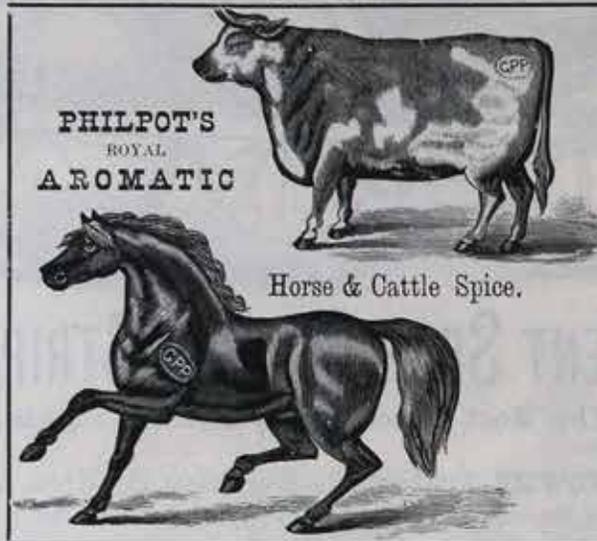
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A DISTINCT & PECULIAR COMBINATION.

Proved and Warranted to be
Effectual for giving Health,
Flesh and Condition
to Horses, Cattle,
Sheep, Pigs, Dogs, and
POULTRY,
and Warranted to
Effectually Destroy Worms
In Horses, Dogs, &c., &c.



Horses can be kept in Good
Condition and Cattle Fat-
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One Penny per day.
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Prof. Sample,
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other well-known colon-
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THIS FOOD possesses extraordinary tonic, condition, alterative and feeding properties, far surpassing that of any Artificial Food yet discovered. It increases the appetite, assists digestion, assures thorough assimilation of food, enables the animal to eat provender of an inferior quality, which would otherwise be considered useless, and, by mildly stimulating the action of the Liver and Kidneys, imparts to the coats of the Horses a fine healthy and glossy appearance. For Worms in Horses, Urinary Complaints, Swollen Legs, Skin Diseases and Impurities of the Blood, this FOOD is a certain remedy, and is a valuable addition to the ordinary food of aged horses whose digestive powers are impaired. The value of this FOOD, which is an important discovery, appears evident from the fact that the best prevention to contagious or other diseases is to keep the animal in good health and condition, which is more readily and certainly effected by giving the ROYAL AROMATIC HORSE AND CATTLE FOOD than by any other means. One great advantage in giving this FOOD is that no alteration is required in the work of Horses or care of Cattle.

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HORSES, CATTLE, PIGS, GEESE, DUCKS, FOWLS, DOGS, &c.

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W. H. HUNTER,
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 is the GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR, and the Only Saddler
 Appointed for supplying the Regulation Riding
 Saddle, Bridles, Leggings, and Wallets.
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Manufacturer of every description of Saddles and Bridles; Gig,
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 Rough and Smooth Bullockhides, Hogskins, Bush and Town,
 Saddles, which for Shape, Price, and Quality, cannot be equalled.

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WOOLBROKERS,
 Capital, £3,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE—MELBOURNE,

MAKE LIBERAL CASH ADVANCES on the ensuing CLIP
 of WOOL and on STATION SECURITIES.

They hold AUCTION SALES of WOOL twice each week
 during the season, and at frequent intervals during the
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AUCTION SALES of TALLOW, HIDES, SHEEPSKINS,
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THREE MONTHS' FREE STORAGE ALLOWED on GRAIN.

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**NATIONAL
 Agricultural Society of Victoria.**

Shorthorn Derby Sweepstakes, 1887.	
Hereford do do 1887.	
Ayrshire do do 1887.	
Alderney do do 1887.	

A Sweepstakes of £1 each, 10s. at time of nomination,
 and 10s. at date of general entry for Show, with
 £5 added in each case, to be divided and awarded as
 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes, at the Society's Exhibition,
 1887.

Nominations for the above Sweepstakes for Heifers
 of each breed respectively, calved between 1st July,
 1884, and 1st July, 1885, will be received till 1st
 March, 1886, inclusive. Nominators to fully describe
 the colour of each entry, and state the name of sire,
 dam, and sire of dam, together with the date of
 calving, and accompanying same with nomination fee
 of 10s.

Shorthorn Derby Sweepstakes, 1888.	
Hereford do do 1888.	
Ayrshire do do 1888.	
Alderney do do 1888.	

A Sweepstakes of £1 each, 10s. at time of nomination,
 and 10s. at date of general entry for Show, with
 £5 added in each case (that for the Ayrshire Derby
 being the gift of Messrs. W. McNab and Bros.), to be
 divided and awarded as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes, at
 the Society's Exhibition, 1888.

Nominations for the above Sweepstakes for Heifers
 of each breed respectively, calved after 1st July, 1885,
 will be received till 1st March, 1886, inclusive. Calves
 dropped after that date to be nominated within one
 month of date of birth. Nominators to fully describe
 the color of each entry, and state the name of sire,
 dam, and sire of dam, together with the date of
 calving, and accompanying same with nomination fee
 of 10s.

THOMAS PATTERSON,

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

SECRETARY.

**NATIONAL
 Agricultural Society**

OF VICTORIA.

Member's Subscription	-	£1 per annum.
Life Member's Do.	-	£8.
Governor's Do.	-	£3 per annum.
Life Governor's Do.	-	£24.

Notice is hereby given that the
 Preliminary General Meeting of
 the Members of the National Agri-
 cultural Society of Victoria will be
 held at the office, Kirk's Bazaar,
 Bourke street West, on Thursday,
 21st January, 1886, at 2 o'clock
 p.m., to arrange the business and
 receive notices of motion for the
 Annual General Meeting, to ap-
 point Auditors, and to nominate
 gentlemen to fill the places of
 retiring office-bearers.

Melbourne, 4th January, 1886.

THOMAS PATTERSON,

SECRETARY.

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
 addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar,
 Bourke Street West, Melbourne.

Business communications to the Publishers,
 Somerset Place, 6 Little Bourke Street West.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
 requested to forward to the editor the dates on
 which their respective exhibitions will be held,
 also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
 they are published.

FEBRUARY.

- 17.—Grantville and Jeetho Society.
- 25.—Morrington Society, at Berwick.
- 25.—West Bourke Society, at Lancefield Junction.

MARCH.

- 3.—Baringhup and Maldon, at Baringhup.
- 11.—Bacchus March, Ballan and Pentland Hills Society, at Myrning.
- 24.—Glenlyon, Franklin & Daylesford Society, at Daylesford.
- 24.—Dunolly Agricultural Society.
- 24.—Ararat.

AUGUST.

- 23 & 24.—Australian Sheepbreeder's Association at Goldsbrough's, Bourke-street west.
- 25, 26, 27, 28.—National Society.

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, JANUARY 15th, 1886.

Method in Farm Management.

On the occasion of our recent visit to Dr. Plummer's farm, nothing impressed us so much as the methodical manner in which work is there carried on, and we could not help thinking that it would be well were a more thorough system generally applied to farm management. Too often work is carried on in a haphazard style, half-a-dozen matters are under way at once, nothing is anticipated, time is wasted, and everything is in arrears. Dr. Plummer's management, however, is entirely opposed to this style, as he has everything sketched out on paper beforehand, and he works according to plan. With regard to his hay crop, for instance; the probable yield is set down, the time when carting away should commence, the number of waggons, the horses for each team and the drivers, with other details. In fact a sort of skeleton plan is drawn up to which reference is constantly made, but which of course is subject to modification as matters progress. On commenting in no measured terms on the excellence of this idea, Dr. Plummer said that in carrying out his extensive practice and multifarious duties he would never have got through without working according to the most thorough system. We are perfectly well aware that it is impossible to apply the same hard and fast lines to farm management as are done to business, but we heartily commend the adoption of a preconsidered system worked out on paper. We remember reading that "there is nothing like a good definite plan—not cast-iron, you know, but flexible and modified by circumstances as you go along." This is precisely the system on which Dr. Plummer acts, and as he has an intelligent overseer, who seconds his efforts, the result of this kind of management is apparent throughout the farm. It is astonishing how use breeds a habit, and a habit is like a wart, "it grows on a man." "What we have been makes us what we are," and the effect of pursuing a systematic plan in carrying out the principal work of a farm in course of a time makes a man unconsciously apply the same principle to all details; in short it causes him to become a good farmer, and makes all the difference between a success and a failure. We have a very keen appreciation of the difference between good and bad land, in fact have frequently said that in this connection it is land, not brains, that makes a man rich. This is perhaps not

strictly correct, yet if a man possesses a piece of really good land, no matter how small in extent, he usually prospers, and gradually adds to it, while if a man gets on a piece of poor country even of far greater area, he generally remains poor to the end of the chapter. Still in making the most of land of any description, there is, no doubt, that good management is a very important factor. A case in point is related of an American farmer who could not make anything off his place, and was constantly complaining of his poor fortune, till he at last sold out. He tried farming in several other parts, but never seemed to succeed, and years afterwards—a wretchedly poor man—gravitated back to his old place, where he found that its proprietor was in a very comfortable position. This 'unfortunate' man, as he no doubt thought himself, was a sloven, therefore it is probable he would not have succeeded in any calling. Carlyle says that the worst form of misfortune is misconduct, and this man's slovenliness in farm management was a negative misconduct, hence his misfortune, which should serve as a warning to others. In farm work, especially amongst stock, there is frequently a considerable amount of give and take in the matter of time between master and men, which, however, is not necessarily incompatible with good management. The eight hours system would scarcely be practicable in country work, where, for instance, a sheep has to be killed the last thing before dark, where stock have to be attended to at all hours, where a man may have to spend his Christmas pulling dead sheep out of a tank. Although strikes are now so common, it will surely be a long time, even in this fast age, before they extend to farm labourers in any organised form. It is, as we have experienced, difficult to get farmers themselves to combine for their mutual interest, so that any combination of farm labourers—meaning those who are employed throughout the year—would seem to be still more difficult of accomplishment. Good management on the part of the farmers, however, will also be serviceable in this connection, and with regard to work generally, a thorough system, "not cast-iron, you know," is what we recommend.

Capons.

SHAKESPEARE in *As You Like It* makes Jaques say:—

"And then the justice,
In fair round belly, with good capon lined."

So that three hundred years ago our forefathers evidently knew and appreciated capons. In this colony, however, such a thing as a capon is scarcely ever heard of, and we believe that the most of our "great unpaid" are entirely innocent of the bird; so that, although we speak of living in an age of progress, we are evidently behind in this respect. We wish to recommend the production of capons as a profitable industry,

as we have been informed lately by a large Melbourne salesman that if he could command a regular supply of birds of this description he could place them to great advantage, and he added that there was plenty of room for a large business. In thus bringing under the notice of our readers the opinion of a practical man regarding the commercial prospects of this industry, we trust that it will be the means of directing attention to it as a profitable undertaking. Now-a-days, anything that will increase the profits of the farm is worth consideration, Poultry raising itself, if properly carried out, is a lucrative industry, the profits of which—we have it on excellent authority—may be greatly increased by the production of capons. Then again, from a consumer's point of view, it is a matter of interest, for we feel confident it would be a treat to dine on the toothsome birds. We have enjoyed some of the best mutton and beef possible, and also know something of ram stag and bull beef, and between the two former and latter there is a great gulf. If the relative difference between the flesh of capons and ordinary birds is as great as in the cases we have mentioned, then indeed is there a treat in store for Victorians if they can only secure a regular supply. In order to endeavour to bring this about, we have stated the opinion of one of the best authorities in the city with regard to the commercial prospects of the industry, and we also publish in our veterinary columns directions on caponising, by Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S., who has been good enough to supply the information.

Wyabun Park.

LAST month we had the pleasure of visiting Wyabun Park, which is the property of Dr. Plummer, and is one of the fancy farms of the colony. It is situated in the immediate vicinity of Gisborne, and comprises some of the finest land in that fertile district. Not only is the soil good, but the position of the homestead is one of the nicest imaginable. In order to reach it, we leave the train at Gisborne and pass through the township of that name, turning sharply to the left, and ascending a hill, when the homestead comes in view. It is a quaint old place, surrounded by a garden in a bend of the Gisborne Creek. This bend, which is quite shut in, comprises a considerable valley, on which a number of native gum trees are still standing amongst the luxuriant pasture, giving the place the character of a regular sylvan retreat. The veteran proprietor of this property is often complimented on looking so well at his age—although filling so many onerous public positions; but it is easily accounted for when it is known that every week he spends from Saturday till Monday in this healthful atmosphere, practically as "remote from towns" as if he were 500 miles up in the bush. An enthusiast in bathing once advised a bath every morning, saying it would add "ten years to your natural life," but while not despising the bath, we feel confident that a retreat like Wyabun Park for a busy city man to recruit in every week, would most certainly be a more effectual means of adding to his natural

life. On arrival at the farm, after being fixed up, we took a stroll round the garden, in the rich black soil of which vegetables grow to perfection, while some kind of trees, especially walnuts, succeed well. The expression, "a wife, a dog, and a walnut tree, the more you beat them the better they be," is often heard, but we never could understand the propriety of its application to the tree till it was explained by Dr. Plummer. He said that in order to make walnut trees bear well; at the proper season, a man with a long stick—a clothes prop say—should thrash the tree, beating off the superfluous twigs; and that this is so we had practical proof, for a tree which last season had been so treated was at the time of our visit laden with fruit. In order to enable us to inspect the farm, horses were provided, and we were allotted Pat, an upstanding bay, with a fine rein, giving one that sense of security a man generally feels when on a horse with plenty of him in front of the saddle. The Doctor was on Jenny, a low-set, active, well-bred, black mare, which suited him admirably, and the overseer rode Tim, a Dockin pony, from an Ab-del-kader mare. We well remember Dockin when he stood at Tooradin with old Touchstone years ago, and have never yet seen a handsomer pony. This son of his, although getting into the sere and yellow leaf, was no disgrace to him. Starting from the house, we crossed the creek and went round the home paddocks, in which two or three mares and foals and about 60 head of bullocks were running. These cattle were in nice condition, and although young, looked as if they would top up and make good bullocks this season. Leaving the home paddock we went out through the entrance gate to the Mount Alexander road, and travelled citywards, then turning to the left we came to a detached paddock of 240 acres, through which the creek runs, and in which there was no stock. Further on we came to another paddock of 320 acres, which runs across to the railway line, and which also had no stock in it, the Doctor preferring to wait rather than buy at what he considered extreme prices. In this paddock are two dams, in a washed-out watercourse, which are faced with stones backed up with earth, and they dam the water back for a considerable distance, thus forming good, cheap tanks. Leaving the detached portions of the farm, and coming towards the homestead, we arrived at a paddock of 107 acres, in which about 50 heifers were running, and then through what is known as the woolshed paddock to the house. This paddock takes its name from a large woolshed, which is still standing, but is unused. Dr. Plummer was formerly a successful breeder of high class long-wooled sheep, with which he won many prizes, but he sold them out some few years ago. After doing homage to the shrine of Bacchus (the day was very warm), we started on the little black mare with the overseer—the Doctor remaining in—to a paddock next the home one, which extends down to the township, and in which about 50 young cattle and a few horses were depasturing. On returning, we were asked how we liked the little mare, and on expressing satisfaction with her, the Doctor said, "You don't know what a compliment you were paid. It isn't everyone who is allowed to ride that mare." There is nothing like taking care of

a good hack—when you get one. In the afternoon we went to the stable and had a look at a 2-year old Young Topsman colt, a brown with nicely haired legs, and of the useful description. Dr. Plummer has some high-class prize-taking mares, but they were all away at the horse. The stable is a roomy building, with a barn and shedding attached, in which all implements, &c., are stored, for there is no slovenliness in the management of this farm; work is done by method, and everything is kept in apple-pie order. Immediately adjoining the barn were about 25 acres of oats, which had been cut for hay, and which were tied in sheaves and standing in stooks. This was one of the sights of the place, for along the foot and at the bottom of the hill the stooks were so close together that we are afraid to state what it would be likely to yield per acre, for fear we would be accused of what the Scotch call "leein." Above this were about 25 acres of oats, one of the nicest crops possible, clean and even throughout, from which a heavy yield of choice hay might be expected. In an adjoining paddock on the slope of a hill, there were about 60 acres covered with a nice crop of oats, except about seven or eight acres of the deepest black soil at the foot of the gully on which wheat was growing, and was looking equally well with the oats. In this paddock there were six acres of the famous Triumph oats. These were growing beside some Tartarian oats—only half the quantity of the Triumph oats per acre being sown; still there seemed to be quite as much weight of material on the one as on the other. The Triumph oats produce a remarkable number of straws from one seed, and grow very erect, with a strong succulent straw, their appearance in the field being quite different from that of the Tartarian oats. Dr. Plummer does not yet know what kind of hay they will make, and although he is anxious to save as much seed as possible, we advised him to cut a small portion of them for hay, and thus test them practically. Several other patches of crops were standing on the farm and looking well, and a small area planted with potatoes promised a good crop, as the plants were of a short, strong growth, and of a good colour. Altogether Wyabun Park comprises rather over 1100 acres, of which about 800 are best adapted for cultivation. Of this portion Dr. Plummer ploughs about 200 acres each year, taking two or three crops off one portion, and then changing to some other part of the farm. The house, as we have previously mentioned, is an old one. It is situated in what was once known as the old police paddock, and it possesses a sort of historical interest. It was built in 1838 by Mr. Gisborne, Commissioner of Crown Lands under the Sydney Government. Then it was inhabited by Mr. Powlett, who was Chief Commissioner of Police of Victoria. It was then occupied by Mr. Grimes, who was Auditor-General, and afterwards by Mr. Powlett again. Captain Harrison, P.M., then lived in it for a time, when it was bought by Mr. Thomson, on whose removal to Kyneton in 1866 it was purchased by its present popular proprietor.

Dead oil or pitch is a first-class article in filling up the pores of timber, as it possesses the qualities of resin.

Western Port Re-visited.

"Once in seven years do I visit the fen country" was written some years ago by Mr McDougall; who, in an article which appeared in a weekly paper gave an account of the above district. We remember that at that time he noted the improvement which was gradually taking place, and made some allusion to two blades of grass growing where only one had been before. Since that time we are not aware that on the occasions of his visits, the veteran shorthorn breeder has committed his impressions to paper, but feel confident that had he done so his remarks would have been still more emphatic regarding the progress of the district. The bulk of the country was originally heavily timbered, and literally 'fen' land; indeed we remember a visitor in the winter time many years ago, describing it as 'all a lake.' Now, however, the timber has died off, the land is drained, the place is opened up, and the character of the country is being completely altered. Flats where we have seen snipe in hundreds and where on their first landing amongst the long grass we could have knocked them over with a stick, now carry sheep all the year round, which produce lambs with sound livers and the very sweetest of succulent flesh as we know from recent experience. This improvement was not the work of a day, it took time to bring it about. It has been well said that 'great apparent changes are the result of causes that have been long secretly active; a modification of which expression will apply to what we are considering; for the causes, although not secretly active, have been scarcely noticeable, till within the last few years the improvement in the district at once strikes the most casual observer. And although these alterations have been made the rainfall still continues abundant. At a Social Science Congress held in Melbourne not long ago, we remember asking a learned specialist to account for the rainfall being heavier and the creeks running more continuously in a country where there was not a tithe of the timber there used to be; which was quite opposed to the accepted theory of timber increasing rainfall. He acknowledged that it was an anomaly, but thought it might be accounted for by local conditions. Doubtless it is the position of the district between the ranges and the bay which always has and always will secure it a copious rainfall. According to Tennyson, "Knowledge is of things we see," and as we spent our Christmas in this district we saw some portions of it; of which we also had previous knowledge, which suggested it as a subject, so 'thereby hangs a tale.' Leaving the train at Berwick we travelled southward along Mr. Gibbs' property, which is the best piece of land on the line till near Warragul—a considerable distance further on. It is enclosed by a good hawthorn hedge, and having the fallen timber cleared off it has a nice park-like appearance. The change effected by the clearance of fallen and other timber is even more noticeable on Mr. Strettle's Gladys Park further on, which is transformed into quite a different looking place from what we remember it. Probably however, it was just like the statue in the block of marble which was there after the superfluous rubbish was removed—all that had to be done was to

be sent to Mr. Roberts accrediting him to kindred societies in England. Also, that similar letters be given to other members of the Council who were about to visit Europe, seconded by Mr. Peck, and carried.

From A. N. Thomas, Secretary West Bourke Society, with regard to a previous communication, stating that it was not the intention of his Society to suggest the establishment of a Clydesdale stud book simply, but a work which would apply to horse stock generally. Received.

From H. Moran, in reply, stating it would afford him great pleasure to give evidence before the Vegetable Products Commission on behalf of the Society, and also to forward the views of the Society in any other way that his professional knowledge might be deemed worthy of consideration. Received.

REPORTS.

WORKS COMMITTEE.

In connection with this report and before it was submitted, the President reported that Mr. Finlay, the chairman of the Finance Committee, and the Secretary had interviewed Mr. Miller, of the Bank of Victoria, and that, after they had explained the Society's position to him, he had consented to the expenditure of a further sum of £2000 on permanent improvements.

The Works Committee then reported that they had held a meeting on the 11th inst. (David Mitchell, Esq., in the chair), when, on the motion of Mr. John Finlay, seconded by Dr. Plummer, the following resolution was passed, viz.—“That the Committee recommend that the architects, Messrs. Billing and Son, be requested to prepare plans and specifications for a grand stand on the Show Ground providing sitting accommodation for 2000 people, the cost not to exceed £2000.”

Mr. Munro suggested that the Society might erect a stand to cost even £5,000, doing a part each year; also, that the Council might be able to secure an honorary architect.

Mr. Peck wished to impress on the Council the advisableness of having the portion of the hill cut down when the stand was about to be erected.

Mr. Mitchell moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

Mr. T. Learmonth moved that the President, with Messrs. D. Mitchell, Job Smith, J. Bunce, and T. Brunton, be appointed a Committee to confer with the architects and make arrangements for the erection of a grand stand. Seconded by Mr. Brisbane, and carried.

The Stud Book Committee reported that a meeting was called for the 11th inst., and two of their number, viz., the President and Mr. A. Patterson were present, when they ascertained that, in accordance with instructions received some time ago, the Secretary had written home for single copies of the Clydesdale Stud Book as well as of herd books, together with forms of entry, &c., which were duly received. They, therefore, informally recommended that the Society should undertake the publication of a Clydesdale or Draught Horse Stud Book.

The President stated that the members of the Committee present had resolved to submit the foregoing statement in order that the subject should be kept

before the Council, but as there had not been a quorum they did not go into the question of cost and other matters.

Mr. Munro moved that the matter be referred back to the Committee, seconded by Mr. Currie, and carried.

DATE OF SHOW.

The President stated that the date of the show had been previously fixed for the last week in August, but as the month ended on a Tuesday it was necessary that the date should be properly defined.

Mr. Munro moved that the show be held on the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of August. Seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried.

ANNUAL REPORT.

A committee, consisting of the President, Messrs. Munro, Currie, and McGregor, was appointed to approve of the Council's annual report to the subscribers.

The meeting then closed.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S., will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a post-mortem examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Caponising.

In France, America, and China the value of this operation is fully appreciated, and is generally adopted. In Australia the operation has been all but neglected. Those who desire to learn to operate should examine a few dead birds, and operate on them. Instruments for the purpose can be obtained in Melbourne.

The French operation is best described by Middle Millet Robinet. The time chosen is about the age of four months, when the weather is cool and moist; in the heat of summer it is attended with danger and is rarely performed. The instruments are two—a small curved knife, kept very sharp, and a curved surgical needle, with some waxed thread. Two persons are required, one to operate while the other holds the bird. The operator sits down, and the assistant holds the bird in his lap, with its back towards him and the right side downwards; the lowermost leg being held firmly along the body, and the left leg being drawn backwards towards the tail, so as to expose the left flank when the incision is made. A few feathers being plucked off to expose the skin, the latter is raised up with the needle, so as to avoid the intestines, and an incision large enough to admit the finger easily is made into the abdominal cavity, just at the posterior edge of the last rib, in fact the knife is kept close to the edge of the bone as a guide. Should any of the bowels protrude through the wound they must be gently returned. The forefinger is then introduced and passed behind the intestines towards the spine, on each side of which the two testicles are situated, being in a young bird of four months rather larger than a horse bean. One of the testicles being felt it is to be gently torn

by the finger away from its attachments to the spine and removed through the wound, the other being afterwards sought for and removed in a similar manner. Care must be taken that the testicle does not slip away among the intestines after it is detached, when its detection and removal from the body may be difficult. Both testicles being safely removed, the edges of the wound are brought together, and kept in the proper position by two or three stitches with the waxed thread. These are made in the usual surgical mode, each stitch being detached and separately tied, not sewn as a seam. In making them the chief thing to guard against is to avoid even pricking the intestines with the needle, much less including any portion of them in the stitch, which last would inevitably result in the death of the fowl. The bird should be put under a coop in a quiet place, and given only soft food, such as sopped bread and water. After a few hours he may be put by himself in a run or yard, but, until perfectly healed, must not be allowed to perch, but obliged to sleep on straw. For three or four days the soft food alone must be continued, and when entirely recovered the bird may be set at liberty.

The Chinese operate somewhat differently to the French. The chickens to be operated upon are fasted for at least twenty-four hours, as this is thought to diminish bleeding. The bird is then placed on its left side, with the wing folded back, and kept under one foot of the operator, who works without an assistant, while its legs are kept fast under the other foot; or sometimes an assistant is employed. The feathers are now plucked from the right side, near the hip-joint, and the incision is made between the two last ribs, going just deep enough to divide them, and the testicles removed with a loop of wire. In one respect their process is preferable, the wound not being stitched up, but the skin being forcibly drawn to one side before the incision is made, so that when the whole operation is completed it covers of itself the wound in the flesh, and avoids the irritation which the stitches sometimes produce.

The American plan is similar to the Chinese. By operating between the two last ribs, making an incision about two inches in length, and using a stretcher the operator is enabled to see what he is doing. The covering of the testicle is torn with a small hook, and the testicle grasped in a pair of forceps, and as soon as the stretcher is removed the ribs come together.

Other modifications of the operation are adopted by different operators. The looped wire is probably the best and simplest way of removing the testicles from their attachments as by twisting the wire and keeping the finger on the testicle till it is detached it can be extracted—held in the loop. Care should be taken to have the instruments and hands clean, and it is advisable to wash them with a weak carbolic lotion immediately before operating. The advantage of caponising is an increase of about one-fifth in weight over the same birds. If fattened in their natural state the flesh is also whiter and more delicate, and the development plumper upon the table. Hence the process becomes of considerable importance to all who consider poultry keeping from a commercial point of view.

From Soundness to Unsoundness.

A long-standing question, which has never been satisfactorily answered, has been, “Where does Soundness cease and Unsoundness begin?” Nothing is more difficult to answer, and an absolute line of demarcation will probably never be arrived at. All that we can expect is that each case, where the question arises in law, may be decided upon its merits and justly. Almost every writer upon this subject has laid down a different line of division for these terms, resulting in the framing of many different definitions for these terms, the most of which have been comparatively worthless. The terms disease, injury, vice and blemish have been misconstrued and used synonymously with the term unsoundness, and form has wrongly been considered as a factor in soundness.

In the latest work on this subject, written by Messrs. Goubaux and Banier, I find the definition of unsoundness given as “any apparent trace of depreciation found in or near the skin.” This is very faulty, as it not only demands that the horse should be perfect anatomically, but certain unsightly colours, blemishes or variations of form that

remove the rubbish and there was "that most desirable estate" as the land agents would describe it. Turning slightly to the left we passed Mount John, a farm lately purchased by Mr. Grice, and thence on to St. Germain's, the property of Mr. A. Patterson on the Cardinia Creek, seven miles from Berwick, and six from Cranbourne. This is the place to which we still apply that wonderful word 'home,' and our sensations on landing after a long absence were not very different from those experienced years ago, when a boy, home from boarding school. This however, is perhaps not to be wondered at, for after all's said and done a man's only a grown-up boy. Next morning we were asked to drive our paternal relative over to Cranbourne where he had to hold a magisterial inquiry in the case of a poor man who had dropped dead while loading some calves for the Dandenong market. The request was complied with, and behind a well-bred pair of chestnuts we had an opportunity of noticing the state of the country. The grass was most abundant, with a silvery grey look on the top caused by the ripening seed, but the bottom was quite green, in fact so fresh that a fire would not run in it. Nearing Cranbourne we drove through Mr. Cameron's farm, which is really a splendid property. Taking into consideration the quality of the soil, its nearness to the city and the climate (a most important consideration in estimating the value of land) as well as the fine view obtainable, there is a piece of country here stretching from Mr. Lecky's on the one side, and including a portion of Bullarto (the property of Mr. Gibb) on the other, that is not to be beaten by a great deal by any other we know in the colony. We have said the rainfall is an important item in considering the value of land, and a friend of ours from this district who was lately up in Queensland, writing of the country there, evidently thought so too, for he said the land would be worth any amount of money if one could only turn Australia round end for end for a month or two in the year so that it might get a good soaking. This, though an impracticable idea, was rather a clever thought. About two o'clock the sky looked threatening, and as we were driving home in the evening it rained—it did rain—something as it does in Sydney when it really means business. Perhaps the Clerk of the weather wished to revive past experiences in an old resident. However, as we were in a hooded buggy with the wind at the back, it was rather good fun. Another day we rode down to the Koo-wee-rup Swamp, passing Mr. Fairbairn's place on the right, he having purchased a portion of the Tooradin property. By the way it is rather a healthy sign to see men like this who know all the colonies buying into this district. There are Messrs. Fairbairn (of Queensland), Chirnside, and Staughton all of whom have lately purchased considerable properties round the margin of the Swamp. On the swamp proper we came to Mr. Rutter's farm where he has two very nice paddocks sown down, and looking particularly attractive—a number of young cattle grazing in them showing that sappy bloom so difficult to describe on paper, but which is peculiar to cattle running on good country. The next place we came to was that of Mr. Peers, who owns about 1300 acres right in the swamp. This end of the swamp has all been drained into the inlets of

Western Port Bay, one of which comes right up to this property. Mr. Peers has cleared and broken up several hundred acres of this land which last year produced a splendid crop, and we remember noticing in Messrs. Law Somner's window in Swanston street a fine bunch of oats grown here. To show the carrying capacity of this land when improved we may mention that in two 47 acre paddocks Mr. Peers had 530 sheep fattening; they being changed at intervals from one paddock to the other. Two other paddocks had also just been sown down with a mixture of grasses and rape, which latter seemed to grow well. The great Southern railway line is surveyed through this property the pegs being at the northern end of the two sheep paddocks. A waterhole sunk here shows that the rich black peaty soil extends to almost any depth. Mr. Callanan, district surveyor, has always had a remarkably high opinion of the swamp, and judging by Mr. Peers's land he is not far wrong. But it will take time and money to fully develop its resources. Leaving this place we struck homewards along a road right across the swamp, where on one side the 'tall and tangled reeds' were still to be seen in their native luxuriance though the water was absent. On reaching the edge of the swamp we came to Mr. Duff's selection where he has about 150 acres of oats on land on which we have seen swan's nests. The crop was looking first-class and certainly promised a heavy yield of grain. Last year we understand the yield from this same place, which was just being brought into good tilth, was over 40 bushels per acre. A chain road separates this crop from the lower end of St. Germain's and we went in at the bottom gate to the 'old place' paddock which is about 800 acres in extent, and in which there was any amount of grass, although it was carrying nearly 3000 wethers, 24 head of cattle, and 25 horses, one of which was the fattest filly we have seen on grass for some time. To show how the timber has died out we may mention that in this paddock there is a rise called the grove, which, when the present owner purchased the station about 37 years ago, was as its name implies, covered with beautiful green trees. The rise still retains the name of 'the grove,' but there is not a live tree on it. The 'dead timber flats' is also a suggestive name. Now, when irrigation is so much written about and spoken of, it may be interesting to note that here irrigation is practised for supplying drinking water for stock. The Cardinia creek when it gets low is turned in and brought down through two paddocks to fill a big dam in this lower one. From the little experience we have had it must take an enormous quantity of water to irrigate land, for it is only about a mile and a half from where the creek is turned in opposite the homestead to the dam, and it is astonishing what a quantity of water it takes to reach the dam when the ground is thoroughly dried, so that we infer from this that one great difficulty in irrigating very large areas in the north will be the want of an adequate supply of water. We also had a ride northwards through Mr. O'Connor's place, which adjoins St. Germain's on the north; crossing the Cardinia Creek and passing Messrs. Lecky Bros. horse-breeding establishment on our way to Beaconsfield house. Although we had previously been

up in the ranges hunting kangaroos and wallabies, this was our first visit to the mount; from which a grand panoramic view is obtained of the Western Port district and the bay of that name together with a portion of Port Phillip bay. Cranbourne is readily distinguished, while the Koo-wee-rup swamp is seen stretching out in a long brown line right into Gippsland. We remember that when learning physical geography we read of an Irishman who was taken up on to a hill and who exclaimed, "I never before thought the world was half so large," but the effect of the elevation on us was that we never before thought the district half so small. Perhaps being native to the antipodes our ideas are antipodean too, or it may be our thoughts "are widened with the process of the suns." On our way back we called on Mr. O'Connor, the oldest settler in the district, and one of the best neighbours that ever lived. He is over 80 years of age, and originally held a station of which Mr. Gibbs' farm at Berwick is part. The kangaroo grass in his paddocks was over our stirrups as we rode along, and as may be inferred from what we have written the residents of this district generally were enjoying a very fine season.

Meetings.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, 12th January, 1886.

Present:—Dr. Plummer, President, in the chair, with Messrs. Job Smith, D. Mitchell, J. Hurst, T. Learmonth, A. Patterson, F. Henty, W. Learmonth, J. M. Peck, J. G. Brisbane, D. Munro, and John Currie.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NOMINATIONS.

The retiring members of Council were nominated for re-election for 1886, and Messrs. John Bond, William Orr, and Daniel White were also nominated. This list may be added to at the preliminary general meeting on the 21st inst.

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee's Report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts and recommending payments amounting to £70 4s 6d., was read.

Mr. Currie moved that the report be adopted, seconded by Mr. Peck, and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Hon. C. Young, stating that on account of change of residence to Kyneton his attendance at the meetings of Council was necessarily irregular. Received.

From F. S. Roberts, stating that on account of his departure for England he begged to tender the resignation of his seat on the Council. Mr. Roberts added that his past association with the Council, officers, and members of the Society would always be a pleasant recollection, and during his future residence in London he would be pleased at all times to do what he could to further the interests of the Society.

Mr. Munro moved that the resignation be accepted with regret, and that a letter, signed by the President and Secretary,

agriculture of this country may be restored to a satisfactory footing, and henceforth enable it to cope with the flood of foreign competition with which we are at present overpowered. Farmers have often been blamed, and not unjustly, I think, for a want of combination. There is no want of Farmers' Clubs and Associations in the country, it is true; but there is a great want of union amongst them, and also a want of cohesion amongst farmers themselves. "Union is strength," and I cannot too strongly impress this upon you.

Others say, a peasant proprietary is the only remedy. But I conceive when the landlords chiefly live away from their estates, taking no interest in their tenants, and where the agricultural laborer lives from hand to mouth (who of course must be the peasant proprietor), it would be impossible to introduce it, unless by a revolution leading to universal confiscation, or by such a remedy as proposed by Mr. Hy. Servig which is next door to it. I would advise all those who think this gentleman's remedy the correct one, to read a small work by H. Broadbent, called "Wealth and want," in which the exposure of his system is complete. There is now no doubt the addition of near two millions to the electoral roll, chiefly county and borough votes will draw more attention to agricultural subjects, but legislation would have to be combined with simplification of transfer of land, the prevention of the importation of diseased stock, land courts, such as referred to, and the promotion of emigration.

But it is questionable whether a peasant propriety would be an adequate remedy, as from "Lady Verney's recent contributions to the *Contemporary Review*."

She says "Half the population of France is settled on farms or engaged in agriculture, such as it is. The taxes are oppressive; the children are untaught; there was absolutely no house wherein the chief farmers, lawyers, etc., showed a higher standard of refinement or of comfort—all was squalor and ignorance—even the priest was a peasant like the rest. Even in England they are not much better off."

Village life suggests pleasant ideas, a contented peasant living a life of Arcadian simplicity, with hard work, and scanty fare, no doubt, but contented. In reality, in many villages, the dwellings are unfit for human habitation (*vide* the system in Scotland or the Crofter's houses in Skye.) There are no hospitals, and when an epidemic breaks out there is no proper attendance, the union being as unwilling as the landlord to provide for men's wants, and they may die by the wayside. As to amusements there are none in an English village, nothing but hard work and semi-starvation.

The doing away by law of mortgaging land would be a necessary preliminary to a peasant proprietary. When we consider that two-thirds of the country lands are locked up by mortgages or the laws of inheritance; it is clear that these lands are not available for cutting up and selling in small lots.

The other two remedies I will consider in my next.

A. G. YOUNG.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Breeding Stock Shows.

(CONTINUED.)

One of the greatest objections to the national breeding shows of modern times is, that in colossal proportions, in wealth of flesh and fat, there is too much resemblance between the appearance of the animals at the breeding and the fat exhibitions. That, of course, is more the fault of the breeding show training and system than the fat. Some instances have already been given of seemingly very fat animals in a breeding show, producing stock more regularly and satisfactorily than leaner specimens. In addition to those named, we may refer to the Rev. Mr. Bruce Kennard's celebrated shorthorn "Queen Mary," which carried everything before her as a heifer in 1874 and 1875 and a cow in 1876. She was in very high condition—was probably the best shorthorn shown in this country during at least last decade—and would at no stage of her showyard career have disgraced Smithfield. Well, since 1876, she has been principally at home, and has bred regularly, while she looks far from finished as a breeder. From this magnificent shorthorn, one not unnaturally turns to Mr. T. H. Hutchinson's "Grateful," "Gainful," and "Gratia," at Catterick, Yorkshire. They have been champion females in England, have been

in very high condition, and have at the same time bred splendidly. "Grateful" has succumbed, but after she had all the wealth and finish almost that a Smithfield beast could bear, she produced some prize-winners, including "Gainful" just alluded to.

The only other breed of cattle in Scotland that has been fattened so highly as shorthorns for breeding shows, is that of Polled Aberdeen and Angus. In England, the Herford and Devons have been "forced," as well as the "red, white, and roan;" but in Scotland the Galloways, Ayrshires, and West Highlanders have not been "overdone" to the same extent as the other breeds. Among the northern polls that have been in full showyard condition, and still bred pretty regularly, mention may be made of the Ballindalloch cow "Eisa" (977), which was the first winner at Perth Highland Show in 1881, cup winner as best polled animal at Aberdeen the following year, produced ten living calves, and was killed lately in her sixteenth year. She, too, produced prize winners, and was of the famous Erica tribe. The Marquis of Huntly's "Madge" (1217) of the same breed, and likewise tracing back to Keilor, first prize cow at Kilburn International Show, was in full condition for half a dozen years at Aboyne; yet she had a calf, and a very good one, every year—never taking the bull oftener than once in a year. She too produced prize winners, including the first prize Perth Highland Society's aged bull in 1879, "Monarch" (1182), now at Powrie along with his dam. These three animals, and some others to which reference might be made, were not fed hard in their youth or growing days. To this in a large measure we ascribe the retention of their breeding properties unimpaired in after years, even under the high feeding which preparation for national shows involves. Probably no family of cattle in modern times have bred so regularly and reproduced themselves so accurately while in showyard condition almost all along, as the "Sybils" of Baad's descent, and now more numerously in Lord Strathmore's possession than in any other herd. Other instances could be given of animals breeding satisfactorily and still remaining in exhibition trim. Enough has been said, however, to demonstrate that it is very difficult to judge precisely by external appearances when an animal is too fat to be of any service as a breeder.

Beneficial results, as before explained, might follow an earnest endeavour on the part of national societies to check overfeeding by the appointment of say three highly-qualified practical men, who would inspect the live stock sections before the judges begin their awards, and reject any very glaringly overfed specimens; we say "glaringly," because a margin should be allowed. Good work may be performed in that direction. We have, however, rather more faith in what breeders and exhibitors can accomplish for themselves. With the exercise of more caution and judgment in the feeding of stock for breeding shows, as stated at the outset, the evils complained of may be materially reduced. Young breeders, with more money and enthusiasm than experience, often commit huge mistakes. They fancy a first prize yearling or two-year-old as the case may be. The animal has been fed to the utmost since its birth, and looks well. My lord it may be, or at any rate a young breeder eager to accomplish two incompatible things, pays a high price for the animal. The first hope of the purchaser is that the beast will keep its front place in the showyard next year, and the second is that he will reproduce himself at home, and thus raise the lately started herd, stud, or flock in numbers as also in name. Well, in this, aspirants to showyard honours and a position among breeders of a certain race of stock make a mistake, as many have discovered. Animals fattened young may take a leading place in the juvenile classes, but as a rule—though exceptions are pretty numerous—they do not wear well. And when they change hands, and especially if they go into the possession of a young breeder, who cannot always have at command the best of herdsmen, they often lose bloom if not form and quality. In short, first prize youngsters, purchased at high prices by noblemen or gentlemen, are not usually good investments. They might not prove so very badly if no attempts were made to keep them in showyard condition—a very difficult thing to do if the animals, as is frequently the case, leave experienced for inexperienced hands. If an animal has been doing exceedingly well in the possession of its breeder or first feeder, it seldom goes on as satisfactorily at its new home, especially if the climate is materially different. Moreover, it should be kept in view that first prize winners in the younger classes, if brought

on to what is popularly called perfection, which generally signifies as hard feeding as the constitution can bear, have very little to gain, but a great deal to lose.

Young breeders should bear that in mind. They should do something more. They should not attempt to found a breeding herd and take a leading position with the same animals. They who endeavor to accomplish this often fail, comparatively speaking, in both. That is to say, they have, through the effects of obesity, breeding disappointments which can ill be borne at that early stage of the herd's career. In addition, they have showyard discomfort, in that the animals which they fancied and paid dearly for, winning in others and more experienced hands, cannot, in their changed circumstances, keep their premier places. These facts point to the conclusion that noblemen and gentlemen starting herds, studs, or flocks should not do so by purchasing the highest prize animals in the younger classes, and then endeavour to keep them in the front ranks in future years. Those who can manage this—and they are not very many—have not smooth work after they succeed in competition. The breeding mishaps and irregularities that are so frequently connected with modern showyard preparation, may be comparatively trivial to a large or old established herd, but they cause a serious gap in a newly started herd, flock, or stud.

Enough has been said—and it has been penned as the result of personal experience and observation—to indicate to young breeders amenable to reason, that as a rule money will not purchase leading showyard honours. Occasionally it may do so, but what kind of a herd, flock, or stud would they form by simply buying at high prices overfed specimens that may have triumphed in their seller's or breeder's hands? We fear it would not grow so rapidly in numbers as would be desirable. High honours in a national exhibition are justly coveted. Gentlemen who have lately turned their attention to the subject are especially fond of the brighter tickets. While we sympathise with that love, we cannot refrain from telling young breeders that many of them expect by far too much. They should not rush into the hot arena. They should select well bred but not overfed specimens to commence with. Their first object, if they really mean to do good to themselves, or to the breed they patronise, should be to get animals that have a reasonable prospect of reproducing themselves. At any rate, they should look first to breeding. In the course of two or three years they may be able to take the field with something of their own production. If they only reflect on the point they will see that the lion's share of the honour of winning with beasts bred by other people does not fall to the exhibitor, particularly if the animals have been brought out successfully for first place before they became the property of the new owner.

Let the beginner, however well he may be fitted as to advice and practical assistance, avoid in his selections very fat first prize heifers, gimmers, or fillies. At least, if he is tempted to invest in them, he should not think of keeping them in showyard trim for next year. He should reduce them, and get them settled as breeders. But for a commencement we should very much prefer moderately fed and well bred sorts. In the showyard, no doubt, a searching judge can pick up a good beast not much overdone in feeding, but its value is all the greater to a young breeder that he does not press it on national shows. Showyard honours will come by and by, if good stuff is selected as a foundation, and if the management is not defective. Again, we say to young breeders, buy good material, but do not run into the showyard with it. Give it a chance to reproduce itself, and your herd, flock, or stud a full opportunity of growing considerably in dimensions before showing, which involves high feeding or pampering, if attempted.

If the recruits to the ranks of pedigree stock breeders were to follow the course just sketched, there would be fewer complaints of the mischievous tendencies of shows or the disappointments associated therewith. Greater pride would be felt when a prize was won by an animal of the owner's own breeding and bringing out than by a purchased beast, and the herd to which the prize goes would, in public estimation, be benefited by the performance much more than if the winner had been bought in at a lavish expenditure of gold. Briefly, then, beginners should buy carefully, mate judiciously, and wait for the development of results before the question of training for the leading shows is seriously entertained.

After they have got their stocks up to fair numbers and into regular breeding condition,

might depreciate the value of a horse would be considered unsoundness. Without mentioning further the absolutely imperfect definitions, I will give the qualification for soundness as forwarded by Oliphant, and quoted by Hanover: "a horse is sound when he is free from hereditary disease, is in the possession of his natural and constitutional health, and has as much bodily perfection as is consistent with his natural formation." It appears to me that this definition requires an animal to be about as perfect anatomically and physiologically as any I can conceive, and as such would leave no doubts in one's mind as to the soundness and unsoundness of an animal, unless he should be the subject of some hidden disease, difficult of diagnosis, and only manifest at times, such as certain brain disorders, dyspepsia, rheumatism, &c., &c. But the law and practice do not recognise any such absolute rule as this, and it would destroy the value of examination for soundness if they did, as we should meet with very few animals which could come up to such requirements, while there may be many which practically would be as valuable and as serviceable.

Fearnley, in his work on soundness, gives the legal interpretation of the term unsoundness as understood by Lord Ellenborough in an English suit, as follows:—"If at the time of sale the horse has any disease which either does diminish the natural usefulness of the animal, so as to make him less capable of work of any description, or which in its ordinary progress will diminish the natural usefulness of the animal; or if the horse has either from disease or accident, undergone any alteration of structure that either actually does at the time or in its ordinary effects will diminish the natural usefulness of the horse, such a horse is unsound." This definition is undoubtedly correct, as far as it goes, but what are we to do with that vast number of blemishes, if you wish to call them such, which are the results of disease and which do not interfere with the animal's usefulness, such as an enlarged limb in a draft horse; a fibrous tumor on the elbow; the result of a shoe-boil; a large splint or an exostosis of the hock. Are such disfigurements to exempt a horse from being considered sound?

My solution of the problem is to divide the subject into three degrees of condition, namely: *soundness*, *practical soundness* and *unsoundness*; the first degree, *soundness* requiring an animal to be free from disease or any effect of disease which alters his natural conformation, action or usefulness. This ruling does not demand that a horse be free from blemishes, nor faulty formations, such as are hereditary. This distinguishes the question of soundness from external form, a necessary reformation, judging from the decisions rendered by the courts in the past, and the ruling set down by Hanover in his work, entitled "Law of Horses." After considering that overreaching, when caused by improper management, is not an unsoundness, he says on page 88, "but when overreaching or clicking is caused by his being too short for his legs, or, as some express it, his legs being too long for his body, the danger is much greater than in the former case; for in this latter he is much more liable to tread on the heel of the forefoot, and thus throw himself down, or tear off the forefoot shoe, and in this instance also running a great risk of falling, such clicking stamps a horse as unsound." Again on page 89, referring to *pigeon-toed* horses, he says "should the peculiarity impede them in their labor, they are unsound."

These are purely cases of bad external form, and have nothing to do with the animal's state of health, however disastrous they may be to his usefulness, unless these bad conformations are the effects of disease, or have given rise to wounds, in which case they come under the general rule governing soundness. It would be just as reasonable

to consider a horse with a large head, heavy neck and shoulders, and comparatively light hind quarters, as unsound, from the fact that such an animal would have the centre of gravity thrown so far forward, as to be liable to stumble, and injure himself or rider.

Again, we must discriminate as to the use a horse has to be put to when we regard his soundness. On page 59, Hanover says of a saddle-backed horse, "When the back is so low as to disenable the horse to carry proper weight, though he may be a good harness horse, he is as a saddle-horse, *unsound*," and on the same page, of *roach-backed*, he says, "When the back is weakened, or the horse is thereby impeded in his work, he is *unsound*."

When a horse is brought to us for examination for unsoundness, it matters not to us what use he is to be put to. A buyer has his own opinions regarding form, and usually depends upon them. If he makes an error, he should stand the consequences, unless he has received a special warranty from the seller that the horse was suitable for such and such a service.

What shall we include in the intermediate degree, that of *practical soundness*?

All horses that are free from disease and effects of disease or accidents that interfere with their natural usefulness, or in future would be liable to interfere with their usefulness.

Horses could come under this category even though they had bony tumors, or soft tumors in various parts of their external anatomy, provided they were not lame, or liable to be made lame from them, or otherwise were not injured for their work. A horse disfigured by a fibrous tumor, the result of a shoe boil, would, ordinarily, not be inconvenienced by it in his work, and unless there were prospects of further disease in the part, he could be practically sound. He might have splints, wind-galls, and even enlarged hocks, but if his action were not interfered with, he would be practically sound, and one might go on to a considerable extent, mentioning slight disfigurements, which would debar a horse from the first degree of soundness, but would not injure his natural usefulness, and hence admit of his being practically sound.

Under the head of *unsoundness* would be included all horses that could not be embraced in either of the preceding classes.

As to the confusion caused by not properly applying the term vice and unsoundness to their respective definitions: cribbing, weaving, kicking, rearing, shying, and running away, are all so many vices, until they can be found arising from some disease, result of a disease, or accident, or until found to give rise to some disease. While the law has been generally so construed, there are many exceptions to the rule, and horsemen and veterinarians have often considered such vices as unsoundness. It has been ruled many times that temporary ailments or injuries do not constitute a breach of warranty, or, in other words, do not constitute an unsoundness. Happily this ruling is pretty much out of date. One cannot be too careful in wording certificates in such cases, and they should always be made conditional, and a special warranty should be demanded from the seller. I examined a horse last spring, which was sold as sound with the exception of a cough claimed to be due to a slight cold. Without examining the cause of the cough, I found the animal otherwise unsound, and he was returned. I was informed by the seller that the horse died shortly after, with inflammation of the lungs. I noticed no symptoms of such a serious complaint when I examined him, but if I had found him sound otherwise, and had not examined carefully into the cause of his cough, a disagreeably law-suit might have resulted. Like cases are continually occurring, and demand the utmost care on the part of the veterinarian and the buyer. — *American Veterinary Review*.

On the Present State of Agriculture in Great Britain.

II.

HAVING in my last considered the present position of Agriculture in Great Britain, before proceeding to the proposed remedies, I would refer to the causes. These may be thus summarized—1st., the great increase of rents at the time of the Russian war; the high prices realized then—(leading to extravagance in expenditure), both domestic and on the farms. 2nd., to a succession of bad seasons. 3rd., to diminished prices from competition with other countries, and a want of purchasing power owing to depression in trade. These being the causes, what are the remedies proposed—1st., a reduction of rents. 2nd., security of tenants capital expended, and division of rates. 3rd., a peasant propriety and the doing away with mortgages and the laws of inheritance. 4th., a greater return to pastoral farming and the rearing of pigs, poultry, etc. 5th., emigration assisted by the state.

The 1st and 2nd may be taken together, and to show the feeling I append a resolution passed at the Lothian Agricultural Society's meeting last year.

Mr. Ballingall, proposed the following resolution—"That in view of the unprecedented depression, commencing with a series of wet and unfavorable seasons, and latterly by such a fall in the prices of agricultural produce, in which there is no appearance of improvement, this Club is convinced that present rents cannot be paid, and that tenants should approach their landlords with the request to have rents modified on the basis of value, or allow tenants to quit their holdings on the ordinary terms of out-going tenants, that is with a valuation for improvements."

But this has as yet come to nothing. At the meeting of the "Fife Farmer's Club," Mr. Black, Berryside, said "it has been truly said that every one could manage a drunken wife except the man who was her husband. (Laughter and applause.) It could as truly be said that every man could manage a farm except the present unfortunate farmer. (More laughter and applause.) Their candid friend was very close to them telling them what they ought to do and what they ought not to do. He thought they might take up the language of Job, who exclaimed "I have heard many such; miserable comforters are ye all." After alluding to foreign competition, he observed that one of the questions was that they had made a bargain with their landlord, which they had not been able to carry out. He recommended that they lay their circumstances before the landlord, in whom he had more faith than in Parliamentary legislation. (Applause.) A substantial reduction of rent, however, was required. They found that from 1852 to 1876 rents in Scotland had risen 42 per cent., and that since then the reduction had only been 1½ per cent. With regard to Acts of Parliament and primogeniture, it was a matter of moonshine to him whether he was ruined by his landlord's oldest son or by his youngest daughter. (Great laughter and applause.) He thought that if the landlords stood by the tenantry the latter would stand by them. If they did not do that by each other it would be a repetition of the old nursery rhyme—

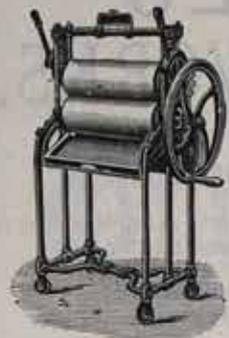
"Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water,
The tenant fell down and broke his crown,
And the landlord came tumbling after."

Now, as in every *Scotsman*, we find reductions of rents; on every hand, farms untenanted, and offered at almost any rent, and country estates offered for sale without obtaining an offer, it does not appear these remedies would be effectual unless accompanied by others.

The second remedy proposed is the subdivision of the land and a peasant propriety. But even this would require capital, and unless the Government step in, where it is to come from, and would the landowners be prepared to adopt it and if they did so would it be effectual.

A writer says "a subdivision of large farms into holdings varying from 40, 60, 100 to 150 acres, with modest houses, and buildings suitable for farm work and rearing cattle, with security of tenure to occupants as well as compensation for improvements, would prove a solution of present difficulties, and the best thing for the bulk of our landowners. And I am therefore of opinion that we must demand from a Reformed Parliament a Land Bill for Scotland, with the necessary Land Courts for every district or county, based upon the principle of the Irish Land Act of 1881, in order that the

WASHING MADE EASY.



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"SAFETY" Lever Mangle & Wringer.

The Best Mangling and Wringing Machine ever produced.

LEADING FEATURES -

1. Wrought Iron Frames, Unbreakable.
2. Pressure Instantly Applied or Released.
3. No Pressure on Rollers when Machine is not in use.
4. Ingenious Combination of Drip-board & Mangling Table.

A PERFECT MANGLE.

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The "HALLER" Piano, 7s. 6d. per Week.

THE "VICTORIA" MANGLE & WRINGER.

The "ACME" Portable Seamless Coppers & Furnaces
Of Very Superior Manufacture.

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CAPITAL - £1,000,000.

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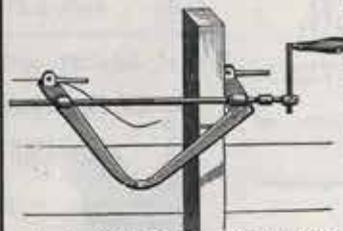
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This machine will do all work required by Fencers, as it will mend a broken wire, or strain a new one to the straining post equally well, no plugging or any fixing being required. The nuts on the levers, with the grips attached, work on a pivot, so if, when straining a new wire, the wire is not sufficiently tight when drawn up to the post, by reversing the grip on the lever against the

post, it will hold the wire; while the other lever is let out the length of the screw, when by gripping it again with the straining lever, and releasing it from the other, the wire may again be drawn up to the post, and so on until the wire is tight. For mending a broken wire, the levers are opened out, and the ends of the wire placed in the grips, and then the levers are drawn together by the screw until the wire is sufficiently close to tie. Strain is self-supporting and weighs about 7lbs.

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Stencil Plates in Zinc or Copper. Tattoos for Sheep. Docking Irons. Carriage Jacks, and all other Squatters' requirements supplied.

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All Materials of Best American Quality.

Workmanship Guaranteed.

REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

PRINCES BRIDGE, SANDRIDGE ROAD,

SOUTH MELBOURNE.

which generally takes four or five years, if not more, breeders should turn their attention to exhibition as the best known means of bringing whatever merit their stock may possess before the public. This we consider is one of the most beneficial features of the showing system. Perhaps it is, so far as breeders of pedigree stock are concerned, the most serviceable. Extensive fattening should even in these circumstances be avoided. There is no occasion for it, and there is much to be said against it. Breeders of only a few years standing, who have their spurs to win, should not lose an opportunity of letting the show-going public see what they can turn out of their own breeding. In other words, the first really good produce of the young herd not exceeding, say two animals, should be brought out, not as yearlings, but as two or three-year olds. By and by an occasional yearling may be exhibited, when the herd has assumed those dimensions which can afford a breeding failure or two. It is not numbers that actually make a show; neither do the advantages of exhibition to a young and rising herd depend on the number of representatives brought into competition from that herd. Some breeders consider they are not fully represented if they have not an entry in every class of the breed which rejoices in their allegiance. That is folly. Two or three entries or animals, if wisely selected and properly dealt with, should be sufficient to either help on a lately commenced herd, or maintain the position of an already well-known and tried stock.

Breeders whose stocks have a good deal to win should keep their weather-eye open to every feasible opportunity of scoring something, so far as showyard victories can do it, to the credit of the herd, stud, or flock. By that we mean that likely winners should have a fair chance if bred by exhibitor. It should not be necessary to attain this object to fatten stock quite so hard as some have been fed in the past.

(To be Continued.)

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Tent and Carpaulin Manufactory,
ELIZABETH STREET NORTH,
Near the HAYMARKET, Melbourne

Every description of Tents, Tarpaulins, Horse Rugs, &c., made to order on the shortest notice. A stock always on hand, Country orders punctually attended to. The trade supplied on the most favorable terms.

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PATENT LABELS for SHEEP, &c., stamped with any name not exceeding nine letters, and numbered from 1 to 10,000. Price, 10s. per hundred, 80s. per thousand; 100 sent by post for 11s to any address in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. Send for sample and descriptive circular.

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Wheat & Flour Merchants,
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N.B.—25 Years' Experience.



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PRICES FROM 10 TO 25 PER CENT LOWER THAN ANY HOUSE IN MELBOURNE.

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Timber for Oags, Swiss Silks, Mill Bills, Smut Wire, &c.
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CRUSHING DONE FOR THE TRADE.

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(SUCCESSORS TO JOHN FORBES.)

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Wine and Spirit Merchants,
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And at 37 and 39 CURZON STREET, HOTHAM.

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Country Orders specially attended to.

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Have always on hand a Superior Stock of Saddlery, consisting of Double and Single Buggy Harness; also, Carriage, Gig, and other Harness; English and Colonial-made Ladies' and Gents' Saddles and Bridles, Carriage, Buggy, Hunting, Jockey, and other Whips, from the best English Makers.

HORSE CLOTHING, RUGS, BITS,
SPURS, &c. &c.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

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Sheep and Cattle Salesmen, and Station Agents.

Account Sales rendered, and proceeds paid immediately after Sales.

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MONEY LENT ON MORTGAGE AT LOWEST RATES.
SPECIAL ATTENTION.—All Classes of Labor supplied—No Fees charged to Employers.

H. & F. HARVEY,
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Salt for Cattle, making Fodder & Manure,
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ESTABLISHED 1855.

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Tallow Casks, Water Casks, Meat Casks, Churns, Cheese Vats, Tubs, and all descriptions of Dairy Utensils always on hand at reasonable prices.

Orders by Post promptly attended to and forwarded to any railway station in the Colony.

N.B.—Farmers, Storekeepers, and others wishing to obtain the highest price for their Butter, should use J. W. & S's. celebrated Wattle Kegs, as they guarantee it will bring a higher price than packed in other kinds.

R. SMITH'S PATENT Giant Complete Harvester.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS:

HUMBLE & NICHOLSON,
VULCAN FOUNDRY, GEELONG.



The Patentee having thoroughly tested the efficiency of this Machine in the field for himself, has every confidence in recommending it to farmers generally, or those needing the use of such a Machine, as it will greatly expedite their harvesting operations, and effect a very great saving, as the following Testimonials will substantiate.

The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR. R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.
Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.
Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize: and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,
GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

MR. R. SMITH.
Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it did; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,
GEORGE EXELL.

MR. RUPERT SMITH.
Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.
Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendid, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,
ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
Stock Yard Hill.

MR. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort.
Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Winnowers. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly,
TONKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

Memo. to MR. RUPERT SMITH.
January 26th, 1885.
Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked upon the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors.) In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,
F. DUE, Farmer,
Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885
This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.
Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.
C. F. SUTHERLAND.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.
Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way, and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.
Remaining yours faithfully,
G. DAVIS.

By Special Appointment to the Marquis of Normanby, K.C.M.G. & under the Patronage of His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.

A. C. STURROCK,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
SEEDSMAN AND PLANT MERCHANT,
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Samples and Prices on Application.

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IMPORTERS OF
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Manufacturers of Galvanized Iron Spouting,
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(NEAR PRINCE'S BRIDGE),
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WILLIAM HUNTER,
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Wholesale Ironworker and Galvanizer of
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Every Description.

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Grain & Flour Merchants.
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GUANO.—First Class. For Sale. Regular Supplies.
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Chaff, Hay, Butter, and
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WHITE & ALLAMBY
Have replenished their Stock in view of ensuing
season. Best ENGLISH GOODS ONLY kept
in stock.
AMERICAN HARNESS,
Single and Double, Carriage, Brougham, Gig, and
Buggy, in ALL of which none but the best
English and American Leather is
used in making up.
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CORNER OF RYRIE & GHERINGAP STS.,
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On Sale—Chaff, Pollard, Barley, Onions, Ham, Sugar, Oats,
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Eggs, Tea, &c., &c.
N.B.—All kinds of Garden, Farm, and Dairy Produce Bought
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STEAM CHAFF CUTTERS, AND
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MEDALS for best Carriages at Melbourne Shows of 1883 and 1884, and THIRTY-TWO
MEDALS (1st Prizes), at Exhibitions and Shows of 1872, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77,
78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85. Also, THREE FIRST AWARDS
OF MERIT (1st Prizes), at International Exhibition of 1880.

NOTICE.—Referring to above, D. WHITE desires to inform his numerous Customers and the Public
generally that he has secured and completed EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO HIS COACH FACTORY,
and with the increased accommodation and Steam Plant, and the Largest Stock of Seasoned Timber in
Melbourne, is now prepared to meet the increasing demand for his well-known Carriages and Vehicles.
The new premises are in Stewart Street, immediately opposite the present Factory.
Patentee of the Improved Carriage and Buggy Hood Apparatus, for raising or lowering the Hood from the
inside. Every description of Vehicle built from the best imported Materials and Well-seasoned Timber.

STICKLAND & SONS
COACH BUILDERS,

Beg to inform Squatters, Farmers, and others that, having enlarged and improved their premises generally,
they are enabled to keep a large and varied stock of Vehicles, which they invite all interested to inspect.

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LOWER QUADRANGLE (next Arcade.)
Champion Prize Taker at past Shows. Exchanges made
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part of the colony on receipt of P.O.O.

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AGENT AT TERANG, MR. HENRY MAWBEY.

STEVENSON & ELLIOT,

By Special Appointment to
H.R.H. the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.C.B., and
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To His Excellency the Governor Sir HENRY LOCH, K.C.B.,
and all the late Governors for the past 25 years.

Have a large selection of CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, their
own build, constructed upon the most improved principles
and elegant modern designs, in which are used the best
workmanship and materials procurable, comprising Landaus,
Branghams, London Victorias, Mail Phætons, Waggonettes,
Bretts, Single and Double-seated Buggies, Dogcarts, &c.;
also Plain and Fancy Farmers' Waggon, built specially for
country use.

A variety of Second-hand Vehicles kept in stock.
Heraldry executed in correct style.

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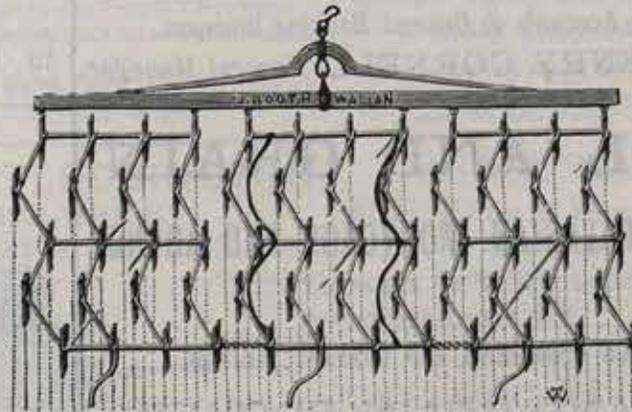
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Unique Catalogue of Books, or List of Botanic Medicines sent
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5 SILVER MEDALS.

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RAILWAY STATION WALLAN.

HARROWS made to suit all kinds of soil, fitted with Iron or Steel Tynes.

These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tye
cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884
and 1885 these Implements in competition with the leading Colonial-made and Imported Harrows,
secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing
a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents
throughout the Colonies. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List free on application.

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PRICE WILLIAMS,

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MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 3½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.

JOHN DANKS & SON,

Engineers & Brass Founders,

MANUFACTURERS OF

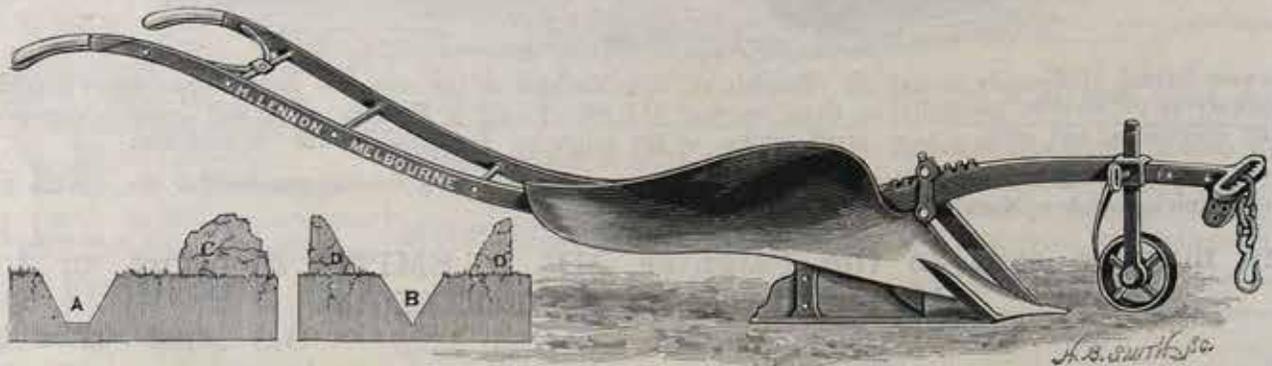
PUMPS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Fire Engines, Baths, Sanitary Ware, Gas Fittings,

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**HUGH LENNON'S****World-famed Agricultural Field Implements and Harvesting Machinery**

Have gained the **HIGHEST AWARDS** of **MERIT** ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes
Three and Four Furrow Ploughs.
Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and
dam sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.
Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators
Drain Ploughs, for irrigation purposes.
Vineyard Ploughs,

All fitted with H. L.'s Patent Wrought Iron Shares. A clear saving of 50 per cent.

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CATALOGUES FREE ON APPLICATION.

Manufactory and Show Rooms: **Opposite North Melbourne Railway Station.**

JAMES M'EWAN & CO., Ironmongers & Iron Merchants.



THE IRON TURBINE WIND ENGINE is made entirely of iron, and therefore is more durable than any other Wind Engine. It cannot shriek, swell, rattle, or be torn to pieces by the wind, and weighs no more than the ordinary **Wooden Wheel Engine**.

The Fans are constructed on the Turbine principle, being so curved that each one passes the wind on to the next, thus getting all the power out of it. The wind glides through them like a stream of water, following the curve, and still using its momentum, until its escape, so that none of the force is lost. This peculiar construction of the wheel causes it to give more power than any other wheel of the same diameter in the market.

The Engine is self-regulating. The first sharp gust will blow it edge on to the wind, and it will then weather the fiercest gale without injury, and drop back to work again as soon as it is over.

The Governing Device is very simple. It can be adjusted to make from 20 revolutions per minute to 60 in a moderate wind, and without blowing out of gear, and will always blow out in a gale. There is also provision for changing the length of stroke.

Special attention is paid to the construction of the Machinery or Engine proper, only the very best materials being used. Polished shafting and babbitt-lined boxes with cavity between the bearings in which is placed packing to hold oil, to prevent the necessity of frequent oiling. The pitman bearing is provided with a glass oiler that will hold a week's supply, so it is necessary to oil only when you can see from the ground that the glass oiler is empty.

The great and steadily increasing demand for these Engines is sufficient proof that their quality is unquestionable, and that they are especially adapted for this country, where the hot winds and occasional fierce gales forbid the use of any material liable to be affected thereby. They are now running in all parts of the Colony, and the universal opinion is, that they are the best.

Farmers will do well to remember that for watering stock, irrigating gardens, &c., a good Wind Engine is the most economical, simple, and efficient power that can be used, while for a water supply for domestic purposes or fire prevention it is a most important and valuable adjunct to a residence.

The first coat of the Iron Turbine Wind Engine is practically its only cost. It requires no skilled labor and next to no attention. Regular oiling is all that is necessary to keep it in order for years.

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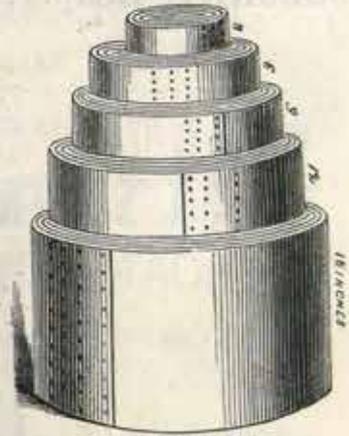
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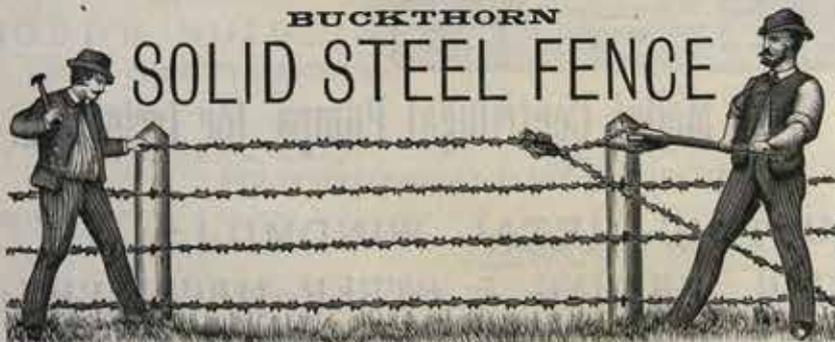


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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



VOL. I.—No. 7. [Regd. as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1886.

GRATIS.

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Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

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I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S., &c., &c.,
LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

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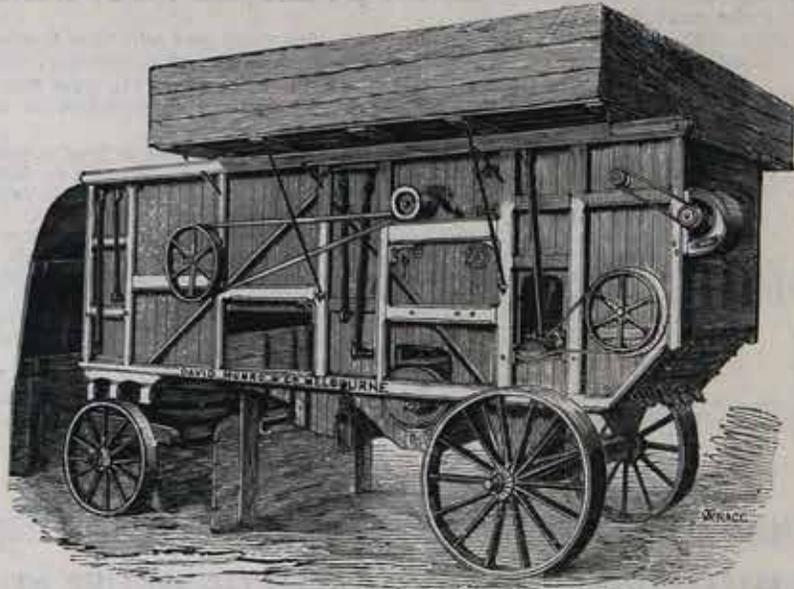
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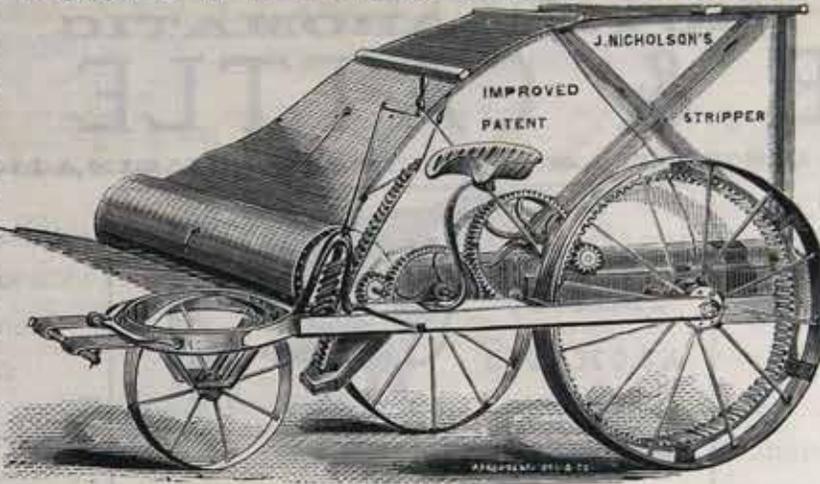
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 FIRST PRIZE, Grand National Show at Echuca, 1884.
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 FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Shepparton Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sydney Show, N.S.W., 1883.
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 GOLD MEDAL, Shepparton Field Trial, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Echuca Agricultural Show, 1881.
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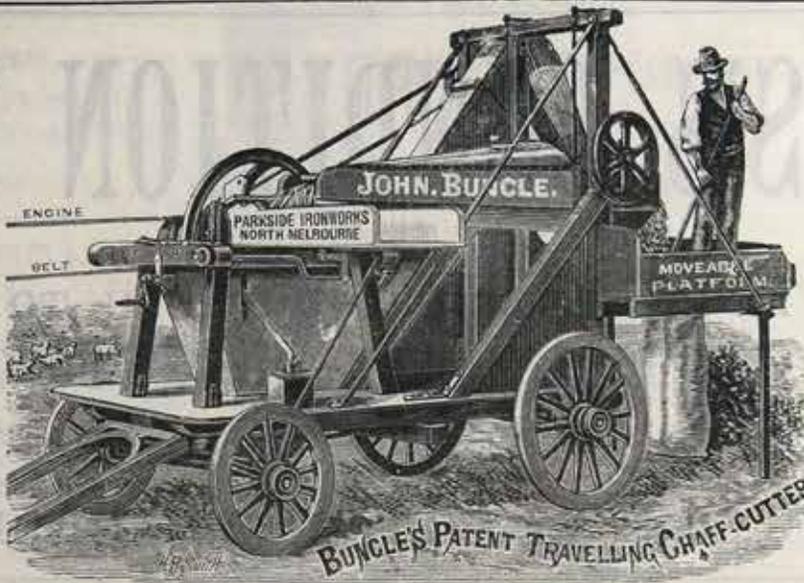
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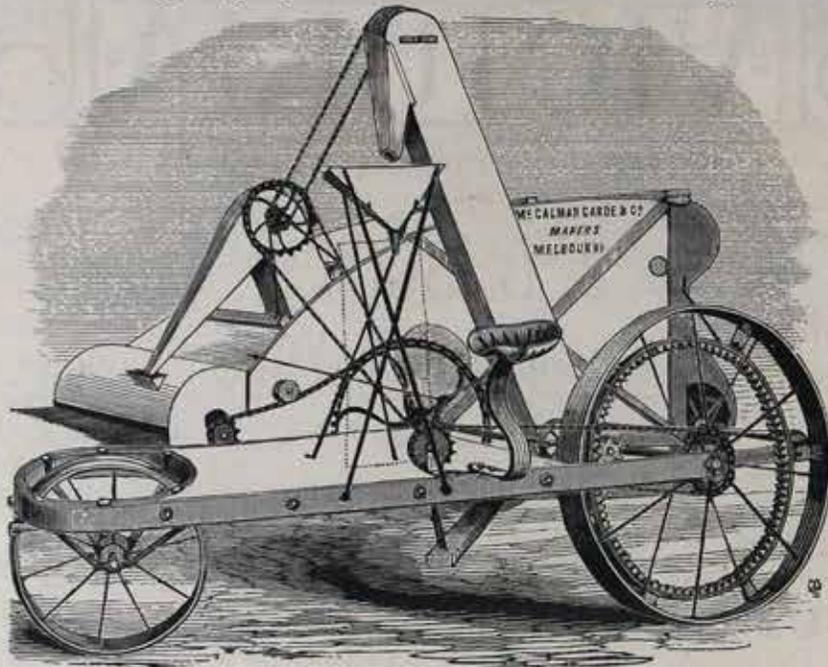
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Agricultural Society of Victoria.

Shorthorn Derby Sweepstakes, 1887.	
Hereford do do	1887.
Ayrshire do do	1887.
Alderney do do	1887.

A Sweepstakes of £1 each, 10s. at time of nomination, and 10s. at date of general entry for Show, with £5 added in each case, to be divided and awarded as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes, at the Society's Exhibition, 1887.

Nominations for the above Sweepstakes for Heifers of each breed respectively, calved between 1st July, 1884, and 1st July, 1885, will be received till 1st March, 1886, inclusive. Nominators to fully describe the colour of each entry, and state the name of sire, dam, and sire of dam, together with the date of calving, and accompanying same with nomination fee of 10s.

Shorthorn Derby Sweepstakes, 1888.	
Hereford do do	1888.
Ayrshire do do	1888.
Alderney do do	1888.

A Sweepstakes of £1 each, 10s. at time of nomination, and 10s. at date of general entry for Show, with £5 added in each case (that for the Ayrshire Derby being the gift of Messrs. W. McNab and Bros.), to be divided and awarded as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes, at the Society's Exhibition, 1888.

Nominations for the above Sweepstakes for Heifers of each breed respectively, calved after 1st July, 1885, will be received till 1st March, 1886, inclusive. Calves dropped after that date to be nominated within one month of date of birth. Nominators to fully describe the color of each entry, and state the name of sire, dam, and sire of dam, together with the date of calving, and accompanying same with nomination fee of 10s.

THOMAS PATTERSON,

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Agricultural Society

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Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria will be held at the Office, Kirk's Bazaar, Bourke Street West, on Thursday, 18th February, 1886, at 12 o'clock noon, to receive the Annual Report and Balance Sheet; elect Office-bearers for the year, and discuss the following motion, of which notice has been duly given:—

MR. J. G. BRISBANE—"If any Office-bearer, with the exception of the Trustees, shall be absent from four consecutive Monthly Meetings of the Council without leave having been obtained, his seat shall be declared vacant."

THOMAS PATTERSON,

SECRETARY.

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar, Bourke Street West, Melbourne.

Business communications to the Publishers, Somerset Place, 6 Little Bourke Street West.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are requested to forward to the editor the dates on which their respective exhibitions will be held, also copies of their prize schedules as soon as they are published.

FEBRUARY.

- 17.—Grantville and Jeetho.
- 25.—Mornington, at Berwick.
- 25.—West Bourke, at Larcefield Junction.

MARCH.

- 3.—Shepparton.
- 3.—Baringhup and Maldon, at Baringhup.
- 11.—Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, and Pentland Hills, at Myruing.
- 11.—Buln Buln.
- 19.—South Gippsland, at Port Albert.
- 24.—Glenlyon, Franklin, and Daylesford, at Daylesford.
- 24.—Dunolly.
- 24.—Ararat.
- 25.—Victoria, at Heidelberg.

AUGUST.

- 23 & 24.—Australian Sheepbreeder's Association at Goldsbrough's, Bourke-street west.
- 25, 26, 27, 28.—National.

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WRITE FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES.

especially by the live stock portions of them. The prize list of the Royal Society amounted to £5000, and with expenses of attendance, food, judging, shedding, and so forth, £10,000 does not cover the outlay. They had 9000 members, but not more than 300 exhibitors of stock, and for these alone the Society offered £4000, the local committee £1000, and £5000 more was spent to enable these 300 to enter into this competition. He was not surprised to find Mr. Howard, Mr. Read, and others saying that enough had not been done for the scientific aspect of the Society's work. Mr. J. Treadwell answered Mr. Jenkins's question with reference to the 300 exhibitors who "scrambled" for the £5000 prizes and the 9000 members of the Society who benefitted or did not benefit by the expenditure. He stated that this expenditure served not only the 9000 members, but the whole agricultural interest of the country. They thus learned which were the best herds and flock from which to select their breeding stock; but not only they, but consumers generally also benefitted by the improvements thus effected on the herds and flocks of the exhibitors. Mr. T. B. Woodward said it was a mistake he thought to maintain anything like Puritanism in the management of shows. He believed in what were called the supplementary attractions of shows. They had better be made country holidays so as to get the sinews of war from the town classes. Minor industries should be considered and represented as well as the main products on which the large farmer depends. Mr. W. Wells, of Holmeswood, Peterborough, a former president of the Royal Agricultural Society, expressed the pleasure with which he had heard the suggestion of intercommunication between the Royal and other Agricultural Societies, both as enabling uniform action in connection with agricultural experiments, and as giving force to the voice of the farmer when he addressed the Government. They had certainly learnt from the paper the need of organising the work of Agricultural Societies more systematically, and thereby acquiring the advantage of communication with practical men all over the country in connection with such subjects as agricultural statistics, contagious diseases, and various new departures of agricultural practice. Dr. John Voeleker expressed the feeling, which he strongly held, that the more men are encouraged to work with scientific accuracy, and to apply their scientific knowledge in farm practice, the more benefit would accrue to the general body of the members. Mr. Thomas Rigby, of Cheshire, supported the idea of giving purses for the best cultivated farms and for the encouragement of the dairy industry. They would thus acquire a series of comparative results of greater value than they could obtain in any other direction. Take, for instance, the extraordinary difference which exists on dairy farms in the value of their cheese product. Cheese made from milk produced on adjoining lands differed as widely as from 5s. to 20s. per cwt., much of it being spoilt from want of understanding how to make it of the best quality. Improvement here—guidance and assistance towards that and any other practical improvement—would be the best security for the continued prosperity and popularity of the Agricultural Society. We have endeavored to give the most advanced thoughts

in Mr. Plowman's Paper, and the principal ideas evoked in the discussion which followed its reading, so that the foregoing not only shows the position of Agricultural Societies in England, but also points to the course of action likely to be pursued by their executive bodies in the immediate future. The information should be valuable to the societies in this Colony who, where they are in advance, can congratulate themselves on the work already done; and where they are behind, may find hints which will induce them to extend their operations and improve their status. A prominent feature in the Paper, and in the discussion as well, was the consideration of the importance attached to the show system, which all allowed to be the central pivot round which the rest of the societies' operations revolved. While various theories were advanced as to why exhibitions still survived, and why societies allowed them to absorb so much of their energies; one fact seems to have been omitted, and it is an important one. The executive bodies of societies foster shows because they pay—the subscriptions received from interested persons, the entry fees, premiums for privilege, gate money, etc., being a great source of revenue. Ploughing matches, field trials, farm competitions, experiments and scientific research, with the exception of a small entry fee, are almost all dead charges on societies' revenues, and it is only after institutions have reached a good position that they can undertake them. So they fall back on what pays and make the best of their shows, which, apart from this consideration, are universally acknowledged to have an immense influence for good. These should be extended in every possible way, and we quite agree with what Mr. Woodward said in this connection. Let societies introduce all legitimate attractions possible into their shows and also give encouragement to minor departments, to make their turn-out as attractive as possible. Ever since seeing the results of this system in the Sydney show we have steadily advocated it, believing it to be the right one. Societies thus secure revenue, which enables them to extend their operations, as a portion of it may be devoted to the objects mentioned as being non-paying. We are glad to see the practice of overfeeding subjected to severe censure. Nothing too strong can be said or written against the overfeeding of breeding stock as at present practised, for we believe it occasions more loss and has more to do with the question lately so much discussed, (viz., that of the utility of the show system) than those interested are prepared to admit. The necessity for veterinary instruction was also insisted on. At one time we are well aware that, as a rule, it paid better to put a bullet into an animal than send for veterinary aid, and when anything went wrong with their animals large owners generally did so. But stock are now in many more hands than formerly, and with small owners individual animals are valuable, and their death often a severe loss. Some veterinary knowledge is absolutely necessary in anyone who has to work amongst stock, and as the Government has "settled the people on the land," the practice of every little farmer having a few stock, in addition to his cultivation, is very general; so that the societies should not be behind in assisting them to acquire such knowledge on

definite principles, by the recognition and encouragement of veterinary science. In this connection we specially recommend the last clause of Mr. Clare Reid's remarks to the attention of our readers. The advancement of scientific knowledge in farm practice is also a subject to which particular attention is now being given in England. In this country such a thing has not been much thought of. A man exhausts one piece of land and then goes to another. But as this cannot last, the rising generation of farmers will have to pursue different tactics, and it is for the Agricultural Societies to endeavor to see that they are trained up in the way they should go. It is particularly pleasing to see that a system of union, similar to the one already organised in this colony, is suggested by Mr. Plowman, who evidently has a thorough knowledge of agricultural requirements, and when we find the idea warmly supported and advocated by a gentleman who has held the important position of president of such a wealthy and influential institution as the Royal Agricultural Society of England, it should confirm the opinion of agriculturists that the societies here have made a movement in the right direction in organising their system of federation. We trust the foregoing may have some influence in stimulating the Agricultural societies to more spirited individual and united action in the advancement of the cause whose interests they are established to promote.

Ourselves and Others.

It appears that the fact of this Journal having been established has already done good, even beyond the limits of Victoria. We have just received the first number of the journal of the National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland, and we notice that in the report of the meeting at which it was decided to commence the publication, allusion was made to the periodical which the National Society of Victoria had established. "Precept teaches but example draweth," and as we have regularly forwarded our Journal to the Queensland Society—as indeed we do to the leading Agricultural Societies throughout the world—it has acted as an incentive to our northern brethren to commence operations which they have done, to a certain extent, on similar lines to our own. They state that "those that have been conversant with the proceedings of the Association for any length of time have felt that a great gap existed between the Council and those of the outside public who form the general body of members. It has also been felt that the Association has not, up to the present, come up to the standard expected of it as the one National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. The Council, therefore, recognising these facts, determined on issuing a monthly journal which, it is hoped, will be found to be that "missing link" whose existence is necessary both to enable the Association to complete its proper programme and also to unite more strongly all the country associations in stronger ties with the Metropolitan Society. The journal will be issued free to members, but the Council rely on their assistance to enlarge the number of annual subscribers, and also

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 12th, 1886.

Agricultural Societies and their
Uses.

MR. THOMAS F. PLOWMAN, of Bath, England, has lately read a paper on this subject, which has been published and commented on by all the leading British Agricultural Journals. The subject is treated most exhaustively, and as the matter is written up to the present time we have an excellent opportunity of ascertaining the state of agricultural societies in Britain. Presumptuous as it may seem to write it, it appears that in many matters they are no further forward than we are in Victoria; indeed, in some things are actually behind. For instance one of the strong features in Mr. Plowman's paper and one which was most favorably commented on—as we shall show further on—was the advocacy of a bond of union amongst the various Agricultural Societies by which their efforts could be more concentrated; and another was that they should receive recognition from Government as authoritative exponents of agricultural opinions. The former of these has already been effected in Victoria by the federation scheme, and notice has been given in Parliament of a bill to give the societies and their scheme legislative recognition. Therefore we have in a measure accomplished in this new country that which is now only beginning to be thought of by long-established institutions in Britain. On mentioning this to a gentleman lately returned from England, he said he could quite understand it, for we are far more apt to adopt new ideas and not so much afraid of leaving the beaten track as the people in the old country. With regard to shows, Mr. Plowman says that, of societies whose main object is the improvement of live stock generally, it may be safely asserted that no better way of effecting this has yet been discovered than that of holding periodical exhibitions at which premiums are awarded for the best animals. Even those who decry it most have nothing equally effective to propose in its place. Competition has always been found the strongest incentive to the attainment of excellence, and English stock which has commanded the admiration of the whole world has attained its position under this system. Some of the objections urged against it are that it has had its day and served its purpose, and the limit of improvement having been reached in the breeding of stock, it is sheer waste of money to go on offering prizes. With respect to this, if finality has been reached, nature and man together have accomplished, in the case of farm stock, more than the most sanguine have ever dared to hope for in any other department of science or art. Even if perfection were reached there is no guarantee that it would be maintained, and under any circumstances it would be questionable policy to dispense in the future with

what have proved to be incentives to good results in the past. The objection most frequently urged, and which has most force of any, is that breeding shows encourage the overfeeding of animals to the deterioration of the procreative powers. That prizes are frequently awarded to overfed animals can scarcely be gainsaid. Societies, however, in the instructions issued to judges, testify that they are not blind to the evil, but the difficulty is to deal with it satisfactorily. Hard and fast lines clearly defining where natural feeding ceases and overfeeding commences cannot be drawn, for animals are not uniformly affected. Judges, who are specially selected on account of their intimate knowledge of the class of stock to be brought under their notice, should be the most competent persons to decide as to the animal's general condition. Societies, however, should give every encouragement to judges to make it plainly manifest by their awards that excessive overfeeding is a distinct bar to success. Whilst admitting that the show system is, in certain respects, susceptible of improvement the very fact that it has grown, flourished, and extended itself in every direction under the auspices and with the direct aid and encouragement of those who have at all times been foremost in promoting the welfare of agriculture generally, is strong presumptive evidence of the soundness of its leading principles. With regard to exhibitions of implements the writer goes on to say that the immense progress in this direction which has taken place within a comparatively short period could hardly have been secured in any other way, and it speaks volumes for the energy and enterprise of our implement manufacturers that they should be so quick to discern and so able to take advantage of the lever wherewith to move the agricultural world. The talent and ingenuity of our manufacturers have conferred no small benefit upon agriculture in the labor-saving appliances their efforts have given birth to, but their skill must have been much less fruitful in the absence of the medium which brought them directly under the notice of those most interested. An additional benefit is conferred when by means of public trials the efficiency of an implement can be seen and tested by its actual work in the field. Most of the arguments in favor of the implement department apply equally to the "still life" section of most exhibitions, under which are comprised such articles as seeds, cattle foods, and artificial manures. Dairy husbandry is also encouraged by societies; and working dairies in the showyard are a very effective medium for awakening an interest in and conveying instruction with regard to such matters. The claims of minor industries such as poultry-keeping, bee-keeping, and fruit and vegetable culture to admission to the showyard is now generally conceded. Some Associations also encourage skilled labor by awarding prizes for ploughing, hedging, thatching, shearing, etc. The social aspect of the question, although indirect in its influence, is yet entitled to be taken into consideration. This was recognised some time since by Lord Iddesleigh when he remarked that these exhibitions produced "not only a good display of stock, but, what was of the greatest possible advantage, a good show of practical working farmers, who were thereby afforded the opportunity to compare notes and make further progres-

sion in the work in which they were engaged." But for landowner, occupier, and laborer alike it is a common meeting ground full of interest and instruction, and abundant in opportunities for mutual intercourse. Shows were the principal features of societies' operations round which the rest revolved; but the leading societies were doing considerable work in other directions, such as forwarding the science and practice of agriculture in all its branches by collecting and publishing valuable information; by experimenting on soils and crops; by inquiries into the causes and remedies of diseases in crops and cattle; by protecting the farmer from imposition and fraud by a systematic testing of seeds, artificial manures, and feeding stuffs; and by affording direct aid to agricultural education by the establishment of Examinations and Scholarships. Good service has also been rendered through the medium of some societies by the offer of premiums for the best managed farms, and the reports of the judges in such cases have been of great practical value. It is in the direction of scientific research and the region of experiment that the attention of Agricultural Societies should now be more especially turned. Many and important are the problems in scientific agriculture which are awaiting solution. Herd and stud books societies are also of considerable utility, and render essential service to particular breeds by guarding their purity, collecting, verifying, and preserving records as to pedigree, etc. Mr. Plowman then dealt with the union of societies—in the manner we have already mentioned—and said that this would enable them to possess much more general influence and be more powerful for the promotion of their objects. A very interesting discussion took place on the paper. It was opened by the Earl of Jersey, who referred to one omission in the conditions enumerated of the success of Agricultural Societies, namely, that it was necessary to have a good secretary—paying thus (as *The Agricultural Gazette* says) a very pretty compliment to Mr. Plowman, who is secretary of the Bath and West of England Society and had been secretary of the Oxfordshire Agricultural Society. Mr. James Howard argued that Agricultural Societies would do well to consider whether the vast sums they are expending and the great efforts they are putting forth are as well directed and as well expended as they ought to be. He advocated further expenditure on experimental stations, scientific investigation with regard to dairying, the relative value of acetic and sweet silage, etc. Mr. Clare Read gave utterance to the opinion that the societies had not thought so much of the milk pail as they ought to do, and they ought not to encourage by their assistance the tendency to promote fat and diminish milk. Veterinary science, too, he said, needed recognition at the hands of the societies. With regard to the contagious diseases which once ravaged flocks and herds they did not even yet appear to know how long the vitality of the germs of these diseases lasts. Surely when they knew that legislation was best arranged on what little scientific knowledge they possessed, it was of importance that scientific knowledge should be neither erroneous nor imperfect. Mr. H. M. Jenkins, Secretary to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, said he was not satisfied with the progress being made. The resources of the societies seemed swallowed up by the shows,

wards the assistance of the sufferers by the late Heytesbury forest fire. A list was handed round, and a substantial amount was subscribed by the members of the Council present.

The meeting then closed.

Shepparton Amalgamated Agricultural, Horticultural and Pastoral Society.

THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

MR JOSEPH KNIGHT, as representative of the Society on the Victorian Board of Agricultural (Federated Societies) brought under the committee's notice, the "National Agricultural Journal," published under the auspices of the National Agricultural Society. The journal contained a very great amount of useful and valuable information specially adapted to agriculturists. He desired to make the suggestion to the Committee that the Secretary should be instructed to write to the President of the Federated Societies asking what arrangements could be made for the distribution of the journal to members of Agricultural Societies. If the Committee could see its way clear to become responsible for the distribution of say 100 copies, Mr. Knight felt certain the membership of the Society, would be materially increased. By such patronage the size of the journal would in all probabilities be increased so as to allow space for the deliberations of Committee meetings and other business connected with the various Societies throughout the Colony. Information of that character would be of great value to Agricultural Societies for one Association would be posted up in the working of others throughout the colony instead of remaining as at present in utter ignorance of the knowledge referred to.

Mr. M'Kinney thought the Committee was greatly indebted to Mr. Knight for his untiring energy as their representative in the Federated Societies. Agricultural Societies were beyond question, in the dark as to the workings of kindred associations. The drawback to a very great extent would be remedied by the journal brought under notice. He would move that the Secretary be instructed to write to the President of the Victorian Board of Agriculture, asking upon what arrangements the "National Agricultural Journal" could be supplied to the Society. Seconded by Mr. Hillier, and carried unanimously.—*Shepparton News.*

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S. will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a post-mortem examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents

must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Competitive Horse-Shoeing at Agricultural Shows.

We have been requested to draw up a few rules for the guidance of those competing for prizes in horse-shoeing at agricultural shows, as well as for persons engaged in judging the same.

As it would be invidious on our part to attempt to draw any hard and fast lines on a matter of this description, we offer a number of general rules, principally compiled from a prize essay on "Practical Horse-Shoeing," by Mr. G. Fleming, F.R.C.V.S., than whom no better authority exists; and we feel sure that, if adopted, they will not only answer the desired purpose, but form a good guide to the general shoeing-smith, and enable him to perform his duties upon sound and rational principles.

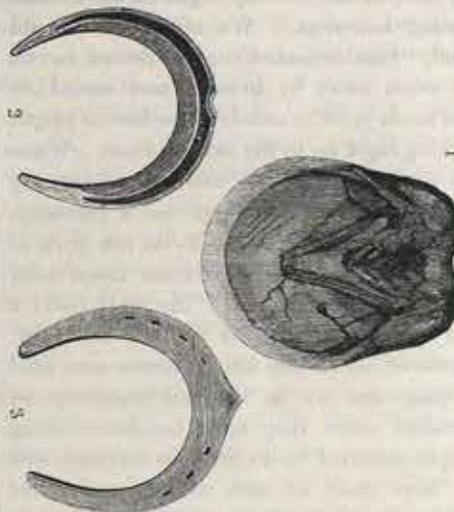


Fig. 1.—The foot prepared for the shoe. The sole, frog, and bars untouched with the knife; the natural length of the toe and depth of wall kept in their relative positions by the rasp only.

Fig. 2.—Inferior concave surface of shoe.

Fig. 3.—Superior (flat) surface of shoe, narrowed at the heels where it only bears upon the wall.

GENERAL RULES FOR FARRIERS.

PREPARATION OF THE FOOT FOR THE SHOE.

Rule 1.—*Levelling the wall.*—Both sides of the hoof should be made of equal depth, and the lower margin of the wall should be levelled with the rasp, along with part of the sole, to form an even bearing for the shoe, as shown in the illustration (Fig. 1).

Rule 2.—*Shortening the wall.*—This must be done by rasping the bottom of the toe and quarters, and not the front of the wall. The heels should be left as strong as possible, and only the loose material incapable of supporting the shoe should be removed.

Rule 3.—*Paring the Sole.*—No horn whatever should be removed from the sole of the healthy foot, except where it forms part of the bearing surface for the shoe.

Rule 4.—*Paring the Frog.*—With the exception of removing the loose fragments, the frog should be left untouched.

Rule 5.—*Opening up the Heels.*—The bars should not by any means be pared or weakened but left as strong as possible.

THE SHOE.

Rule 1.—*Bearing Surface.*—The bearing surface—that which comes in contact with the

foot—should be perfectly level, as in fig. 3, and not bevelled.

Rule 2.—*Weight of Shoe.*—A light thin shoe is preferable to a heavy thick one.

Rule 3.—*Size of Shoe.*—The shoe should be sufficiently large, and its circumference equal to that of the foot.

Rule 4.—*Calks.*—If used at all, toe-pieces of corresponding size should be used; but, except for horses required to work on soft, slippery ground, they are objectionable.

Rule 5.—*Clips* should be small, and as few in number as possible, and not placed too far back.

Rule 6.—*Nail Holes.*—The number of nail holes should be as few as possible, and situated wide apart, but not too far back; and where there is a clip, there should be no nail. The holes should be counter-sunk.

APPLYING THE SHOE.

Rule 1.—*Fitting.*—The shoe should be fitted to the foot in such a manner that the sole has its proportion of bearing with the wall, and the adaptation should be true and solid.

Rule 2.—*The Nails* should be well proportioned to the size of the shoe, the heads being sufficiently large to fill the nail holes.

Rule 3.—*Driving the Nails.*—Every nail should be made to pass through sound horn, and a short thick hold is preferred to a long thin one.

Rule 4.—*Clenching.*—Deep notching with the rasp should be avoided, and the clench should be laid down evenly.

Rule 5.—*Rasping the Hoof.*—With the exception of removing the sharp edge, the rasp should not be used on the outside of the hoof.

Rule 6.—*Laying down the Clips.*—The clips should be evenly laid, and not driven into the hoof.

Glanders in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands.

We have received from a correspondent in Honolulu, some particulars regarding an outbreak of Glanders in the Hawaiian Islands, which are of much interest with regard to the geographical extension of the disease, especially in the Pacific, and the danger to which Australia and New Zealand are exposed from that quarter.

In October, 1884, it was discovered by a veterinary graduate of the Montreal School, that Glanders was actually present in the Hawaiian Islands, which are situated within the tropics, 2,000 miles from San Francisco, and on the direct route of the Mail Steamers to and from our Colonies. It may be mentioned that there are four principal islands, with a population altogether of about 75,000 people; 40,000 of these are natives, the remainder being Europeans, Americans, Chinese, etc.

The principal export of these Islands is sugar, and for the production of this a great many mules and horses are employed; altogether the value of this stock is considerable.

It seems that owing to the widely scattered condition in which the plantations are situated on the different islands, it has not been considered profitable to invite a veterinary surgeon to settle in the kingdom; but one was finally appointed. When he arrived he found great ignorance in regard to the veterinary science prevailing, and the charlatans in full sway. The

to recommend it to their friends, not only as a journal of some literary merit, but also as a first-class advertising medium.

Many of the most talented Queensland writers on pastoral and agricultural subjects have promised to give the new journal a helping hand, and with the further assistance of our country friends who are invited to contribute letters or articles on subjects with which they are acquainted, it is to be hoped that this journal will be made both pleasant and instructive reading. It will be remarked that sentiments very similar to the foregoing have been expressed in our journal before, but we again take the opportunity of asking the members of the National Society to avail themselves of its columns for their mutual benefit. To quote again from our Queensland contemporary—"There is doubtless a deal of talent among the five hundred and odd members of this Association, which we hope to draw out for the benefit of the community." In our case we have already succeeded very well in this regard, but we wish to impress on our friends the necessity for continuous effort. We have been in communication with the editor of the Canterbury Agricultural Society's Journal in New Zealand, and he says that he finds farmers as a rule too apathetic; that it is only by constantly worrying them that they can be got to supply useful information. There can be no doubt that this Journal can be made the medium of doing an infinite amount of good if the members of the Society will use its columns freely for the interchange of ideas. We have seen a meeting called for a certain purpose at which when the members met not one had a definite idea of what should be done, but by talking the matter over and interchanging thoughts, gradually definite ideas were arrived at, resolutions were drawn up, and a satisfactory scheme formulated. So we hope will many matters be brought forward and discussed in our columns for the advancement of the Society. Henry George says the more civilised we become as a people the more interdependent we are, and it is the same with regard to the Society; the more advanced and influential it becomes the more interdependent are its members—in fact, it is only by recognising this principle and mutually assisting in every way that the material interest of the institution can be advanced. It is the great practical value of the co-operative principle that it not only steadies and strengthens purposes already concerted, but infallibly creates a unity of action far beyond the scope originally contemplated. We do not wish to do any more "worrying" at the present time, but would just remind our readers that, as Carlyle says, "life consist of action and not of thought," and invite them to act—"act in the living present," as Longfellow has it; and then indeed will our Journal team with information. Another matter for congratulation in the establishment and interchange of journals by the National Agricultural Associations of the various colonies is that it will bring them into more intimate relationship, and not only advance the institutions themselves, but also be a factor—however small—in that grand scheme of the federation of the colonies, for which our Victorian Premier has worked so hard as almost to be considered

an enthusiast. We will conclude by heartily wishing our Queensland contemporary every success.

Meetings.

The preliminary general meeting of the members of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Thursday, January 21st, 1886.

Present—Dr. Plummer (President) in the chair, with a fair attendance of members.

The notice calling the meeting was read.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Mr. D. Munro moved that Mr. John McDonald be appointed professional auditor. Seconded by Mr. D. R. McGregor and carried.

Mr. D. R. McGregor moved that Mr. Francis Ross (Messrs. King & Co.) be appointed honorary auditor. Seconded by Mr. C. Lynnot and carried.

NOMINATION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

The list of nominations prepared by the Council in accordance with by-law 2 was read, and was as follows, viz.:—Dr. Plummer, Messrs. James Gibb, J. M. Peck, W. J. Lobb, F. Peppin, C. Young, H. Lennon, W. Thomson, John Bunce, C. Lynnot, S. Gardiner, W. McCulloch, S. G. Staughton, John Currie, John Hurst, W. Learmonth, John Bond, William Orr, and Daniel White. The following additional nominations were then made, viz.:—Messrs. T. Henty, A. F. Cameron, John Blyth, and Robert Clarke.

Mr. J. G. Brisbane gave notice of motion for the Annual Meeting, as follows, viz.:—

"If any Office-bearer, with the exception of the Trustees, shall be absent from four consecutive monthly meetings of the Council, without leave having been obtained, his seat shall be declared vacant."

The meeting then closed.

A special meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Thursday, January 21st, 1886. Present—Dr. Plummer (in the chair), with Messrs. C. Lynnot, J. G. Brisbane, T. Learmonth, J. Garton, W. J. Lobb, D. Munro, F. Henty, D. R. McGregor, W. Learmonth, J. Finlay, J. M. Peck, T. Brunton, and H. Lennon.

The meeting was called to consider the report of the sub-works committee in reference to a grand stand.

The Secretary reported that the Committee had visited the yards and decided on the position of the stand, and had directed Mr. Billing as to its design. At a meeting at which a sketch plan was submitted, it was roughly calculated that the cost would amount to between £4000 and £5000.

The Committee had, therefore, not taken any definite action, but wished the Council to consider the whole question.

After a long discussion, Mr. Lennon moved that the position at the side of trotting track—resolved on by the Committee—be the site for the stand. Seconded by Mr. Brunton and carried.

Mr. Munro moved that the matter be referred back to the Committee to be carried out in sections at a cost for the

first section not to exceed from £2000 to £3000; and, further, that it be a direction to the Committee that they consider the advisableness of substituting iron for wood pillars—Seconded by Mr. Brunton and afterwards carried—an amendment submitted by Mr. McGregor, that drawings and estimates be prepared for a timber stand, being lost.

The meeting then closed.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, February 9th, 1886.

Present—Dr. Plummer (President) in the chair, and Messrs. F. Henty, S. G. Staughton, J. G. Brisbane, W. J. Lobb, D. R. McGregor, J. Bunce, J. Currie, T. Learmonth, A. Patterson, J. Hearn, T. Brunton, J. Malcolm, and F. Finlay.

The minutes of the previous ordinary and special meetings were read and confirmed.

The Finance Committee's report recommending payments to the amount of £52 13s. was read and adopted.

Messrs. John McDonald and Francis Ross reported that they had made a thorough audit of the Society's books and accounts for the year, and certified that they found everything correct and in order.

Mr. McGregor moved the adoption of the report, and that the thanks of the Council be conveyed to Mr. Ross for his services as honorary auditor. Seconded by Mr. Currie and carried.

The Council's annual report to the subscribers—as drawn up by the Secretary—was read over to the meeting.

Mr. Lobb moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Staughton and carried.

The sub-works committee reported that they had instructed Messrs. Billing to prepare plans and specifications for a grand stand. The tenders to be alternative for wood or iron pillars. The tenders to be called for the whole structure, with alternative tenders for a portion 130ft. long. Satisfactory progress was being made by the architects, and it was expected they would be able to call for tenders in about ten days. The report was adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Secretary of the Vegetable Products Commission, stating it was the intention of the Commission to distribute the information gained during the progress of the inquiry amongst the members of the societies of the colony. He asked for a list of members and an undertaking to distribute the evidence when received.—To be complied with.

From Job Smith enclosing cheque for £5 5s. donation for a prize in the dairy class.—Received with thanks.

From Warragul Society asking the Council to nominate three judges for draught horses, for blood horses, and for cattle and sheep.—The request was complied with.

From Woolgrowers' Association, asking co-operation in obtaining subscribers.—Postponed till next meeting; being considered of too great importance to be gone into at that late hour.

The President stated that he had been asked to present a subscription list to

corn, which can be imported so much more cheaply, they would not only be giving the land a rest, but filling up a gap, and lessening the importations from foreign countries. Great Britain imports nearly 90 per cent. of her foreign fresh beef from the United States, and 40 per cent. of the balance from Canada. Nearly 82,000,000 lbs. of beef, and 400,000 live cattle, were taken across the Atlantic last year. It would be necessary, as was proposed by the Queen, to abstain from veal and lamb for a few years, as it is calculated more animals have been destroyed by foreign disease than if no importations had ever taken place. The following were imported during 1884:—

Live animals—oxen and sheep	£11,850,000
Dead meat, salted or fresh	2,894,000
Meat, unenumerated	808,000
Preserved meat (not salted)	1,753,000
Mutton	696,000
Bacon and hams	10,036,000
Total	£28,037,000

or as much in value as would pay the interest on the National Debt.

The other industries, such as dairy farming, poultry rearing, &c., could be largely extended and made profitable. Half the cheese used comes from America, the choicest butter from Denmark, large quantities of eggs from France and the Low Countries, and fruits from Spain and Portugal—much of which might be raised in Great Britain. The following extract is from the *People's Journal*:—"What class of farms are untouched by the depression in the price of wheat? Dairy farms, small holdings wrought by a farmer, his wife, and daughters—places that produce perfect fresh butter, cream, and eggs. These little farms, in many of the quiet glens, are not feeling the straits of the big farms. Since grain is so cheap, to feed poultry and to feed milk cows must pay better now than before. The cure for agricultural depression is manifest. Farmers have a market much more important than wheat. Cheap grain will enable them to raise more beef and mutton, and to produce more cream. The value of such food is far greater than wheat can ever be. No doubt white crop is essential for straw and for turnips. Great holdings, with paid labour, will not produce good milk and cream. The care of poultry and of eggs requires the unpaid personal supervision of the wife of the small farmer. If we must go back to this the country may gain rather than lose, and the land bring still fair rents to landlords willing to meet the changed times. The management of landed property in Edinburgh by writers and agents must come to an immediate end. Attention must be concentrated on the important things, and a comparatively unimportant article of food, such as meal or wheat, be left to the Indian growers, and the principal and paying things that there is money in—the beef, milk, vegetables, fresh butter, poultry—must become supreme concern of the farmer. The consumer and producer must be brought still more closely together, and the present waste of time and labour in each little farmer sending a man and a horse with his little supply give way to a cheaper and simpler mode of distribution."

In an article in the *English Illustrated Magazine* on cheese-farming in Cheshire, on

a farm of 187 acres, the gross product was considerably more than £2000, the expense about £1500, thus showing a net profit of £500 per annum. Now it is a question—as many of these products are to a great extent luxuries (in Great Britain at any rate)—whether a moderate duty would not stimulate their production, and give employment to a large number of people, as well as raise revenue; but as this is a question for political economists, I will not discuss it. The growing of fruits I have not mentioned, for the reasons (climatic, &c.) which I stated in a previous article. A. G. YOUNG.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Breeding Stock Shows.

(CONTINUED.)

If the stock is really first-class, and only then do we advise showing, a liberal diet such as would produce a full-fleshed specimen should be sufficient, particularly if a long fatiguing railway journey has not to be undertaken. While thus the pampering, of which so much has been heard, might be modified in some measure, we must, for reasons already given, disabuse the reader's mind of the prospect of having breeding stock shown at national exhibitions so lean in condition as not to interfere with the procreative properties. In the very nature of things, there will be a certain amount of risk to breeding functions.

We know that, without very liberal feeding, a sheep will not display what is termed quality under the hand. Nor will, at least, the beef-making breeds of cattle, fill the eye or please the hand unless they are in high condition—not necessarily so fat as many that are now-a-days exhibited, but full of flesh and generously dealt with. Horses in general appearance benefit by high condition, but their action, legs, and feet derive no advantage from forcing diet, sometimes the reverse. Therefore, owners of horses should feed sparingly, seeing that action and limbs count for so much with most judges. They do, in the west of Scotland, where horse-rearing is better understood possibly than anywhere else, feed the one and two-year old Clydesdales, notably the former, moderately. There should be no occasion for pampering mares and stallions so hard as is usually done, but the evils are mitigated by the not over-luxurious fare bestowed on many of the animals in their youth.

The mainstay of the breeding stock exhibitions of the future is calculated to be those owners of pedigree or select animals who have not been very many years at the business, or have not been so long in the field as to have acquired celebrity. The bulk of the exhibitors are likely to be of this class, though breeders of world-wide fame will now and again put in an appearance, with the view of satisfying the public that their stocks are fully maintained. Old breeders and exhibitors are now more independent of showyard advertisement, so to speak, than those who have not been say twenty years in harness. The latter have more to gain than the former by exhibiting, so they can overlook the drawbacks. To many a herd just coming into public notice, a successful appearance in competition far outweighs in benefits any disadvantage which somewhat impaired

breeding properties imply. A calf or a foal, missed now and again, or even a cow, heifer, or ewe brought prematurely to the butcher, is no doubt a sacrifice at first sight, but the benefits which prize winning confers on breeding stocks not already in the front rank generally atones, when the market has to be faced for any injury that may have been directly done. Ruinously rich diet need not be enforced. It should not be so extensively as has hitherto been common, and well treated as we know the few specimens that are exhibited should be, there is no necessity for so much overfeeding as has been visible for many years. Let us consider then, under what circumstances breeders of pretty long standing should exhibit. If the breeder is a landed proprietor, with more to "come and go" upon than a rent-paying tenant farmer usually has, he may exhibit much more frequently than a farmer should attempt. Taking the case of a landed proprietor, occupying a considerable breadth of of his own land, and owning a large pedigree herd, flock, or stud, we should say that he may, with no serious loss to himself, and probably with some benefit to his tenantry and agriculturists generally, enter the national show contests every other year, if not in fact almost every year. The herd or flock being large a few lots can be shown regularly without incurring great loss in breeding. In other words, there are tolerably full numbers retained at home in a healthy sound breeding state, even though the exhibition lots were of little or no service as breeders, which is happily not the case. Old established breeders should not show even every second year representatives of their very best bred or most valuable pedigree tribes. They should prepare for exhibition some of the best-looking of their less valuable pedigree strains. Once a family or tribe has got its reputation made by showyard achievements, or by other means, and continues to occupy a prominent position in public estimation in the sale ring or private market, there is nothing to gain, but possibly something to lose, by exhibiting specimens of that tribe.

In the event, however, of that tribe displaying symptoms of losing popularity or market value as compared with other strains of the same race of stock, a little seeming sacrifice should then be made, and a few good specimens carefully prepared for the national society's annual battles. When this has to be done, we should advise breeders to avoid feeding hard early in the animal's life. Those very valuable pedigreed stock, worth hundreds of pounds a-head, should not be sent to a distant national yard before they are two years of age. If an animal—we write just now of the beef-making breeds of cattle—is sparingly fed as a yearling, and kept in full flesh the first half of the second year, it may be brought into pretty high condition during the four or five months which precede the date of the show at which it would appear as a two-year old. After the show a return to a moderate, though still nourishing, diet should take place. This practice is followed by some old breeders and experienced exhibitors with good results.

Of course, if every breeder, or nearly so, were to refrain from exhibiting cattle until the animals were two years of age and over, the yearling classes would become a blank. Well, we should rather that than witness the destruction of so many animals as have fallen victim to over-feeding in their early youth. Usually the yearling classes of cattle, and often also of horses, are numerically the largest of ages, especially at shows open to all comers. This we

erroneous impression which he found most difficulty in removing from the minds of the people, and which they said they derived from such veterinary works as they had, was that Glanders could not exist in a tropical country.

The law of 1884, as amended by the session of legislature of that kingdom, with reference to the suppression of diseases amongst animals, gives full power, it appears, to quarantine all suspected animals, and, if necessary for the protection of the interests of the healthy stock, to utterly destroy them.

The first two months after the arrival of the veterinary surgeon, he did not enforce the law, as he found so many horses affected with Chronic Glanders, and working every day, some of them valued at from two to five hundred dollars, and the Government not having made any appropriation for the purpose of paying for part of the loss sustained, that he merely warned the owners of diseased animals of their danger. He, however, destroyed quite a number that were given voluntarily to him, and made ten or eleven *post-mortem* examinations, chiefly to instruct and convince the public of the true nature of the disease.

In December, however, having secured a suitable quarantine ground, he was requested by His Excellency, C. F. Gulick, Minister of the Interior, to enforce the law; and from December up to the 30th of June of this year, when he sent in his half-yearly report to the Minister of the Interior, he had destroyed eighty-eight horses and two mules. This was in Honolulu alone, where, however, most of the disease existed.

When he began the enforcement of the law, he met with no opposition from the owners, so thoroughly were they convinced of the fatal nature of the disease. The value of the animals destroyed would have been, had they not been diseased, 25,000 dols.

From the most reliable accounts which could be obtained, the disease—Glanders—has been on the islands five years, and was brought by means of diseased horses and mules from San Francisco, U.S.A.

The loss in Honolulu previous to the arrival of the veterinary surgeon, as near as could be ascertained, was 40 horses; on the Island of Mani, 150 miles, valued at 30,000 dols.; on the Island of Hawaii, 75 mules, valued at 15,000 dols.; on the Island of Kanai, 15 mules, valued at 3,000 dols. Making a total of 370 horses and mules, valued at 79,000. But there were, no doubt, many more animals lost.

At the date when this information was dispatched, the veterinary surgeon had made a tour of inspection of all the islands, and found that the disease was almost entirely eradicated.

In Honolulu, since the 30th of June, only five animals have been destroyed, and these had been suspected for some time.

Altogether fifteen *post-mortem* examinations had been made, and some very valuable pathological specimens of the septum nasi and submaxillary lymphatic glands and lungs were procured.

The last *post-mortem* made was on a thoroughbred stallion, valued at 5,000 dols., the property of the king. The veterinary surgeon condemned this animal as glandered last November, but the king, believing he could be cured, had him removed to the country to an isolated paddock, and attended by native doctors; but all to no effect; and he was given over to be destroyed. This stallion was in good condition when destroyed, fully one inch of fat on his ribs, but the septum nasi was almost entirely covered with cicatrices, and the superior turbinated bone on one side was firmly adherent to the septum, caused doubtless by the extreme inflammatory process which had taken place for a considerable period. The lung tissue was simply infiltrated with Glander nodules. No further outbreak of the disease was anticipated, and all animals are now subjected to a rigid inspection on arrival

from any foreign part. Amongst the animals destroyed, the majority were effected with Chronic Glanders; a few of them began with febrile symptoms, and soon they terminated in Glanders.

When mules became effected, it was almost invariably the case that they had the disease in an acute form, and died within four to ten days.

A native had died, who, according to the physicians who attended him during his illness, was in all probability affected with Glanders.—*The Veterinary Journal*.

Horseshoeing.

The general character of horses' hoofs depends very much on the conditions under which the animals are reared. Those bred on a soft wet country grow an enormous quantity of hoof, and as there is nothing to wear it away it is frequently necessary to cut the hoof down with a chisel and mallet every season. They grow to such a length during the winter that, when the dry weather comes, they are apt to split and tear up right to the coronet causing lameness. We remember an old blind, "bumble-footed" mare allowed to run for years away by herself; and one of her fore hoofs grew to nearly three feet in length turning right up to the cannon-bone. When she died—as she was allowed to one dry season—the hoof was kept as a curiosity. On dry country horses' hoofs do not grow so fast, or, if they do, the attrition keeps them short so that the length of the wall bears a due proportion to the rest of the hoof. However, no matter where horses are bred if they are to be worked regularly on metalled roads they must be shod. Some people endeavor to do without shoeing, and we have read of men who have written articles on the subject of educating their horses up to going on metal without shoes—but it was all bunkum. The horse is not foaled that will grow hoof fast enough to supply that which is worn off by attrition on the metal when in regular work. Of course we know there is a great deal of difference—constitutional difference in horses' hoofs. Some have particularly tough and hard feet, while there are others—rooten-hoofed brutes—which are very bad property. For what is the use of the carcass without feet to carry it. And, another thing we have found is, that it is a most difficult matter to breed out bad feet, the law of heredity comes in and asserts itself most persistently. As shoeing cannot be dispensed with it is expedient that every effort should be made to have it done properly. More barbarism in the way of burning and cutting has been, and indeed is, practised in connection with this operation than is consistent with our supposed Nineteenth Century enlightenment, and it is for our agricultural societies to foster and extend a rational system of shoeing. Prizes have been offered for shod horses, and some few societies have adopted the practise of having the competition carried out in the yards, which is an excellent idea and one which we hope to see taken up by the societies generally. In our veterinary columns we publish some rules on shoeing, which we commend to the attention of agricultural societies and indeed to agriculturists generally.

On the Present State of Agriculture in Great Britain.

III.

IN connection with my last, which treated principally of doing away with mortgages and the laws of inheritance, I would refer to the following, which I take from a speech of Mr. Gladstone's during the recent elections:—"In a very able speech, Mr. Willis, a distinguished Queen's Counsel, endeavours to show that it is idle to talk of free transfer of land, making it to easily pass from one to another as long as life estate exists, and as long as that complex system of procedure which has been gradually built up in connection with life estates is permitted to remain. But we are agreed that what we want to get at is absolute freedom in dealing with the transfer of land. We wish that the transfer should be as simple as the transfer of any other property; and the doctrine of Mr. Willis is that in ancient times the transfer of land was not only as simple as, but was more simple, than the transfer of any other description of property. Then there is the registration of land, so that everybody who has dealings with the owner of the land may know what is his real position. That is a thing that at present is not merely difficult, but is absolutely impossible. Then there is the mortgaging of land. I daresay when you want to borrow money on railway shares you can only borrow that money, as a general rule, by executing a transfer of the shares, and that transfer of the shares is very properly subject to a duty of 10s. per cent.; but if you want to borrow money by mortgaging your land you can do it by paying a duty of only 2s. 6d. per cent. I believe there never was a greater injury inflicted in the name and semblance of a boon than the taxing at that low rate the duties on mortgage. If you could stop the landlord altogether from mortgaging his land you would do him a great favour. There is nothing that so falsifies his position, there is nothing that so undermines his independence, there is nothing that so places him in the face of the public as a great pretender to influence and power, the true basis of which he does not really possess, as this facility of mortgage which has led many men to mortgage themselves over their ears and over their head, and to be no longer more than the nominal proprietors of that land, upon which they continue to exist only for the purpose of preventing somebody else from existing there who might possibly do some good." So that we see that instead of restrictions being put on mortgages, &c., there are greater facilities than on other property. The next remedy is a greater return to pastoral and small industries, such as cheese, butter, vegetables, poultry, &c. Now, when we consider the larger facilities for pastoral pursuits in America and the Colonies, it might be thought cattle and sheep could be raised much more cheaply there, but the prejudice is so great in favour of home-fed beef and mutton that there will be still a great outlet for a greater production. If the farmers gave up arable farming, and imported their

look upon as an unhealthy feature of modern live stock exhibitions. It demonstrates that the enthusiasm of breeders, their anxiety and eagerness to gain showyard honours, gets for the time the better of their regard for the breeding utility of their animals in the future. There is less mistake in the case of horses in Scotland at least, because excessive feeding is, as already explained, not so common among young Clydesdales as in the cattle classes. But yearling shorthorns and polls should not be so numerous as they have long been at, for example, the Highland Society shows. It frequently happened that one breeder enters two or three in the youngest class. Now, unless the animals are altogether of exceptionally high merit, and of no great value in the pedigree aspect, or intended for immediate or very early sale, it is a mistake to exhibit more than one. From what has been penned a few sentences before, it may be concluded that we consider it a mistake to exhibit yearlings in any circumstances. We hardly go that length, but we are satisfied that if less than one-half the numbers now-a-days appearing in the juvenile classes were entered, the character of the shows would not suffer, and the overfeeding grievance would be partially removed. If prizes are to be offered for yearling shorthorns and polls, it is to be hoped that breeders will have the good sense not to "force" on every promising youngster they have. A breeder who has his "name" to make—whose herd is only coming into fame—might fatten one really good yearling every year, or as often as he has a really good specimen not of the choicest pedigree; but breeders of twenty or thirty years' standing should not pamper even for the sake, not to say certainty, of a prize, any of their valuable calves or yearlings.

(To be Continued.)

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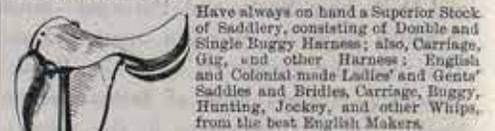
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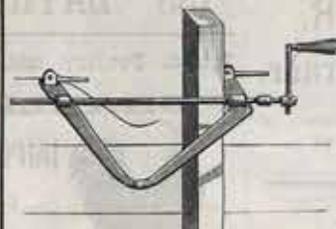
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R. SMITH'S

PATENT

Giant Complete Harvester.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS:

HUMBLE & NICHOLSON,
VULCAN FOUNDRY, GEELONG.



The Patentee having thoroughly tested the efficiency of this Machine in the field for himself, has every confidence in recommending it to farmers generally, or those needing the use of such a Machine, as it will greatly expedite their harvesting operations, and effect a very great saving, as the following Testimonials will substantiate.

The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR. R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH,
Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.
Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize; and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,
GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

MR. R. SMITH,
Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it done; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,
GEORGE EXELL.

MR. RUPERT SMITH,
Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.
Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendid, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,
ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
Stock Yard Hill.

MR. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort.
Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Wimbowers. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly,
TONKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

Memo. to MR. RUPERT SMITH,
January 26th, 1885.
Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked upon the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors.) In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,
F. DUE, Farmer,
Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885
This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.

Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.
C. F. SUTHERLAND.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH,
Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way, and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.
Remaining yours faithfully,
G. DAVIS.

A. C. STURROCK,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
SEEDSMAN AND PLANT MERCHANT,
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Samples and Prices on Application.

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244 AND 245 SWANSTON STREET,
And 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 & 21 STEWART STREET, MELBOURNE.

Awarded GOLD MEDAL for Special Merit at London Exhibition of 1873, and TWO GOLD
MEDALS for best Carriages at Melbourne Shows of 1883 and 1884, and THIRTY-TWO
MEDALS (1st Prizes), at Exhibitions and Shows of 1872, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77,
78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85. Also, THREE FIRST AWARDS
OF MERIT (1st Prizes), at International Exhibition of 1880.

NOTICE.—Referring to above, D. WHITE desires to inform his numerous Customers and the Public
generally that he has secured and completed EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO HIS COACH FACTORY,
and with the increased accommodation and Steam Plant, and the Largest Stock of Seasoned Timber in
Melbourne, is now prepared to meet the increasing demand for his well-known Carriages and Vehicles.
The new premises are in Stewart Street, immediately opposite the present Factory.
Patentee of the Improved Carriage and Buggy Hood Apparatus, for raising or lowering the Hood from the
inside. Every description of Vehicle built from the best imported Materials and Well-seasoned Timber.

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Beg to inform Squatters, Farmers, and others that, having enlarged and improved their premises generally,
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To His Excellency the Governor Sir HENRY LOCH, K.C.B.,
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Have a large selection of CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, their
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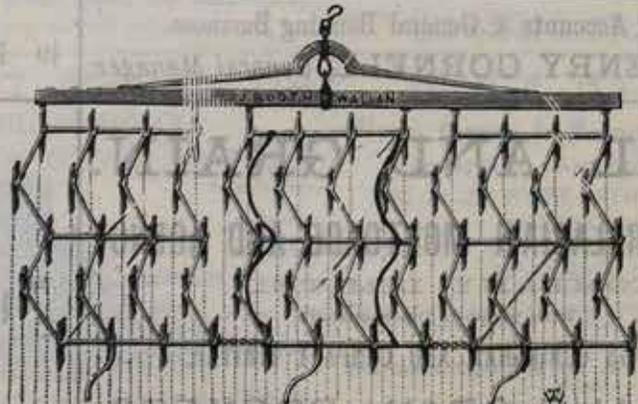
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HARROWS made to suit all kinds of soil, fitted with Iron or Steel Tynes.

These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tyn
cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884
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secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing
a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents
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Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 3½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.

JOHN DANKS & SON,

Engineers & Brass Founders,

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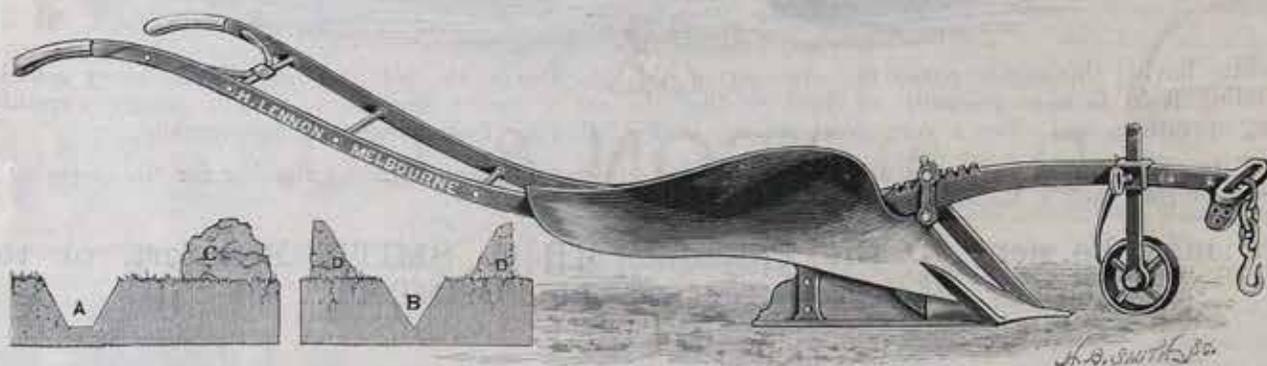
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Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

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Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes
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The Fans are constructed on the Turbine principle, being so curved that each one passes the wind on to the next, thus getting all the power out of it. The wind glides through them like a stream of water, following the curve, and still using its momentum, until its escape, so that none of the force is lost. This peculiar construction of the wheel causes it to give more power than any other wheel of the same diameter in the market.

The Engine is self-regulating. The first sharp gust will blow it edge on to the wind, and it will then weather the fiercest gale without injury, and drop back to work again as soon as it is over.

The Governing Device is very simple. It can be adjusted to make from 20 revolutions per minute to 60 in a moderate wind, and without blowing out of gear, and will always blow out in a gale. There is also provision for changing the length of stroke.

Special attention is paid to the construction of the Machinery or Engine proper, only the very best materials being used. Polished shafting and babbitt-lined boxes with cavity between the bearings in which is placed packing to hold oil, to prevent the necessity of frequent oiling. The pitman bearing is provided with a glass oiler that will hold a week's supply, so it is necessary to oil only when you can see from the ground that the glass oiler is empty.

The great and steadily increasing demand for these Engines is sufficient proof that their quality is unquestionable, and that they are especially adapted for this country, where the hot winds and occasional fierce gales forbid the use of any material liable to be affected thereby. They are now running in all parts of the Colony, and the universal opinion is, that they are the best.

Farmers will do well to remember that for watering stock, irrigating gardens, &c., a good Wind Engine is the most economical, simple, and efficient power that can be used, while for a water supply for domestic purposes or fire prevention it is a most important and valuable adjunct to a residence.

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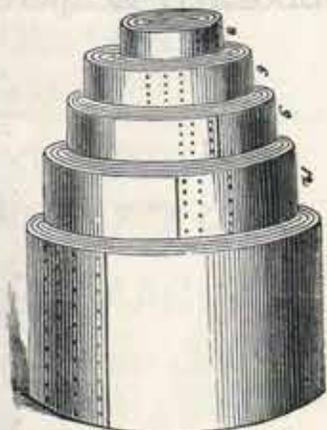
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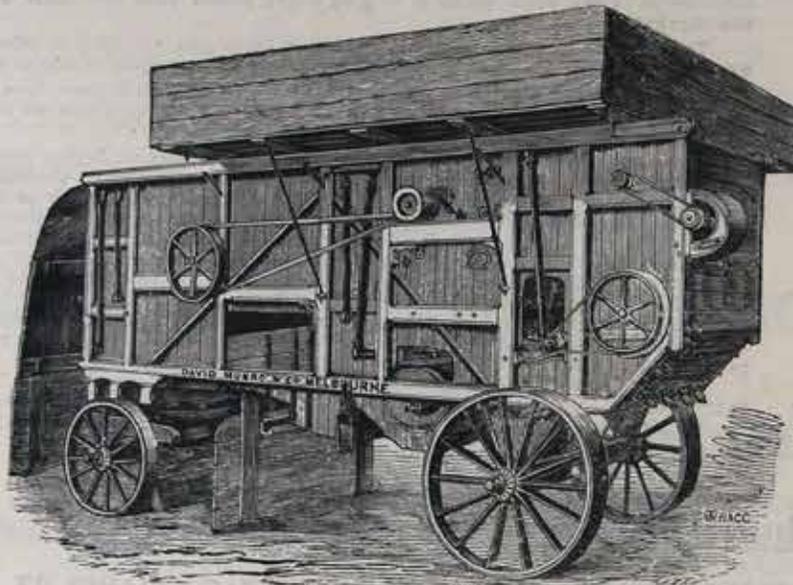
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VICTORIA

Vol. I.—No. 8. [Regd. as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, MARCH 12TH, 1886.

GRATIS.

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Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has
received from H. W. Emerson MacIVOR:—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my
eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of
detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration
in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MacIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,

LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

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The Best Disinfectant and Deodorant yet
produced.

Four times the strength of any Disinfectant
in the Market.

All who keep Horses, Dogs, or Poultry, and
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SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS.

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DAVIS
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UNEQUALLED FOR RANGE OF WORK AND EASE OF
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SIBLE PERAMBULATORS, with Bicycle Wheels and
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J. BARTRAM & SON,
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Are cash Buyers of all Dairy Produce at highest market rates
Consignments received.

Account Sales promptly rendered.
Advances if required.

Also, Sole Agents for

De Laval's Cream Separator

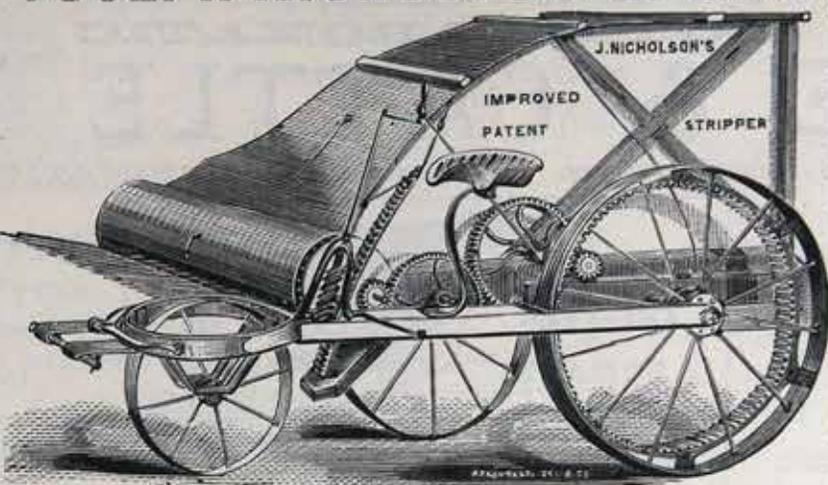
The Greatest of all Dairy Improve-
ments. From 15 to 20 per cent
more and better butter. Highest
market value. Great saving in
space, time, labor and the number
of utensils. The construction is
extremely simple, and requires no
mechanical knowledge to keep in
working order. The cost saved in
less than a year. Can be driven
by horse gear. Full particulars
post free on application.



STRIPPER PRIZES.

FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1885
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Melbourne International Exhibition Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Champion Gold Medal, National Agricultural Show, Melbourne, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Grand National Show at Echuca, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Corowa, N.S.W., Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Shepparton Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sydney Show, N.S.W., 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, March, 1883.

JOSEPH NICHOLSON & CO'S



PATENT SPUR GEARING STRIPPER.

The Most Successful Harvester in use.

STRIPPER PRIZES.

FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, August, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1883
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Tatura Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Geelong Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Hobart, Tasmania Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Longford, Tasmania, Show, 1883.
 GOLD MEDAL, Shepparton Field Trial, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rapanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Echuca Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.

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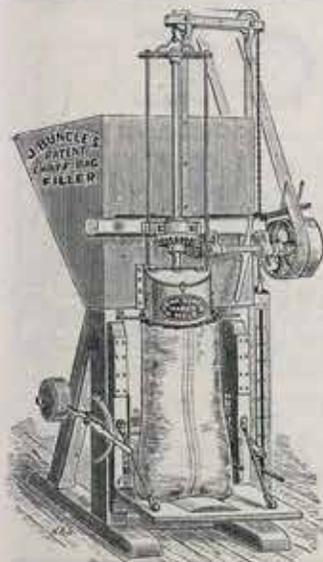
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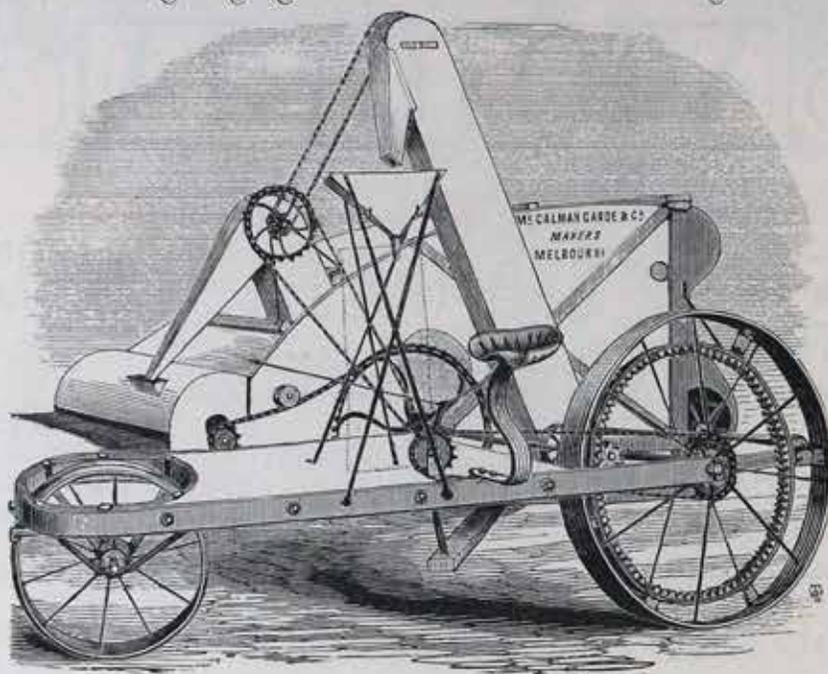
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 is published monthly—on the Friday
 after the Council Meeting in each
 month—is also forwarded to each
 Member.

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 tained on application to the Secre-
 tary at the office, or to Mr. John
 Hedrick, the Collector.

THOMAS PATTERSON,

SECRETARY.

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
 addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar,
 Bourke Street West, Melbourne.

Business communications to the Publishers,
 Somerset Place, 6 Little Bourke Street West.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
 requested to forward to the editor the dates on
 which their respective exhibitions will be held,
 also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
 they are published.

MARCH.

- 17.—Bass.
- 18.—Buln Buln.
- 19.—South Gippsland, at Port Albert.
- 24.—Glenlyon, Franklin, and Daylesford, at Daylesford.
- 24.—Dunolly.
- 24.—Ararat.
- 25.—Victoria, at Heidelberg.
- 25.—Warragul.

AUGUST.

- 23 & 24.—Australian Sheepbreeder's Associ-
 ation at Goldsbrough's, Bourke-street west.
- 25, 26, 27, 28.—National.

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ing; and it is just about as useless for them to continue such tactics, as it is for an officer to gallop on ahead shouting and gesticulating if his troops will not respond to his appeal. We believe that the fact of a young fellow being able to go to his 'old man' and get a cheque when he wants it; or on the other hand having to push and fight his way independently, has more to do with his being what is called conservative or liberal than all the leading articles that ever were written. No doubt we shall have parties here, but they will be on new lines, with the old barriers broken down, for when young Australians get the reins in hand as they are fast doing, they will necessarily run the state coach in an altered style. All honour to the pioneers—whom future generations will regard as heroes or apotheosize and worship; but they must give place to a different race, who, while profiting by the lessons to be learned from history, will strike out a policy of their own in no narrow contracted spirit—but broad and free as befits their noble inheritance. In this country where hares and rabbits multiply sixfold faster than at home, and where an oak tree grows as large in thirty years as it does in one hundred there; our worthy fathers have tried to continue not only the same old-world politics, but the same diet, the same manners and customs as well as the same stern creeds and doctrines, but they will all have to be modified to suit this antipodean and brighter clime. We commend Mr. Wrixon's speech to general attention, for though it tails off a little, the first portion is well worth perusal, as it is an education for young Australians.

Three Sister Societies.

We have before us the balance sheets of the National Agricultural Societies of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, for 1886, and we shall make some extracts which we believe will prove interesting. We merely give the figures, allowing our readers to do the moralizing. Members' subscriptions—Queensland (including £25 17s. 6d. from 1884) £577 6s. 6d.; Victoria, £568.; New South Wales, £475 11s. Donations—Victoria (exclusive of plate), £825 7s. 6d.; New South Wales, £547 18s. 6d.; Queensland, £205 12s. Privileges—Victoria, £582 15s. 3d.; Queensland, £310 10s.; New South Wales, £166 14s. Entrance fees and ground rent—Victoria, £245 19s. 4d.; Queensland, £48 14s. 6d.; New South Wales, £44 19s. 6d. Money taken at show yard gates—Queensland, £1787 8s. 11d.; Victoria, £1557 11s. 3d.; New South Wales, £1258 12s. 11d. Total revenue—New South Wales (including £450 6s. 10d. from Government), £7488 17s. 7d.; Victoria (including £1194 8s. 8d. from Government; £450 of the amount being for grand champion prizes of Australia) £5182 9s. 1d.; Queensland (including £800 from Government), £4143 15s. 1d. From the expenditure, we take the following:—Prizes awarded—Victoria, £2026 7s. 6d.; New South Wales, £939 15s.; Queensland, £516 16s. Salaries, wages and auditors' fees—New South Wales, £1299 15s. 3d.; Victoria, £479 19s.; Queensland, £458 17s. 10d.

The Bacchus Marsh Society.

The first Annual Meeting of this Society was held last month, when an approximate balance sheet was presented showing an overdraft of £766 14s. There is nothing like a good overdraft; it gives a Society a sense of its responsibilities, and makes the members of committee work. When people or institutions have too much money on hand, they are apt to become lethargic. This Society has put up substantial improvements on its grounds, so that the money has been judiciously expended. The several events of the year came off successfully, except perhaps the show, which though a good one, was marred by the unfavourable weather. Mr. T. Cain has been re-elected president, and we notice that Mr. C. Crisp has been appointed secretary, so that if materials are available for the development of the Society, it is bound to go ahead.

Importation of Holsteins.

Mr. Frederick Peppin, of Hawkridge, Epping, has lately imported to this colony a bull and a cow of the Holstein or Holstein-Friesian breed of cattle. The animals were on view at Kirk's Bazaar for a few days and attracted considerable attention. Their colour is black and white; or uagpie as stockmen would call them—not exactly the colour that is liked in the Melbourne cattle yards. However they are big lengthy cattle: and as they are splendid handlers, we infer from this that they are good doers and easily fattened, although that is not their greatest recommendation. It is on account of its milking properties that the breed is most highly prized. In America these cattle have come into great favour, and every agricultural paper has some allusion to them. To show their capabilities as milk and butter yielders we quote from *Colman's Rural World* that twenty-five cows of this breed averaged over 16,000 lbs. of milk in a year. Five cows averaged 20lbs. 7ozs. of butter in a week, and eleven 3 year olds (the entire number tested) average 13lbs. 2ozs. in the same time. These are splendid results, and we congratulate Mr. Peppin on his enterprise in introducing cattle of this character to the colony.

The Berwick Show.

WITH A DIGRESSION ON BUCKJUMPING.

The twenty-ninth Exhibition of the *Mornington Society*, was held at Berwick last month, under the most favourable circumstances. The day was beautifully fine and clear, and the country very inviting; the pastures being green, fresh and luxuriant. The show yards were clothed in a rich sward of short grass, and there was not a particle of dust, so that it was pleasant under foot; while the view of the surrounding hills was a treat to city visitors. If the committee would only advertise this Show well, and have a special train, they would do themselves and others good—themselves, by increasing their funds, and others, by giving them a chance of a most enjoyable outing.

The visitors who did go by the ordinary train, were delighted with their experiences. Five draught stallions of a good useful type were paraded, and the mares were very superior; but their foals and the young stock, looked as if a really tip-top sire would not be out of place in the district. The blood horses, which were described as light horses, were of a type we do not believe in, in fact, we hold such strong opinions on the fallacy of breeding from cross-bred sires, of which some of these were the progeny, that when time will permit, we shall have to devote a special article to the subject. The hackneys and ladies' palfreys were splendid classes, and a credit to any show yard, while the hunters and their high jumping were a great show. Dr. Plummer, who, it is an open secret, used to ride to hounds in the first flight in England, visited this show two years ago, when he said he had never seen such jumping in the country—and it will suffice to say its character was well maintained on this occasion. The shorthorns were few in number, and oh! what a falling off from former times. We have before us the awards at the Society's Exhibition at Cranbourne twenty-seven years ago, and we find the principal prize-takers in this class were Messrs. Lyall and Bakewell, (who were importers as well as breeders) Patterson (who won the gold medals for the best male and female), Mickle, C., and T. J. Rossiter, Dr. Adams, and Dr. Bathe. There was nothing but shorthorns exhibited in those days. Now, however, the Ayrshires and Alderneys, the dairy breeds (the farmers' cattle) have come to the front, and the Exhibition of the former at this show, was one of the finest to be seen anywhere. One of the judges, an experienced man, says that Mr. Buchanan, who took the lion's share of the prizes, has the real pure type of Ayrshire cattle, and his exhibits which were all in splendid condition, were a treat to see. In saying this, we allude to the females, for we never can admire an Ayrshire bull—he is just of the type which if we had seen on the run in the olden days, we would have put the dogs on, and hunted miles, if we had not done something worse. Some good fat cattle were penned. The few longwool sheep which were shown were of a superior character. The swine were a great falling off from the exhibits of eight or ten years ago, when Mr. Crichton used to scoop the pool, with his splendid animals which were so justly famous. The exhibits of farm produce were few, the wet season having prevented the saving of good-coloured samples. The butter and cheese were particularly good, and there was a splendid show of fruit. The apples and pears were very fine; while the first prize exhibit of grapes, had a special interest for the writer, who planted the vine on which they grew. A novel feature was introduced at this show, viz., a prize for the best buck-jump riding, and the business took place in a small paddock on the opposite side of the road from the yards. The first horse was ridden by young McLellan, and he went at it 'properly'—bucking through the fence and out into the road, but he was brought back by his rider triumphantly, amidst great cheering. The next horse was ridden by young Watson, and after bucking for some time, he charged right through the people and caused a general stampede. There was

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, MARCH 12th, 1886.

Country Life.

The advantages of Country life for the young are not duly appreciated. The increasing tendency of the people in this colony in common indeed with those of older communities is to drift towards the centres of population, and unduly increase the inhabitants of the large towns at the expense of the country districts. It is worth considering what effect this tendency will have on the physique of the race; and as some striking facts bearing on the subject have lately been made public, they are deserving of regard. Dr. Rose speaking in the Assembly said, he had discovered that young Victorians were weak and delicate, with poor organs, and as a necessity required special legislation about work hours. Mr. Chomley, the Chief Commissioner of Police, finds the reverse of this to be the case for out of a list of about 100 candidates lately accepted for the force, the majority were Victorian born, and a finer lot of men he says never presented themselves. Why is there such a conflict of evidence here? It is easily accounted for. Dr. Rose comparatively fresh from the old country, has practiced almost entirely in the city, and has been accustomed to the miserable white-faced youngsters brought up in town with little or no exposure to the sun, and healthy air of the country. On the other hand, the men who presented themselves for acceptance for the police force were born and reared in the rural districts, under circumstances favorable to sound physical development. Mr. Chomley is therefore able to congratulate himself on the material at his disposal. It is pleasing to find that the Chief Commissioner has had such an experience, and as that gentleman has courteously supplied us with a list of the tallest men who presented themselves, we are enabled to write authoritatively on the subject, for we find they were all country bred and reared. However there are greater considerations than mere height involved in the question. Dr. Simms, the celebrated physiognomist in his work, *Nature's Revelations of Character, or Physiognomy Illustrated*, says that strength of bone structure is allied to honesty, and reliability of mind; and that plenty of sunlight and open air exercise are essential to the development of the bony system. He goes on to say that "the bankers of London at the present moment are puzzled to devise some plan by which their clerks may be kept honest. I say the only way is to procure from the country districts boys who by the exercise necessary to farm life have finely developed bone forms, for with this class of organisation will be found stable honesty of character. Perhaps some finely dressed city fop may wink and wince, and say a country lad could not do the business, he would be 'so green.'" To controvert this idea, he instances George Peabody as a country boy who attained great success and wealth; and adds that nearly all the

London, and New York bankers were raised in the country, and do not seem so green as the city fops, who never mount the ladder of fame, or wander abroad except after gaslight. He mentions Washington, Lincoln, Sherman, and others, as great men who were all reared in the country, and we may add Garfield—for who has not read *From Log Cabin to White House*? No doubt Tennyson is full aware of the influence of a country rearing in giving force of character and strength of purpose for we read in *In Memoriam*.

Dost thou look back on what hath been,
As some divinely gifted man,
Whose life in low estate began
And on a simple village green;
Who breaks his birth's invidious bar,
And grasps the skirts of happy chance,
And breasts the blows of circumstance,
And grapples with his evil star;
Who makes by force his merit known,
And lives to clutch the golden keys,
To mould a mighty state decrees,
And shape the whisper of the throne;
And moving up from high to higher,
Becomes on Fortune's crowning slope
The pillar of a people's hope,
The centre of a world's desire.

The *New York Tribune* of a late date is ever more emphatic on the subject than Dr. Simms, for it says with regard to the alarming amount of dishonesty in that city "our remedy and regeneration must come from the more vigorous and better trained products of country life." With these facts before us how important becomes the physical development of the young in this direction, for what nobler work is there for parents and educators than building up a good solid basis upon which to rear the future fabric of civilisation in this young colony. Send the children to the country. That is the place to make good men of them. What is the use of men toiling in the city to leave fortunes to degenerate families to scatter in almost no time. No matter how rich a man is—we care not if he leave a million of money to his family it will be no use to them unless they are good men themselves. Life on a station with plenty of horseback exercise in the sunlight, and fresh air laden with the healthful fragrance of the gum trees is most desirable; for riding, while not unduly exercising the muscles is still sufficient to develop the bony system. Or farm life with its varied outdoor occupations on the fertile plains or 'the red-plow'd hills' is what will make a strong healthy race, with well-developed muscular and bony systems which will give them stability, physically, mentally, and morally.

Quality or Value.

THE question as to whether quality or value of exhibits should determine the awarding of prizes has long been a strongly debated point with judges at shows. Standing beside the horse ring at Berwick the other day, when there was a class of young blood stock inside, some of which would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to tell what kind of blood they were, we overheard a good judge remark that if they (the judges) went according to value, he knew which would get it. This remark recalled to mind the subject on which we are writing. The first time we remember the point being raised was long ago in relation to a pair of fat oxen. There were two of the mammoth work-

ing bullocks, which used to be grown before the country was fenced in, competing with a much less but really fatter pair. The prize was given to the mammoth pair, the judges arguing that they were worth the most money in the Melbourne market as fat cattle, hence deserved the prize, though the smaller bullocks were the fatter. In this case value won, but surely not justly, for the prize having been for a pair of fat oxen, one would think the fattest should have got it. Another case, in point, of more recent date was one in which a celebrated imported Clydesdale mare, when advanced in years, was shown as a dry mare. A very fine young colonial bred mare, bigger, heavier, and really worth more money at the time, was shown against her, and the old mare won, but was it right? These two extreme instances on opposite sides may be sufficient to call attention to the subject, and show that there is a good deal in it. Mr. A. Crichton, of Gembrook (who wishes his name to be mentioned), is a recognised judge, who visits many shows in that capacity, and he says this is the most difficult point he has to determine. He considers that societies should adopt some rule in the matter, or define how they wish their judges to award their prizes. In this opinion we concur, and as the question is one of considerable importance, and as there is plenty of scope to make the subject interesting, we shall be pleased to have it discussed in our columns.

The New Ministry.

The inclusion of Messrs. Dow and Derham (apt alliteration) in the new Ministry should be matter for congratulation amongst the farmers, for if those gentlemen have the courage of their convictions, and are backed up by Parliament, a real revolution should take place in agricultural matters. Mr. Dow will, doubtless, see that the societies are placed on a more satisfactory and influential footing by their federation, and he and Mr. Derham, will, we hope, provide ample facilities for giving our youth opportunities of education under circumstances alluded to in our leading article. The idea of irrigating the northern areas is a capital one, and one, which in the interests of colony, we trust to see successfully carried out. But the Premier must surely be doing a little electioneering 'blowing' when he speaks of giving away large sums of money to irrigate private lands. His constituents, doubtless, think this very patriotic, but we fancy the selectors in the Gippsland forests have just as good a right to expect the Government to give them money for nothing to clear the big trees off their selections; and the principle once admitted there is no saying where it would end. This, however, is scarcely the basis on which we expect to see either scheme carried out. It was a treat to read the speech which Mr. Wrixon, the Attorney-General, delivered at Portland. What do we want in Victoria with the extreme party issues and feuds of England? Long ago we noticed that the organs which were keeping up these dissensions were much more extreme than the people whose ideas they were supposed to represent. But they are cooling down, they can't get a follow-

a fence round the ground, with an acacia hedge on the inside, and a young man was just getting over it, when the horse bucked right into the fence, and shot the fellow clean out into the road. The animal at last gave in, and the rider received the plaudits of the crowd. The buck-jumping was pretty good, but we have seen better; and we do not say this inadvisedly, for many a time we have sat on the stock-yard fence, and seen the horse-breakers put colts through in the times when horses were not handled till they were seven or eight years old. We remember a Warhawk mare, beautiful as Hebe, who could buck a saddle off—for she did it—with her near foreleg strapped up with a stirrup leather; and a Birdcatcher mare, a little beauty, but an incorrigible buck-jumper, who would always buck, and after two days' spell, even when ridden down as poor as a crow, would perform, when mounted, till she fell in the slippery yard—being too weak to stand. But the greatest buck-jumper in all our recollection, was a black horse up to 15 stone, brought, after having been mounted, to be backed as a favour for the first (?) time. He was quiet to handle, and the saddle was put on him without a kid. He stood it all quite complacently, but as soon as he was mounted in a big stock-yard, at it he went; and talk about buck-jumping—excruciating buck-jumping—this was it. He bucked into the corner of the yard twice, but found that would not do, and then he took the full length of the yard angle-wise, and threw a terrible energy into his performance, which was not straight-forward bucking, but malignant, diabolical buck-jumping. He shifted his rider at the bottom of the yard, and threw him nearly through the middle rail of the big seven foot fence—the only time we ever saw him thrown with fair bucking, though he often had spills through horses falling on him. Once, we remember, he got on the Warhawk mare, before mentioned. She had a magnificent head and neck, like the pictures of the Godolphin Barb, and she used to put her head right down between her forelegs out of sight, and go at it. This time she overdid it, and bucked clean over—a fearful crash—on the fellow, who must, when falling, have caught sight of one of the men who had been assisting him, for when the mare rose he threw up his arms and fell back moaning 'Oh! Jimmy, I'm killed.' But this is a digression—and so is buck-jump riding from the ordinary show programmes. While we believe in making shows attractive in every possible way, it is questionable if it is fair to take the people out of the yards as was done here. The machinery exhibits were unimportant, except the De Laval Cream Separator, which was shown at work on the ground, and attracted a great deal of attention during the day.

The Dandenong Show.

THE annual exhibition of the Dandenong and South Bourke Agricultural and Horticultural Society was held at Dandenong this month, and was a great success as far as the attendance was concerned. The show itself, however, was not up to the standard of previous ones, and was merely a repetition—less a great many of the exhibits—of that held at

Berwick the week before. To persons outside the district, the necessity for two shows so close together in time and place is not apparent, and it seems a pity that some arrangement could not be made whereby they could be amalgamated. Dandenong has few resources within itself to make a show, being dependent on Mornington for the great bulk of its exhibits, and it is only through having really good men at the head of affairs that the show has been kept going. The gentlemen who run the Society are not only good men, who are contented to rest on their reputation as such, but men who work hard and continuously in the interests of their Society. Were their energy and "go" combined with the more conservative elements of the much older established Mornington Society, the result would be one strong institution on an extended basis; having a wide area of usefulness and a powerful influence for good.

Establishment of this Journal.

(From the National Society's Annual Report)

By permission of the president, the secretary submitted a letter to the Council, in which he suggested that they should consider the question of establishing a journal in connection with the society, and also undertake the publication of a draught horse stud book, as well as of herd books for shorthorn Ayrshire and Alderney cattle, with a view of enlarging the basis of the Society's operations and increasing its subscribers. The letter was referred to a committee who recommended that in their opinion it was desirable that a journal should be established in connection with the Society, that it be called the journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and that it be issued monthly and supplied free to members. They also recommended the appointment of the secretary of the Society as editor, and that three members of Council be appointed an editing committee. This report was adopted, and the president, with Messrs. F. Peppin and D. Munro, were appointed an Editing Committee. Steps were then taken to ascertain if any firm would print the journal for the privilege of the advertisements, and the secretary interviewed a number of the heads of business houses with that object. Several offers were obtained, and that of Messrs Kemp and Boyce, which was the most satisfactory, was accepted. The first issue of the journal was published in August, and it has continued regularly since.

The printers and publishers, who have turned it out in an exceedingly creditable style, are satisfied with their undertaking, and the journal has been well received amongst the members of the society, especially those residing in the country. Several favourable notices regarding it have appeared in the press, one of which after pronouncing the articles interesting and instructive concluded as follows.—"Altogether this new addition to agricultural literature if it continues on its present lines, bids fair to be recognised as an authority on all matters appertaining to the cause to which it is specially devoting itself." The National Agricultural and Industrial Association of

Queensland, also stimulated by the example of this society, have just established a monthly journal on somewhat similar lines, so that its influence has already extended beyond Victoria. A number of English, Scotch, and American Agricultural papers, as well as others from the colonies, have been received as exchanges for the journal. These are filed in the office, and are available for reference by the members of the Society.

Meetings.

THE annual general meeting of the members of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, 18th February, 1886.

Present:—Dr. Plummer, President, in the chair, with a fair attendance of members.

At noon the President appointed Mr. W. J. Lobb as deputy to conduct the election by ballot.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. W. J. Lobb moved that the Council's annual report to the subscribers be taken as read and adopted, seconded by Mr. Robert Simson, and carried.

The Audited Financial Statement was read as well as the last clause of the annual report relating to finance. It showed that the Society would realise, in round numbers, a profit of £1,200 on the year's transactions.

Mr. Robert Simson moved the adoption balance-sheet congratulating the Society on the success of the year's operations, seconded by Mr. D. R. McGregor, and carried.

The motion of which Mr. J. G. Brisbane had given notice, was in his absence, allowed to lapse.

This concluded the general business, and the President then conducted the election till 3 p.m., when the ballot closed.

Messrs. J. Finlay and J. Garton were appointed scrutineers, and the result of the ballot was found to be in favour of the following gentlemen, whom the President declared duly elected, viz.:—Dr. Plummer, William Learmonth, W. J. Lobb, John Buncle, Hugh Lennon, Charles Lynott, S. G. Staughton, James Gibb, John Currie, John Hurst, Robert Clarke, Frederick Peppin, Charles Young, Samuel Gardiner, William McCulloch and William Thomson.

Mr. Currie proposed a vote of thanks to the President for conducting the election, which was seconded by Mr. Learmonth, and carried with acclamation.

The meeting then closed.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, 9th March, 1886.

PRESENT.—Messrs. F. Peppin, F. Henty, C. Lynott, J. Gibb, W. Thomson, W. J. Lobb, W. Learmonth, J. Hearn, D. R. McGregor, D. Mitchell, J. Garton, J. Malcolm, R. Simson, D. Munro, J. Currie, John Buncle, and Dr. Plummer.

Mr. F. Henty was voted to the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting was read and confirmed.

In accordance with rule 18, the Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who had been elected members of Council at the annual meeting.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Mr. Mitchell moved that Dr. Plummer be re-elected president; seconded by Mr. Garton, and carried unanimously.

Dr. Plummer then took the chair, and thanked the Council for the honour conferred on him.

Mr. Thomson proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Plummer for his great services to the Society during the past year; seconded by Mr. Simson, and carried.

Messrs. F. Peppin, W. J. Lobb, James Gibb, and D. R. Macgregor were unanimously elected Vice-Presidents.

Mr. McGregor called the attention of the meeting to the retirement of Mr. Peck from the Council, and submitted the following resolution:—

"That this Council desires to place on its records its regret that Mr. Peck should find it necessary to retire from this Council, as during his long term of office, he has been indefatigable in furthering the interests of the Society in every way, and always willing to take the heaviest burden in carrying out our exhibitions."

Seconded by Mr. Simson, and carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The President and Messrs. John Finlay, John Currie, T. Learmonth, and D. R. McGregor, were appointed a Finance Committee.

The President and Messrs. Munro, McGregor, Bunclie, and Brunton, were appointed a Works Committee.

In connection with this Committee, Mr. Mitchell, the Chairman for the past year, reported that he had given the architects certain instructions with regard to the grand stand, and moved that they be adopted by the Council; also that the work be completed by the 1st of August, under a penalty of £10 per day for overtime. Seconded by Mr. Simson, and carried.

Mr. Bunclie proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Mitchell for his services during the past year. Seconded by Mr. Garton, and carried.

The appointment of a Show Committee was postponed.

The Sub-Committee appointed to report on the publication of a stud book, was re-elected.

FINANCE.

The Secretary reported the state of the Society's funds, and asked the Council to pass payments amounting to £79 1s.

Mr. Finlay moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Currie, and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Postponed letter read from Woolgrowers' Association, asking the Council's co-operation in obtaining support for their institution.

Mr. McGregor moved that the Council recommend the objects of the Association to the subscribers of the Society. Seconded by Mr. Peppin, and carried.

From D. Mitchell, asking nine months' leave of absence as a Vice-President, as he was about to visit England to be present at the Colonial and Indian

Exhibition, where he was a Commissioner.

Mr. Munro moved that the request be granted. Seconded by Mr. Bunclie and carried.

From Shepparton Society, asking Dr. Plummer, as President of the Federated Agricultural Societies, to ascertain on what terms the Journal of the National Agricultural Society could be supplied to that Society for distribution among its members.

Mr. McGregor moved that the letter be referred to the Editing Committee. Seconded by Mr. Thomson, and carried.

From J. M. Peck, enclosing a letter from a gentleman who wished his name suppressed, offering a sum of £20 towards a prize for portable steam engines, to be tested by competent judges, by brake and indicator. 1st, with a view of ascertaining their actual or indicated horse power, the weight of engine being taken into consideration; 2nd, the actual amount of fuel and water consumed per horse power per hour.

Mr. Thomson moved that the offer be accepted, and the letter referred to the Show Committee. Seconded by Mr. Bunclie, and carried.

A petition was read from a number of Kyneton horse breeders, calling attention to the evil of continuing the show for four days for live stock, and pointing out the inconvenience of loading up stock on Saturday night. They also said they were so convinced of the necessity for a change, that unless it was granted they could not consent to exhibit again.

The President regretted that this request should have been made under a threat of withdrawing support unless it was granted.

Mr. Thomson explained that the Kyneton breeders complained, not so much of being kept till 5 o'clock in the yards on Saturday night, but of the subsequent delay in the trucks. He believed if different arrangements were made by the Railways, the objections would be met.

The matter was postponed till next meeting, the President and Secretary to see the railway Commissioners in the meantime.

Mr. Brisbane (per letter) gave notice of motion for next meeting, as follows:—"If any office-bearer, with the exception of the Trustees, shall be absent from three consecutive Monthly Meetings of the Council, without leave having been obtained, his seat shall be declared vacant."

The President, before the meeting broke up, said that he wished to express to the Council his appreciation of the efficient services of the Secretary, and to acknowledge the assistance he had received from him during his past year of office.

The meeting was then adjourned to Tuesday, 16th March.

Plinlimmon, who has just won the championship prize at the St. Bernard Show, weighs 14st. 4lbs., and is supposed to be the heaviest dog of any species in all canine history, past or present.

A good composition to make boots proof against wet is composed of one part mutton suet and twice that quantity of beeswax melted together.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer, Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S. will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a *post mortem* examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum, may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

Dr. E. KLEIN, F.R.S., contributed an important article to last week's *Lancet* on "The Etiology of Foot and Mouth Disease. Dr. Klein says:—"For some time past I have been engaged in an inquiry into the etiology of foot and mouth disease, carried out for the Medical Department, of the Local Government Board, and I have ascertained that this disease is caused by a micrococcus, which I obtained by cultivating artificially the lymph taken from the vesicles of a sheep affected with this disease. The micrococcus is present in the lymph, and in the tissue of the vesicles as dumb-bells and chains. It grows well in alkaline peptone and broth, in solidified blood-serum, in solid agar-agar peptone broth mixture, in solid nutritive gelatine mixture (which is not liquefied by it), and in milk. Its mode of growth in solid media is so typical and characteristic, that by the naked eye inspection alone it can easily be detected. When any of the above solid media is inoculated with this micrococcus, after several days a thin limited film makes its appearance at, and immediately around the point of inoculation; this film slowly spreads, but from the outset and afterwards presents a very characteristic appearance to the unaided eye, being in fact a collection of closely-placed minute granules or droplets. These gradually and slowly enlarge and assume a whitish translucent character. If the inoculation is made with the point of a needle or platinum wire, or of a capillary pipette, pushed into the solid medium, the channel of inoculation, becomes, after several days to several weeks, marked as a linear aggregation of minute granules or droplets; in addition to this, there is on the surface the above-mentioned film of granules starting from the point of inoculation. The growth of this micrococcus is extremely slow; in solid nutritive gelatine mixture, kept at temperatures from 13 degrees to 22 degrees C., the first traces of the growth in the shape of a small cluster of transparent granules visible under a lense, are noticeable at the end of from five to eight days, or even later; in agar-agar mixture, kept at 35 degs. to 38 degs. C., it is of course sooner visible, but even after six or seven months, in all media and under all conditions, the growth remains of limited extent. Also in milk, kept at temperatures varying between 30 and 38 degs. C., the progress of the growth is extremely slow; the milk retains perfectly its natural aspect and condition; no curdling occurs, although the reaction becomes distinctly acid. In artificial media the micrococcus forms, beside dumb-bells (diplococcus) beautiful chains (streptococcus). These differ in length according to the number of micrococci composing them, the short chains being a linear series of four, six, or eight micrococci, the longer ones of more than eight up to thirty and more micrococci. The longer chains are always curved, and even convoluted. The above-mentioned characteristic granular

an early age. We have endeavoured to prove that, though breeders were in this respect to hold in their hand very considerably, there would, in the ordinary circumstances attending young and rising breeders, be ample material forthcoming for the juvenile class; ample, we say, because it is not intended, and is certainly not desirable, that this class should be other than numerically the smallest in the yard. Two blacks, proverbially never make a white; but it may be some, though very sober, consolation to us in Scotland, to know that we have not encouraged exhibition of breeding stock so early as the Royal Agricultural Society of England has done. Until last year, the "Royal" had a class for animals under twelve months, which simply meant unweaned calves. The classification in England has now been altered to the Scotch order, only that there are three classes of heifers in the former instead of two in the latter. The Scotch arrangement is infinitely the better, for this reason that heifers about the age of three in milk can perfectly well compete among cows, and no encouragement should be lent to the exhibition of animals under twelve months of age. Thanks, doubtless, to the classification which obtained at the leading English show prior to 1882, the tendency to exhibit calves of seven, eight, nine, or ten months is still strong. Of the fact that it is time that practice were stopped, probably no stronger evidence could be furnished than that few if any of the beasts so overdone as calves, are able to pull to the front in after years. They are, indeed, not much seen or heard of afterwards. Our argument against very hard feeding early finds a by no means inappropriate illustration in the case of the shorthorn heifers of the Rev. Mr. Bruce Kennard, Marshill, Dorset. His celebrated "Queen Mary," previously alluded to, was not brought out as a calf or under eighteen months old; his "Blossom 5th" was. The latter had a narrow run for first honours in the calf class at Carlisle Royal in 1880. She got second, and then lost a place the following year at Derby, while at the Reading Royal Show in 1882 she was only accorded a highly commended ticket. It was different with "Queen Mary"—not that the two were equally good beasts, but the one lost ground, whereas the other maintained it. This chiefly arose through "Queen Mary" not having been forced so early as the other.

When one looks calmly on, it should not require very great perspicuity to feel convinced that an animal fattened into the plumpest of beef, ere it is in months out of its "teens," cannot, as a rule, continue for several years thereafter in good showyard condition, and breed satisfactorily at the same time. If the forcing goes on from the day of the calf's birth, as is not uncommon, the chances of decent public appearances in after years are reduced. In short, if you find beef where, age considered, you expect veal, disappointment is more than likely to follow both showing and breeding after the animal is three years old. In proof of this we might adduce many instances. For space's sake we shall only take one, and that is Lady Pigot's "Zedvesda." She was first yearling at the Bath and West of England Show at Croydon in 1875, and at the "Royal" the same year. Gradually thereafter she fell off, having had a narrow victory the following year, and by the time she reached three years she had gone considerably to pieces. As a breeder, too, she was a comparative failure, but in that respect she was far from alone among the animals fattened at high-pressure speed as calves and yearlings.

With regard to sheep, the fattening of lambs, if breeding is the object, is injurious to a stock; hence the fact that for lambs, at the Highland Society's Shows prizes are offered only in the case of those hill-breeds, blackfaced and Cheviots whose lambs are at the date of the exhibition not usually weaned. It may be doubted, however, if even these should be continued.* It is not good for the future of the lambs to have them in such high condition as the showyard specimens generally are. Early enough it may be to wean hill lambs in the last week of July, but an effort should be made to spare the youngsters of extravagant diet. Hitherto these intended for the showyard, along with their dams, get, in addition to arable land grass, corn and cake. This is not good for the ewes, but it is worse for the lambs, and suggests the propriety of withdrawing the prizes for lambs in breeding shows. It is different with fat shows. When the production of "lamb" or mutton as early and as economically as possible is the main object, as is the aim of such as the Smithfield and Birmingham Fat Shows, too much encouragement cannot be offered to young stock. Accordingly, the classes opened the other year for fat lambs at Smithfield have grown year by year in popularity and attractiveness. A great deal of really

very prime mutton, not "lamb," has appeared in these classes latterly, notably those of the Hampshire Down variety. In fat shows, therefore, classes for lambs should be opened, of all the arable land and Down breeds of sheep, but not for hill stocks. In breeding stock exhibitions, the fewer lambs that appear the better.

In the case of pigs, somewhat similar remarks apply. It is not advisable to fatten young breeding pigs highly, but it has been observed that swine suffer less injury from obesity than some of the other varieties of stock; that is to say, the procreative qualities of a pig seem less affected by fat than are those of cattle, sheep, or horses. The pig, of all domesticated animals, is a feeder. It will get fat too on a diet that most animals would make but a very spare subsistence upon; nay, more, it will breed tolerably well in a high state of obesity, and it certainly has this to do in the case, at any rate, of national showyard prizewinners. By the way, it may be mentioned that in Scotland the breeding and rearing of pigs has not yet received the attention it deserves or has been accorded in England. One result of this is, that the populous centres have to import the most of their ham and bacon; another is, that the breed of pigs in Scotland being of an inferior description—big boned and slow in maturing—a great deal of food is comparatively wasted on swine; while a third is that the display of pigs at the Highland Society's Shows is usually confined to a few exhibitors. That is not so in England. There is more competition, and, as a rule, finer animals in the pig classes at the national English show than at the Scotch. To the same extent this does not obtain in the other races of stock, which clearly proves that the common variety of pigs in Scotland is out of date. We know it is. If Scotchmen, much more numerous than has yet been the case, would introduce the best English sorts, such as the Berkshire and the medium-sized white breeds, a better return would be earned for the food consumed by swine and more interest, because better profits would be centred in Scotch piggeries. Both in pigs and in poultry Scotch farmers are lacking in taste and interest, which is a great mistake. Properly attended to, and well bred to begin with, pigs, as well as poultry, will pay the farmer or producer, though many practical farmers of the old school may be rather sceptical on this point. The fact is, that in Scotland farmers have been too apt to view pigs and poultry as nuisances rather than sources of revenue. One result of the lack of interest in these varieties of live stock, has been that the old-fashioned breeds have not been supplanted by newer and improved sorts in the same degree as has been observable in the bovine and ovine species. Pigs and poultry, both in respect of breed and of housing, as well as diet, should receive more attention from Scotch agriculturists than they have hitherto done. If that were so, there would be less outcry about mischievous fowls and destructive swine than one still occasionally hears on a Scotch farm. In England and Ireland, these branches of husbandry are better understood and practised; while for poultry-rearing France beats the United Kingdom, and for pig production America carries the palm for quantity though not quality. English pigs, in the latter respect, would be ill to beat.

In conclusion, we may summarise the foregoing arguments and advocacies in the following terms:—

1. Shows of live stock have been decidedly beneficial to the agriculture of this or any other country in which they have been for a good many years in operation.
2. They are not now of quite so much service in Britain as they once were, but are still of sufficient utility to not only justify but demand the continued adherence of stock owners.
3. The national exhibitions are especially worthy of support. The local and district shows have become almost oppressively numerous, notably in Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, and Lanarkshire. Two, three, or more of these should amalgamate, and thus save time, trouble, and expence to both exhibitors and visitors.
4. Local and district shows, however, being feeders of the larger gatherings, and affording as they do a chance of the exhibition of stock in a comparatively moderate state of obesity, they should receive all reasonable encouragement, but should be reduced in number considerably in the north-east and south-west of Scotland, where they overlap each other in area, and where almost the same animals win at two, three, or even more shows, thus narrowing the interest in the meetings, and defeating to some extent the purposes of the exhibition.

5. Young breeders should not rush into the showyard with animals bred by other people, and bought at high prices; neither should they, when desirous of starting a herd, purchase first prize animals in a highly overfed state. Animals so selected generally lead to disappointment both in the showyard and breeding herd.

6. Noblemen and gentlemen, including rent-paying tenant farmers, who have in comparatively recent years begun pedigree stock breeding, should exercise a little more patience than many have done in the past regarding national showyard honours. They should exhibit sparingly for a good many years, and not feel depressed though they may miss their mark several times at the outset. Their first object, however, should be to establish their herd in respect of breeding regularity. They may then show by degrees as they get a really good thing, and can spare it without ruining the herd.

7. Older breeders, who have by showyard performances and other means acquired for their stocks a high reputation and a good name, should not fatten for the showyard extensively. A few good lots now and again may be prepared to keep up the fame of the stock.

8. Animals not intended very early for the butcher, and coming before the public as breeding stock, should not be fattened to the highest pitch as either calves or yearlings, or so long as the beasts are growing.

9. Young breeders may fatten a few yearlings occasionally, after they have got their stocks established, but old breeders, whose herds have already acquired fame, should not indulge in the pampering of yearling cattle or of lambs for the national showyards. Horses in Scotland are not so frequently overfed in youth as they are in England for the showyard. In both countries the colts and fillies are too fat at the age of three years for successful breeding; in England yearlings are fattened too hard for their legs, feet, and future work, apart altogether from breeding considerations.

10. With the view of endeavouring to grapple if possible with the overfeeding evils associated with national stock exhibition, a small committee, of say, three practical men, might be selected to inspect the breeding stock at the leading shows as they enter the yard. The Committee, however, would require to allow a considerable margin, as the same amount of visible obesity does not apparently affect the breeding properties of two animals alike. Still some good might be done in this direction without any hardship.

11. Knowing as we do that animals cannot make a respectable appearance after undergoing the fatigues of a railway journey of hundreds of miles, unless they are in prime condition, we can hold out no hope of all risk to the procreative properties being obviated; but by the exercise of better judgment in the selection and preparations of the showyard specimens, and the fattening of rather fewer, especially of youngsters, the disadvantages of showing may be substantially reduced—may indeed be lowered to a tolerable magnitude. They are getting gradually nearer that stage as compared with a dozen years ago, not, however, so much through moderation in diet as from limitation of the number of animals which old established breeders nowadays fatten for national contests, and the absence of yearlings from some of the best known herds. But, as before indicated, much more might be accomplished in this direction with no material detriment to the exhibitions and positive gain to the breeders.

12. While thus British agriculture would not be quite itself without its annual live stock shows,—and must have them continued.—there is now less necessity for increasing the premium attractions than there is for devoting more of the societies' resources to the encouragement of other branches of agriculture, such as the propagation of new varieties of seeds and roots, the checking of manure and seed adulterations, and the encouragement of scientific investigation in the field.

13. Turning finally, and very shortly, to a comparison of the disadvantages of live stock shows, either breeding or fat, it will be gathered from what has been written already, that the former dwarf the latter in our estimation. Shows afford to breeders and feeders an opportunity which they would not otherwise possess, and to which they are not unfairly entitled, of displaying to the world the merits of their stock; they afford one exhibitor a chance of comparing his animals with another's; they enable farmers

appearance of the growth, is owing to the presence of smaller or larger masses of chains matted together. Subcutaneous inoculation with artificial cultivations, produce no perceptible disorder, but by feeding sheep with them—with a twentieth generation—the typical disease has been reproduced—viz., vesicles and ulcerations on the feet. From the vesicle of such an animal lymph was obtained, which, on cultivation, yielded the same micrococci, characterised by the same slow growth and the same typical general appearance as those used for the experiment. There can, then, be no question about the identity of this peculiar micrococcus with the cause of the disease. Five sheep have been subcutaneously inoculated with active cultivations of the micrococcus, but neither locally nor generally was there any definite perceptible change produced. Subsequent feeding of these same sheep with the active micrococcus had no result. I conclude from this, that a previous subcutaneous inoculation with the micrococcus, provides the animals with immunity against the disease. I hope soon to be able to test this point on a larger series of animals. Subcutaneous inoculation of the same micrococcus into guinea-pigs produced no result; feeding was followed by death after from two or three weeks. Out of six animals which received with their food, a small quantity of milk containing the micrococci, three died—one from ulceration and perforation of the large curvature of the stomach."—*Live Stock Journal*.

On the Present State of Agriculture in Great Britain.

IV.

I now come to what I consider the principal remedy—viz. Emigration. In a speech, in the House of Lords, Lord Brabazon said, "that every ten years, between three and four million more mouths have to obtain food in this country; and, inasmuch as the soil of England is not elastic and cannot be made to produce a greatly increased quantity of food, as England at this moment cannot supply all her sons with an adequate meal a day, and as she already has to import half the food she consumes, the problem how we are to feed our surplus population is becoming a very serious one. Its solution is to be found, he argues, in the Government making advances to able-bodied and industrious men, desirous of emigrating, but not possessing the means to do so, of the necessary funds by way of loan, under strict guarantees for its repayment with moderate interest added. At present, private emigration does not touch the present over-population of the country by 340,000 souls annually; and if an end be not speedily put to the fearful struggle for life in east and south London, and in most of the large towns, it must result, says the noble writer, 'in some fatal national catastrophe.'"

We see in the recent riots in London and elsewhere what he said is now becoming true. John Bright, in a speech before the Royal Commission to enquire into the distressed condition of agriculture, said—"I should like the Commission to inquire into a few facts which I will mention. They would find out that in England and Wales sixty-six persons own 2,000,000 acres of land; that one hundred persons own 4,000,000 acres; that seven hundred and ten persons own more than one quarter of the whole soil of England and Wales. If they crossed the Tweed, and inquired about Scotland, they would find out of 19,000,000 acres of land in that country twelve persons own 4,346,000

acres, or nearly one quarter of the whole of Scotland; that seventy persons own 9,400,000 acres, or one half of the whole land of Scotland; that seventeen hundred persons own nine-tenths of all the land in that country; while the remaining one-tenth was all that was left to the remaining portion of the population." Scotchmen, where is your independence? The sooner it is revived the better it will be for yourselves. "If they go to Ireland they will find that out of 20,000,000 acres 292 persons own six and a half millions of acres; that 744 persons own nine and a half millions of acres, or nearly one half of the land of Ireland! And, to sum up, they would find that two-thirds of the soil of England and Wales is held by 100,200 persons; that two-thirds of Scotland is owned by 330 persons; and that two-thirds of Ireland is owned by 1,942 persons." Eight thousand families, who own 46,500,000 acres of land, for which they pay only eighty thousand or one hundred thousand pounds per year, now receive from the land an annual income of twenty millions.

In the towns and villages it is much the same. A writer says—"While we have been building churches and solacing ourselves with our religion, and dreaming that the millenium was coming, the poor have been growing poorer, the wretched more miserable, and the immoral more corrupt; the gulf has been daily widening which separates the lowest classes of the community from all decency and civilisation." He says he has "not selected cases." There is "no exaggeration. On the contrary, pen cannot write, printer would not print, the worst. "The people are crowded together amidst horrors which call to mind the middle passage of the slaveship. To get at them you have to penetrate courts reeking with poisonous and maldorous gases, arising from accumulations of sewage and refuse scattered in all directions, and often flowing beneath your feet; courts the sun never penetrates, never visited by fresh air, and which rarely know the virtues of a drop of cleansing water. Here are a few sentences at random—"Rotten staircases." "Passages dark, long, filthy, and swarming with vermin." "Filt is exuding through cracks in the walls." "Eight feet square is the average size of many of the rooms." "The furniture, rough boards resting on bricks, an old soap box, or more frequently still nothing but rubbish and rags." "In one cellar, a father, mother, three children, and four pigs." "In another room a man ill with small-pox, his wife recovering from her eighth confinement, the children covered with dirt." "In another room a widow, three children, and a little child which had been dead *thirteen days*." "In another, *nine* brothers and sisters, from twenty-nine years of age downwards, live, eat, and sleep together." "You are choked as you enter by the air laden with the smell of skins of rabbits, rats, dogs, being prepared for the furrier." "The paste and match boxes and other sickly odours overpower you." "Who can wonder that nameless vices and horrible diseases fester in such hotbeds?" "Ask if the men and women are husband and wife, and the reply is a smile. Nobody knows—nobody cares!" The poverty of the people is like this. For making men's shirts women are paid 10d. a dozen. "Here is a women with a sick husband and a little child to look after. She is a shirt finisher at 3d. a dozen, and by her utmost effort can earn 6d. a day, from which she has to pay for her thread!" Those extracts show the state of things, and how are they to be remedied? (Full grown men cannot get work at 2s. per day, women as I have shown, 6d. per day.)

Now you will have read of the Highland Crofters; these men live in a barren and sterile country, and only manage to eke out a livelihood by hard work and what they can get from the sea.—The *Scotsman* says—"There are districts in the Islands where the people cannot make a decent living, and where nothing the proprietors could do could enable them to make such a living. They cannot move, because they have no means wherewith to move. In Canada, or in one or other of the colonies, they would make a good living; why should not the State help them with advances to get there? The experience of the settlers sent out by Lady Gordon Cathcart, has been such as to warrant the best hopes from State help in this direction. Why, then, should not that help be given, as it has been given in Ireland? Within certain limits the requirement of the landed proprietors as to State help in these matters will have general support, and to show their state in a new country I append the following:—Dr. MacGregor remarked that all he had said two years ago about the fertility of the land in the Canadian North-West had been more than borne out. The young were those who should go out—persons used to agriculture. The settler who intended farming his own land, should have at least £125 clear capital on his arrival, and it would be better if he had more. Dealing with the practical matter of emigration, he asked, how was the poor man in this country to get there? There were multitudes of people in this and other countries, he said, who were precluded from taking advantage of the splendid opportunities which the Dominion Government held out to them, for the simple reason that they were utterly unable to pay the expenses of emigration. The only remedy, he thought, was voluntarily to assist the transference of unutilised labour to lands where labour was in great demand. Where the means of emigration were almost or altogether wanting, it was the duty of the Government of this country to intervene, and by some wisely considered scheme, to accomplish a work of Imperial necessity; a work which private benevolence was unable to do, and colonisation companies were not likely to undertake. He believed it would and must come to that in the long run. What was wanted here, as elsewhere, was more light all round, and a far more accurate knowledge, especially among the working classes, as to what our colonies really were.

In Glasgow, this winter, hundreds of men are working for 7s. per week and their dinner. I say let the Government institute a proper scheme of emigration, more especially for these colonies. Each colony could take a thousand or two a month of the right sort, and I am glad to see they (the Government) are being forced into doing something; but our Government have set their faces against assisted emigration, and the people themselves, ground down by poverty, cannot emigrate at their own expense. And it seems, that as I have quoted in the paragraph, the fears of a national catastrophe alone will awaken them. I could quote other extracts showing the state of the working classes, but I deem it unnecessary. Let us hope that like everything the Government of Britain seems to do nowadays, the remedy may not be—too late—too late.

A. G. YOUNG.

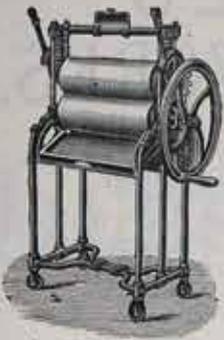
Advantages and Disadvantages of Breeding Stock Shows.

(CONCLUDED.)

Almost all societies offer smaller prizes for yearlings than for older classes. There are no doubt two reasons for that. One is, that the exhibition in a very high state of obesity of young breeding stock is not to be encouraged, and another is that it is not such a feat to win with an occasional youngster as it is with a more matured animal. We should probably say more matured in size rather than in fattening, because many of the yearlings presented at the national breeding stock shows are the primest of beef. That tends more to demonstrate the early ripening properties of the various breeds than it does to further the objects of breeding. Nevertheless, it may serve a salutary purpose, though it may perform in some measure what a fat stock exhibition is better fitted to accomplish.

The objects of this paper will be at least partially served if breeders of cattle are induced to fatten fewer of their stock for the showyard at

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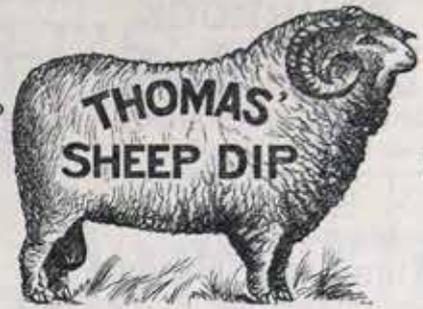
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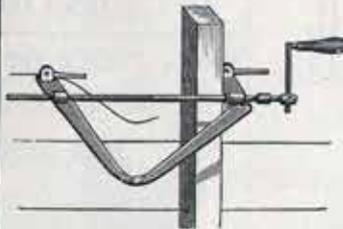
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post, it will hold the wire; while the other lever is let out the length of the screw, when by gripping it again with the straining lever, and releasing it from the other, the wire may again be drawn up to the post, and so on until the wire is tight. For mending a broken wire, the levers are opened out, and the ends of the wire placed in the grips, and then the levers are drawn together by the screw until the wire is sufficiently close to tie. Strain is self-supporting and weighs about 7lbs.

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and implement makers to meet together in an open and fair field, and transact business which could not otherwise be done; they give agriculturists and their friends an opportunity of meeting at least annually, and of comparing notes of the year's work, as well as exchanging ideas on the engrossing topics of the time; and last, but far from least, they tend to impart a rivalry (which with its defects previously alluded to, can hardly be called unhealthy), alike among the producers of the finer specimens of the equine, bovine, ovine, and porcine races, and the manufacturers of the more modern and serviceable implements.

14. Against all these advantages, we have only the following comparatively small drawbacks to set:—That the breeding properties of many animals are seriously impaired by the over-feeding by which modern national show-yard preparation is characterised; that the fascinations of leading prizes in an open show, and the uncertainties connected with the getting of them, involve many a breeder in heavy expenses which he can ill afford; and that encouragement is given to the extravagant use of concentrated, costly foods, both in the preparation of breeding and fat stock, for their fate in the adjudicating ring.

15. Enough has been said and written to satisfy most people that the above disadvantages of the showing system, as developed in modern days, though not inconsiderable, are far more than counterbalanced by the benefits of shows, both to exhibitors and to the general public; and further, that British agriculturists, though not so dependent on shows as they were a quarter of a century ago, must still have their annual bucolic gathering and bestial competition. —From the *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*, 1883.

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The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR. R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH. Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.
 Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize; and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,
 GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

MR. R. SMITH. Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.
 Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it done; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,
 GEORGE EXELL.

MR. RUPERT SMITH. Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.
 Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendid, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,
 ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
 Stock Yard Hill.

MR. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort. Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.
 Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Winnowers. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly
 TONKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

Memo. to MR. RUPERT SMITH. January 26th, 1885.
 Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked upon the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors.) In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,
 F. DUE, Farmer,
 Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885
 This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.
 Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.
 C. F. SUTHERLAND.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH. Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.
 Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way, and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.
 Remaining yours faithfully,
 G. DAVIS.

By Special Appointment to the Marquis of Normandy, K.C.M.G. & under the Patronage of His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.

DANIEL WHITE'S STEAM CARRIAGE WORKS,

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Awarded GOLD MEDAL for Special Merit at London Exhibition of 1873, and TWO GOLD MEDALS for best Carriages at Melbourne Shows of 1883 and 1884, and THIRTY-TWO MEDALS (1st Prizes), at Exhibitions and Shows of 1872, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85. Also, THREE FIRST AWARDS OF MERIT (1st Prizes), at International Exhibition of 1880.

NOTICE.—Referring to above, D. WHITE desires to inform his numerous Customers and the Public generally that he has secured and completed EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO HIS COACH FACTORY, and with the increased accommodation and Steam Plant, and the Largest Stock of Seasoned Timber in Melbourne, is now prepared to meet the increasing demand for his well-known Carriages and Vehicles.

The new premises are in Stewart Street, immediately opposite the present Factory. Patentee of the Improved Carriage and Buggy Hood Apparatus, for raising or lowering the Hood from the inside. Every description of Vehicle built from the best imported Materials and Well-seasoned Timber.

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Begin to inform Squatters, Farmers, and others that, having enlarged and improved their premises generally, they are enabled to keep a large and varied stock of Vehicles, which they invite all interested to inspect.

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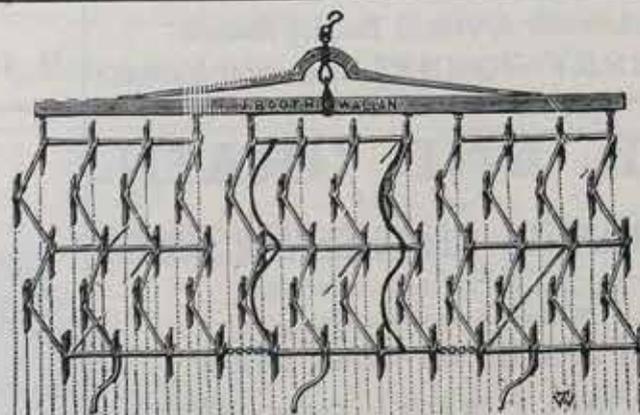
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The Engine is self-regulating. The first sharp gust will blow it edge on to the wind, and it will then weather the fiercest gale without injury, and drop back to work again as soon as it is over.

The Governing Device is very simple. It can be adjusted to make from 20 revolutions per minute to 60 in a moderate wind, and without blowing out of gear, and will always blow out in a gale. There is also provision for changing the length of stroke.

Special attention is paid to the construction of the Machinery or Engine proper, only the very best materials being used. Polished shafting and babbitt-lined boxes with cavity between the bearings in which is placed packing to hold oil, to prevent the necessity of frequent oiling. The pitman bearing is provided with a glass oiler that will hold a week's supply, so it is necessary to oil only when you can see from the ground that the glass oiler is empty.

The great and steadily increasing demand for these Engines is sufficient proof that their quality is unquestionable, and that they are especially adapted for this country, where the hot winds and occasional fierce gales forbid the use of any material liable to be affected thereby. They are now running in all parts of the Colony, and the universal opinion is, that they are the best.

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The first cost of the Iron Turbine Wind Engine is practically its only cost. It requires no skilled labor and next to no attention. Regular oiling is all that is necessary to keep it in order for years.

We also supply pumps of various kinds to suit different depths, &c. Also, Derricks if required.

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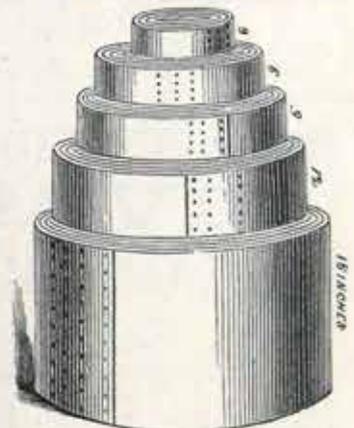
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Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 3½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.

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Engineers & Brass Founders,

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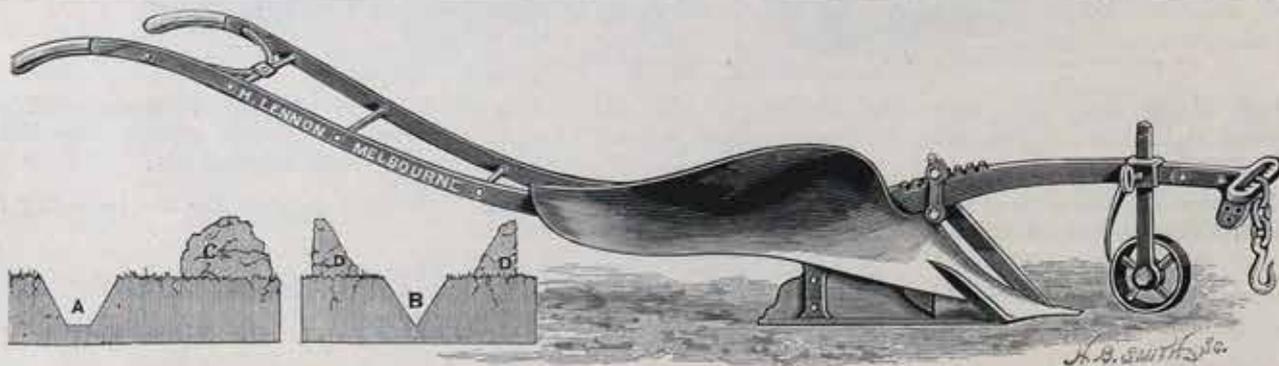
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Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

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Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes

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VICTORIA

Vol. I.—No. 9. [Reed. as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, APRIL 16TH, 1886.

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Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring
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To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to
occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical
College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed
through my hands, without your influence, and never have I
found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my
eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of
detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration
in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,

LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

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Trade **CH** Mark.
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The Best Disinfectant and Deodorant yet
produced.

Four times the strength of any Disinfectant
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All who keep Horses, Dogs, or Poultry, and
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The Great test of all Dairy Improve-
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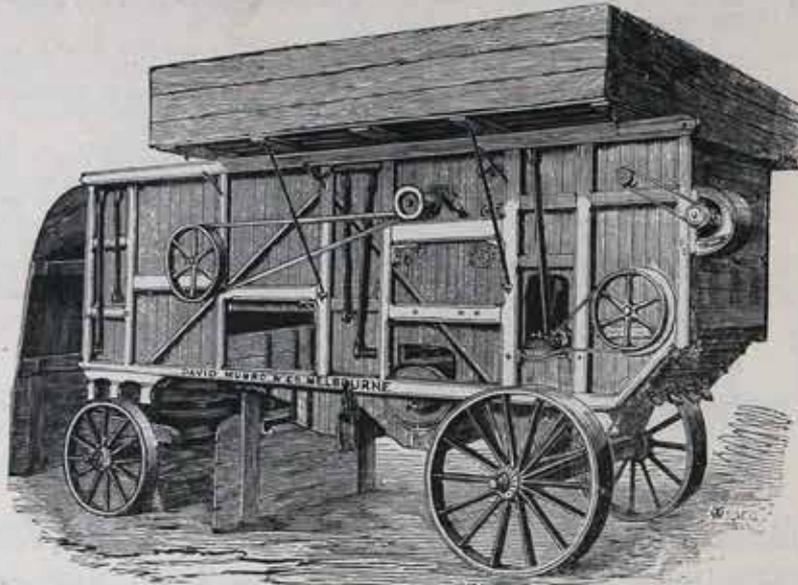
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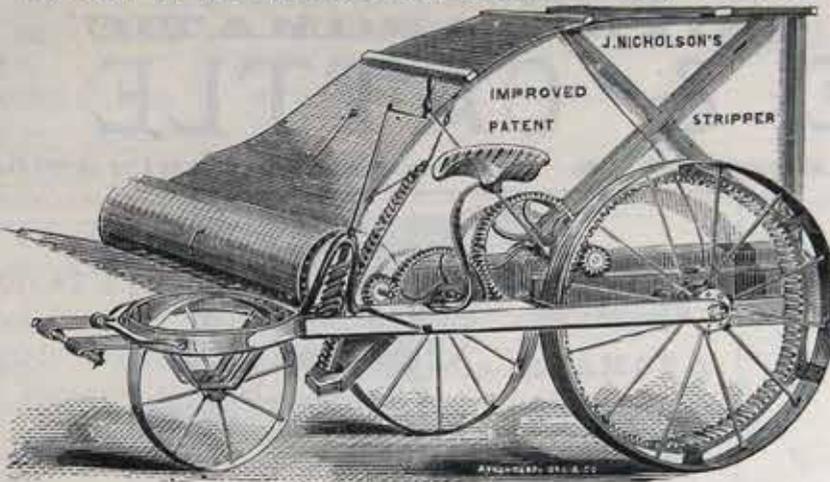
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 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
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The Most Successful Harvester in use.

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 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Echuca Agricultural Show, 1881.
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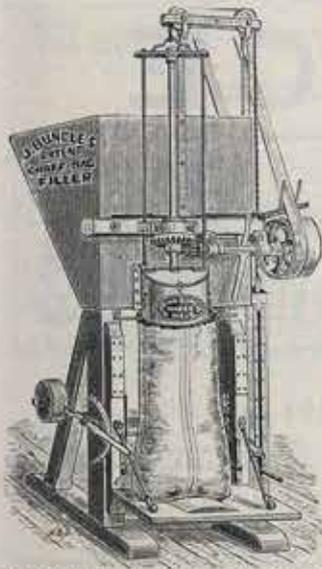
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Patent Chaff Bag Filler.



JOHN BUNCLE, in stating what is well known, viz., the great competition in the Hay, Corn, and Chaff Trade, begs at the same time to call attention to his endeavour to lighten the toil and increase the profits from such a business, by designing and manufacturing a machine for the above purpose, and one which cannot be approached by any other maker at present, or recommended to equal in **Simplicity, Durability**, and thorough **Adaptability** and **Cheapness** combined as in the above Machine. The **BAG FILLERS** are manufactured complete, ready to be sent to wherever ordered or in any of the colonies, either to fix in stores in connection with the fixed Chaffcutters, or to be attached to his well-known Travelling Chaffcutters previously supplied, and now supplied either with

or without Baggers. A few attempts have been made by some to supply such a want, but probably not having a theoretical as well as a practical knowledge of machines, have not been able to reduce the complicated movements in their machines, and which are perfectly unnecessary—as witness the Unique Simplicity and correctness in design, and the admirable working of **BUNCLE'S PATENT BAG FILLER** compared with the few others tried at work.

For the information and convenience of customers, a machine is kept constantly set up ready to show at work in **BUNCLE'S PARKSIDE IRONWORKS**, and many customers have witnessed **80 to 90 lbs.** of Chaff put in a bag in **15 seconds!!!** which, after making allowances for time removing the full bag and replacing an empty one, would easily on an average keep **Four** of Buncle's No. 1 Chaffcutters—well, if there is any doubt, say **Three** Machines clear of all the Chaff they cut (medium length.) Of course the Machines are arranged to put in as light weight as you like, or you can fill up and burst all your Bags—to pieces. As a trade requirement (in addition to filling bags) the necessity for a **Mixing Machine** is a long felt want, the laborious and unsatisfactory way at present adopted cannot much longer be endured, and there is no necessity for it!! as J. Buncle can arrange to "Blend" the worst and the best samples "To a Hair" at the least possible expense with the best results.

The season is now coming on when all those who intend having the latest improved Machines should forward their orders as early as possible, to prevent disappointment in the day of their need.

J. Buncle's Machines have, as usual, been awarded First Prize at all the leading shows wherever he exhibited last year (1885), and the many improvements introduced and constantly copied by other makers, is the best proof of the value of the continued consideration in all that affects the profits and welfare of his customers.

Chaffcutters with 14-in. wide mouthpieces and Newest Designs are now being manufactured to suit the increasing output of many of the leading Chaff Merchants. May your fortunes ever be associated with the earnest efforts to assist making them by,

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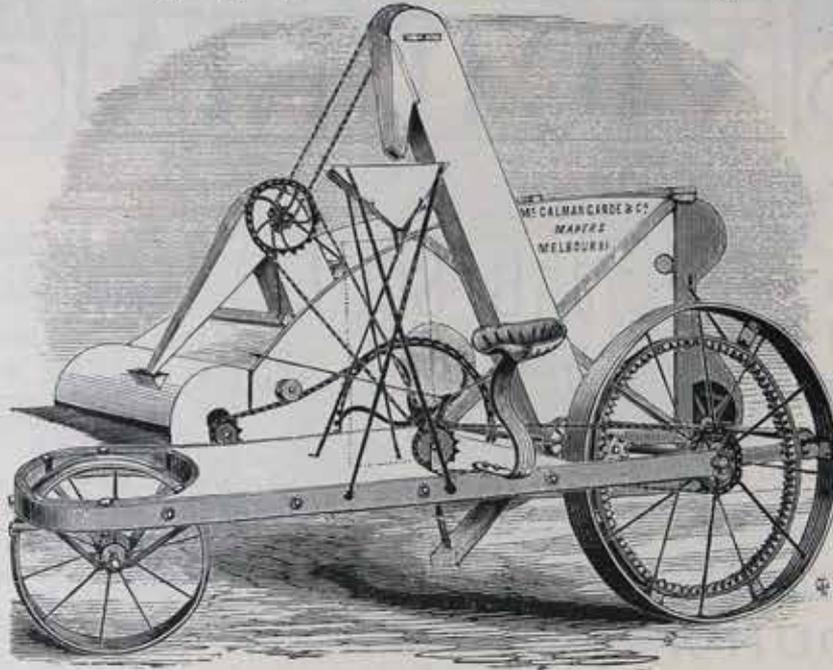
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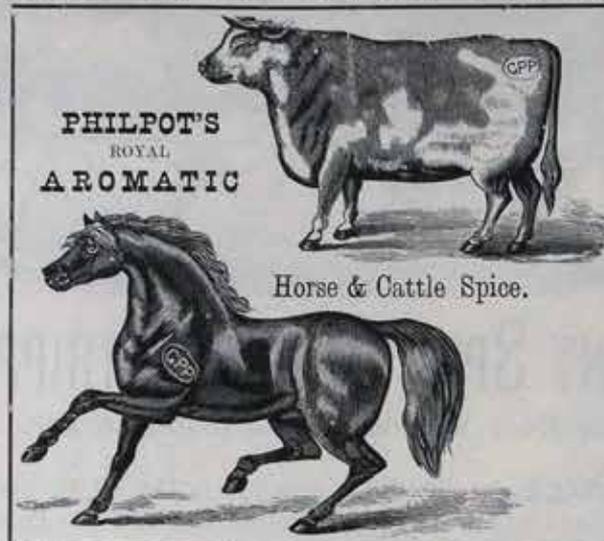
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All communications for the Editor to be
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Business communications to the Publishers,
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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
 requested to forward to the editor the dates on
 which their respective exhibitions will be held,
 also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
 they are published.

JULY.

22.—Deniliquin.

AUGUST.

4.—Corowa.

17, 18, 19, 20.—National, Brisbane.

23 & 24.—Australian Sheepbreeders' Associ-
 ation at Goldsbrough's, Bourke-street west.

25, 26, 27, 28.—National, Melbourne.

SEPTEMBER.

1, 2, 3, 4.—Metropolitan, Sydney.

2, 3.—Champion Sheep Show, Ballarat.

9, 10.—Ovens and Murray, Wangaratta.

OCTOBER.

7.—Bacchus Marsh.

20, 21.—Bendigo.

PLOUGHING MATCH.

MAY.

24.—South Gippsland, Port Albert.

general bovine population of a country, than among the cattle sent to the abattoirs." But Europe is not Victoria.

With regard to the increase or diminution in prevalence of the disease opinions are very conflicting, but the general idea is that it is slightly on the increase.

In treating of its prevalence in other countries, it is stated that in Germany about 2 per cent. of the cattle sent to the abattoirs are tuberculous. In some parts of Pomerania, Albrecht considered that 50 or 60 per cent. of all cattle were affected. Dr. George Fleming says with regard to the disease in England, "Our dairy stock are probably largely infected, and among high-bred cattle it is not only prevalent, but from what I can learn is on the increase. In returns from the abattoirs in Paris, of 20,000 animals only 6 were tuberculous. In the report of the Department of Agriculture it is stated that in certain herds which supply New York City with milk, 20, 30, and even 50 per cent. are affected with tuberculosis.

With regard to the influence of high breeding, a quotation is given from *Propagation of Tuberculosis* by Lydlin, Fleming, and Van Hertsen, that "it cannot be denied that the number of victims to tuberculosis increases with the improvement in, or specialisation of, the breeds of the domesticated animals."

As to the prevalence of tuberculosis in human beings, it is stated that it is supposed that phthisis cuts off not less than one-seventh of the human race. With regard to the communicability of tuberculosis, Villemin's general conclusion is quoted as follows, "tuberculosis is an infectious and specific malady, capable of being transmitted from man to animals, and from one animal to another." After giving the results of very many experiments, the Board arrives at the definite conclusion that tuberculosis is a specific inoculable disease, and add that it has been communicated to animals not only by inoculation with various tuberculous products, but also by causing them to inhale finely divided sputum from phthisical patients. Under the subject "feeding experiments," the Board after quoting many European statistics deduce from them, that not only is tuberculosis a specific inoculable disease, but it also can be transmitted from man to animals, and from one animal to another by the inhalation of finely-divided tuberculous matter, or by the ingestion of actual tuberculous substances, or with less certainty by the ingestion of the milk or the meat of tuberculous animals. Koch's experiments with the bacillus tuberculosis are given. The bacilli of tubercle vary considerably in length, their maximum length being nearly equal to the diameter of a red blood-corpuscle; usually, however, they are only a quarter to a third of this length. They are narrow, their diameter being about one-fifth or one-sixth their length; they are more or less rounded at the ends, and generally possess a beaded appearance, but are sometimes homogeneous. To test the constant occurrence of these bacilli, Koch examined in human subjects eleven cases of miliary tuberculosis and found the bacilli never absent. He also discovered them in the miliary tubercles of the spleen, liver, and kidneys, in cavities in the lungs, and in tubercle of the brain. In the next place Koch found these bacilli in every one of ten cases of bovine tuberculosis, also in the lymphatic gland from the neck of a pig, in the organs of a tuberculous fowl, and in the tubercles from three monkeys, nine guinea pigs, and seven rabbits, which died naturally of tuberculosis. Koch also examined 172 guinea pigs, thirty-two rabbits, and five cats, to which tuberculosis had been artificially communicated, and in not a single instance were the bacilli absent from the tubercles of the lungs. It is then stated that concerning the presence of the bacillus tuberculosis in the sputum of phthisical patients, the confirmatory evidence is overwhelming, and examples are given showing the completeness of the proof in this respect. Of tuberculosis as

a contagious disease, the report says, weighty facts and arguments have been adduced tending to prove the following propositions:—(1.) That tuberculosis is excited in all cases by a specific organism, the bacillus tuberculosis which can multiply and form spores within the body, but can hardly meet with natural conditions admitting its growth elsewhere than in the living body of man or animals. (2.) That the sputa of all phthisical patients at some stage of the disease contain such bacilli. (3.) That these sputa may be dried and powdered and kept for long periods without losing their virulence. (4.) That if such sputa containing bacilli be inoculated into susceptible animals, disseminated tuberculosis follows. (5.) That the air in the extracting shaft of a hospital for consumptives has been found to contain bacilli, and rabbits kept in such a shaft become tuberculous.

Of the communicability of tuberculosis from one animal to another by way of contagion the following instance is given in a report published at Brussels. In the territory of Tannenkirch there is a farm called Kalthenberg, let for three years to a farmer called Gugelmaier. An average of ten to a dozen cows, some heifers, and a bull, are kept all lodged in the same stable. Four years ago the farmer bought a grey cow, which soon began to cough, and became emaciated; consequently it was killed, and it was then found to be affected with tuberculosis—pleural and pulmonary—to a very high degree. Since the purchase of this cow Gugelmaier has lost ten other cattle from this disease, being obliged to kill some and sell others. In evidence given before the Board, Mr. Kendall said that a client of his at home had a herd of about forty—not pure, but well bred—in a byre. About two years before he got a pure shorthorn bull for his herd, and he was not aware that he had anything of this disease before; but some time after he had the bull he began to have cases of tuberculosis, and lost first one cow and then another; and a number of those cases appeared to be communicated directly from the bull to the cow, either in the act of copulation, or by being housed together. He had never seen an instance of communication of tuberculosis from one animal to others when running together in open field. On the other hand Dr. Bathie said he never saw a case of the disease introduced into a herd by an infected animal getting amongst them, nor did he believe it. He also said the same with regard to pleuro-pneumonia; but we have often seen this latter introduced into a herd by infection. Mr. Patterson said that after forty years' experience of stock in Victoria he had never seen tuberculosis introduced by contagion. Mr. Rossiter said that thirty years ago he had the disease in his herd, and did not believe it was contagious; and, in reply to a question as to whether he had seen an instance of a diseased beast spreading it by contagion, he said—"No, of course, if it had been the case we should have lost all our cattle years ago from the disease, if it had been contagious in that way." Mr. Hurst also said that as a close observer he had never noticed the disease spread from contagion. This is a very important point, on which the Board says:—"The general tendency of all this evidence is to show that bovine tuberculosis has but a limited infective power. It is not likely to spread from animal to animal pasturing together in open fields, and even considerable exposure to contagion will not as a rule induce the growth of tubercles, unless in animals strongly predisposed to the disease, or kept under unfavourable hygienic conditions."

Under the heading of "Communicability of Tuberculosis from one Human Being to Another by way of Contagion," some striking cases are given. (a) A man, in perfect health, marries a tuberculous woman. She dies, and he marries again. He dies, and soon after him his second wife, also from tuberculosis. (b) A healthy man marries a phthisical woman. She dies in

one year, and he in two years and a half, from tuberculosis. (c) A man loses by death, in consequence of phthisis, the first, second, and third wife, all of whom have been perfectly healthy before marriage. The man ultimately also dies from phthisis. Dr. Hubert Reich observed in a village, situated on a high bluff of the Rhine, and enjoying excellent hygienic conditions, from 11th July, 1875, till 29th September, 1876, ten deaths of tubercular meningitis in children born between 4th April, 1875, and 10th May, 1876. No hereditary disposition could be established. All these children were attended by the same midwife, suffering from lung disease (caverns and saino-purulent sputa). She died 23rd July, 1876. She had the bad habit, when a child was born, of removing the phlegm from the respiratory passages by aspiration with her mouth, and in slight cases of asphyxia, of blowing air into the child's mouth. On the other hand, it is said that intimate life with a consumptive patient—such as the relations between husband and wife, mother and daughter, two sisters, and members of the same family living together, ought to ensure certain contagion; whereas we know this is not so. The Board says—"The general conclusion at which it has arrived from these considerations is, that apart from experimental investigations, the positive evidence in support of the contagiousness of tuberculosis, whether in men or in animals, is neither large in amount nor very satisfactory in character. But confirmed as it is by abundant and accurate experiments it acquires a greater significance than it would have if standing alone."

About the Hereditary Tendency of Tuberculosis and its Hereditary Transmission, the evidence almost all tends one way. Mr. Graham Mitchell believes that inheritance is the principal cause of tuberculosis in cattle, and he blames infected sires for much of the prevalence of the disease. Other witnesses express similar opinions; so that there can be no doubt of hereditary tendency, but whether the actual disease is congenital is not so definitely determined. The calves of tuberculous cows die young if allowed to suck their mothers. The Board says—"While some authorities, therefore, have held that tuberculosis as such may be transmitted from the parent to its young, the balance of opinion has, on the whole, been unfavourable to that view."

As to the identity of Human and Bovine Tuberculosis, a mass of evidence is collected, and experiments with regard to the bacillus cited, the Board concluding thus—"It may be argued that though inoculations with the products of two diseases produce the same effects, no certain proof is thereby afforded that the two diseases are identical; but in view of all the facts which have now been presented, this Board cannot but conclude that, if human tuberculosis and bovine tuberculosis are not absolutely identical, they are at least most intimately related to each other in respect of causation."

On the question—"Is the flesh of tuberculous cattle fit for food?" the following conclusion is arrived at:—"Looking, therefore, at the whole of the evidence the Board is of opinion that the flesh of some tuberculous animals should certainly be condemned; while that of others less gravely affected may be allowed to pass into consumption."

Under the heading, "Should the Milk of Tuberculous Cows be used for Food," it is stated that, as a matter of mere observation, it must be said that cases of children acquiring tuberculosis from the use of the milk of a diseased animal have very seldom been traced in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Rossiter, in reply to the question—"Have you known any milk of tuberculous cows, in the advanced stage, that was used in a family for children?" said "Yes, and used it in my own family, and never thought there was any harm in it." He, however, added that the milk was mixed with the

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, APRIL 16th, 1886.

Agricultural Federation.

IN replying to the toast of "Our Visitors" at the Heidelberg show last month, Dr. Plummer said that three years before, in that very spot, he had first stated his intention of endeavouring to formulate some scheme, whereby the Agricultural Societies of the Colony would be enabled to focus their influence, extend their usefulness, and advance their cause in a manner becoming the importance of the interests they represented. Since that time the idea had been taken up with spirit, and largely through the assistance of the present Minister of Agriculture, a federation scheme had been devised and carried out; while he, himself, stood before them as the Chairman of the Central Board of the Federated Agricultural Societies of Victoria. The speaker went on to say, that the indirect influence of this movement had been most prolific of good results, for when it was found that the agriculturalists really meant business, there had been a wonderful "revival" at head-quarters. An Agricultural Colleges Act was passed, and a Royal Commission on Vegetable products was afterwards appointed, while the Department of Agriculture displayed unwonted energy. There is no gainsaying these facts, for they are patent to observers, so that if the federation movement stopped short at its present stage of development, it would still be the cause of much good work having been done. But there is no fear that this shall be the case. In our December number we set forth the details of the movement, and enumerated various projects which it is the manifest destiny of the federated societies to carry out. Immediately afterward, the Home papers reported that the leading agriculturists of England were advocating the initiation of a scheme, the exact counterpart of that which had already been so far brought into operation in Victoria, and in our February number we gave prominence to the opinions expressed on the subject. That was done in order to re-assure the societies here—if such re-assurance is necessary—that they are pursuing a prudent policy; as well as to make them more anxious to reap the full advantages of the completed movement they have successfully inaugurated. The operations of the Central Board, however, have been delayed for the bill which that body prepared, and of which notice was given in the House was put off through the

dissolution of Parliament. Now, however, with the present Minister of Agriculture in office, matters are not likely to be much longer delayed. When the bill is passed the federation of societies will not only be fully accomplished, but practical results will speedily ensue. That there is much work to be done is becoming more and more apparent. In connection with the Council of Agricultural Education, for example, the objection to it all along on the part of agriculturists has been their want of direct representation, and in order to meet this objection the Act has been slightly amended, but only in so far as to alter the basis of election. A difficulty which, however, it is to be hoped will be overcome, has arisen in this connection as will be seen in a letter appearing in another column. How much better would it be for the representative members of the Council of Agricultural Education to be elected on the basis of the sub-division of the colony adopted by the Federated Societies—the number of members being increased to correspond with the number of District Boards! The machinery of the federation scheme could thus be utilized for the election of the members of Council who would then be thoroughly representative men, while all the trouble and expense of the present complicated system of election would be obviated. Without going into further details, we claim that the times are ripe for the practical work of this scheme, so that every day's delay in its being brought into active operation must be counted a loss to the community.

Tuberculosis Report.

We have received a copy of the report of the Board "appointed to inquire relative to the existence and extent in Victoria of the disease known as tuberculosis, whether its existence is likely to be detrimental to the public health, and what preventive means should be adopted." Minutes of the evidence taken by the Board, together with plates illustrating the disease are comprised in the report, which deals most exhaustively with the subject as far as possible up to the present time, for not only has the evidence of the gentlemen in Victoria best acquainted with the disease been taken and carefully weighed, but the latest evidence procurable from Europe has been obtained and fully considered; while personal observations of the disease have also been made by the Board. It must be said that the conclusions arrived at, and the opinions expressed by the Board are characterized by the most extreme caution, and as its members are admittedly men of mark, this just goes to prove that the more real knowledge men possess, the less opinionated they become, and the more careful they are in arriving at conclusions. In dealing with a subject such as this involving matters of speculation, it is certainly well that some caution should be exercised; but it must be remembered that it also has a practical bearing, in which relation bold and aggressive action is called for and justifiable. Every member of every class in the community is interested in the subject, and the extent to which all are interested is perhaps scarcely realized.

In a progress report the Board gives the symptoms of tuberculosis in cattle, stating that

at the onset the disease is gradual and insidious. The animal does not thrive, and is more or less out of condition. As a rule, the first definite sign of the disease is a cough which is dry, single, and not in paroxysms, apparently causing little pain. At this stage not much change is noticed in either the quantity or quality of milk in dairy cattle. The duration of this stage varies greatly. Subsequently the symptoms become more pronounced, the animal falls off decidedly in flesh, the cough increases in frequency and severity, and assumes a hoarser and hollow tone. With dairy cows the milk gradually becomes poor and decreases in quantity. Altogether the animal now assumes an unhealthy appearance, with dull rough staring coat, sunken eyes, and general wasting. With the occurrence of pronounced softening in the tubercles the disease enters its third and last stage, which is usually of very short duration, all the symptoms become aggravated, the animal is wasted to a skeleton, hidebound, with staring coat, arched back and projecting bones, exhaustion follows, and death is not long deferred. With regard to the post-mortem appearances of tuberculous cattle, it is found on opening the chest of those in an advanced stage that the surfaces of the lungs are studded more or less thickly with growths which vary greatly in size, in consistence and in general appearance—some of them are very large and flattened, while others are rounded and more prominent. These growths are sometimes found firm, grey and uniform in appearance, others are more opaque and yellow, while many will display specks or larger deposits of calcareous matter. On cutting into the lungs other tubercles will be found in them running together into yellow cheesy looking patches. These patches are more numerous near the surface of the lungs. They tend to soften down into a yellow pulp or thick fluid which may be burst into one of the air tubes and coughed up, leaving a cavity in the lung substance. The omentum or caul may be found studded with patches of tubercle, the surface of the liver may be similarly affected, and yellow masses or lumps of tubercle may be found within its substance. Tubercle in the udder is not common, but in advanced stages the whole organ may be full of cheesy masses of all sizes, softening down into thick yellow pulp which escapes into the principal milk ducts; although such direct contamination of the milk is rarely seen. With regard to the prevalence of tuberculosis, the Board is of opinion that not more than 2 per cent. of the cattle of Victoria can possibly be affected by tuberculosis, and that even this estimate is probably much too high. It is, however, difficult to see how that opinion can have been arrived at after the evidence taken. Several veterinary surgeons and the District Inspector of Stock believe that from 15 to 20 per cent. of the cattle sent to the Melbourne Market are tuberculous, and the latter states that the wasters are excluded from this estimate as they are killed where there is no supervision. Mr. Hurst estimates the proportion of cattle in the colony affected with tuberculosis at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but he is alone in that opinion, several graziers putting it at about 10 per cent. Actual systematic observations of Mr. Gee, superintendent of the city abattoirs extending over twelve months, go to prove that 5.6 per cent. of all the cattle slaughtered for meat supply under inspection are tuberculous, though only in a slight degree. The Board says that probably over 7 per cent. of all cattle slaughtered for meat supply of Melbourne are tuberculous in some degree. This would seem to be a fair estimate of the cattle affected throughout the colony, considering that those slaughtered are fat stock which are usually not the most unhealthy, and even allowing for the number that come from other colonies. The Board, however, seems to have been influenced by an European opinion which is as follows:— "Tuberculosis is much less common in the

milk of other cows—the cow being dairied. Other evidence goes to prove that calves sucking their tuberculous mothers invariably die young. The report states, "From the general tenor of this evidence the Board is convinced that the milk of tuberculous cows must be regarded as infective when the udder is involved, or when the disease is generalised throughout the body. When a cow is suffering from tubercle, limited to the lungs and pleura, there is not sufficient evidence to prove that the milk may communicate tuberculosis. But certainly animals known to be tuberculous should not be used for dairy purposes." As to the prevalence of the disease in dairy cattle, the evidence all goes to prove that it is very prevalent amongst them—the strain on the system, of constant milking appearing to predispose to the disease. It was also pretty well established that old dairy cows very frequently develop the disease and transmit it to their offspring. It would, therefore, doubtless be well that milking cows should not be kept till an advanced age, but should be fattened off while in good health, and before their systems are debilitated.

In conclusion the Board recommends that tuberculosis in cattle be declared by the Governor-in-Council to be a contagious or infectious disease for the purposes of the "Diseases in Stock Act, 1872," the arguments in favour of the measure being that "tuberculosis is an inoculable disease, and is communicable from one animal to another by infected food and by infected air. It is due to a specific organism which is constantly present in all animals suffering from tuberculosis, and which may be cultivated in the pure state through many generations, inoculations of the pure organisms producing a disseminated growth of tubercles in other animals, the specific organisms being found in the tubercles so produced."

With regard to compensation for the destruction of tuberculous cattle the Board recommends that no compensation be given to owners for the compulsory slaughter of tuberculous cattle, because such cattle are a source of ultimate loss to the owners, as well as danger to the public. Concerning tuberculosis in reference to meat supply the Board recommends that in all centres of population the slaughtering of animals for food should be concentrated entirely in public abattoirs; and the system of inspection in slaughter-houses should be made more thorough.

In reference to the eradication of tuberculosis from dairies the Board recommends—"That special inspectors should be appointed by the Governor-in-Council to examine all dairies and dairy cattle, and should hold office under the Central Board of Health and the Chief Inspector of Stock; that such inspectors should by preference be veterinary surgeons, if possible with experience in inspectorial duties; that there be one inspector for the metropolitan dairies, and two for the extra-metropolitan dairies, their precise districts and duties to be fixed by the President of the Central Board of Health and the Chief Inspector of Stock."

In order that the best results may be obtained from the work of this Board it is necessary that its recommendations should be followed up and acted on, and we hope to see this done—the sooner the better. A line has now been obtained on which to work, and even further measures than those recommended may be taken if necessary. There is no doubt, however, that the data collected will be of immense use; for it is probably from ignorance of the nature and effect of the disease more than anything else that it has been allowed to spread. The information elicited should be in the hands of every stockowner. They would then have some knowledge of the disease, and they would know that it was not only to the interest of the

community, but to their own individual interest as well, to on no account breed from animals of a tuberculous tendency, or to retain in their herds those of which they had any suspicion of being affected. Although one or two witnesses, including Mr. Carr, the Chief Inspector of Stock, said—on good grounds doubtless—that tuberculosis will never be eradicated from the stock of the colony, we believe, from considerable experience, and some observation of the disease, that much may be done to "raise the standard of our herds."

Mr. Harper's Sheep.

ONE of the sensations of the month has been the landing and subsequent *auto-da-fe* of Messrs R. Harper and Co's Leicesters. Melbourne people cannot understand why a lot of flock-owners should rush frantically about town, and rest not till they had the throats cut and the carcasses burned of the fine sheep which Mr. Harper had been at such trouble and expense to import. But townspeople know nothing of working amongst scab, nor of the very many thousands of pounds spent in ridding the country of the acarus which produces that terrible ovine itch. They forget that in spite of quarantine regulations scab was introduced into New South Wales three years ago, and was only eradicated by the total destruction of many animals at much cost. A risk was run of introducing that disease, and others totally different but equally objectionable. More over, importation was prohibited, and some time ago we entered into a compact with the other colonies to maintain such prohibition, so that our honour was involved. Furthermore had the sheep been admitted, Victoria in its pastoral relations would doubtless have been boycotted; and our constant and extensive stock movements would have been blocked. Drought, and the fall in wool were bad enough without that, so it was no wonder that our graziers should "git mad" as Professor Sample would say. Townspeople are apt to think that any fool can succeed amongst stock, and it is probably owing to their having this idea, that no matter what their ability when they commence operations in that line without practical knowledge, they usually manage to "make a mess of it." Mr. Harper was unfortunate at the outset in having overlooked the quarantine regulations, but his subsequent action was strange on the part of a legislator. Then the Customs lacked efficiency in detail, the Stock Department groped about, the sheep were landed, and extreme measures were necessary; so that altogether it was a curious business, at which we would be lost in wonder did we not call to mind the words of the wise man of old, "Go forth, my son, and see with what little wisdom the world is governed."

Agriculture holds the sceptre of prosperity in her hand. By her motion manufactories move. By her edict the merchant rules. By her action the carrying trade is regulated. By her laws man is fed.

High-Class Wool.

THE necessity for maintaining a high standard of excellence in their sheep is being more and more impressed on flock-owners. The increase in the production of wool on the Australian continent together with that in other parts of the world, and notably in South America, has contributed to cause a sad depression in prices. High-class wools, however, still command a ready market at splendid prices; as instanced in the late sales of Sir Samuel Wilson's clip, 75 bales of which realised from 3s. 2d. to 5s. per lb. This, however, is exceptional, and the public would be mistaken in thinking that such results are generally attained, though it shows what can be done. Wool-growing away in the interior is not such a paying business as is usually supposed, for we have heard of wool being sent to the London market and after all costs of carriage, shipping, and charges were paid one farthing per lb. was all the profit left. This too, however, is an exceptional case. The enterprise of colonists is well calculated to maintain the high character of Australian wool, and it is also pleasing to find that our capabilities as producers are being kept before the world. We read that the wool exhibit of the Hon. Philip Russell has been opened at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London, and found to be in splendid condition. Again, we find that the Commissioner in Victoria for the Port Elizabeth, South African Exhibition, has received intimation from the Port Elizabeth officials of the success of Mr. John Finlay's exhibit of high-class pure merino wool from his special stud flocks at Wyuna estate, near Echuca. The specimens of wool were much admired, and samples were distributed amongst the farmers of South Africa, the Chamber of Commerce also retaining specimens. The exhibit consisted of two rams' and two ewes' fleeces, of the very highest quality; the rams' fleeces being from the high-class stud ram flock at Wyuna, and the ewe fleeces from the high-class stud ewe flock. The exhibit was on view in Melbourne previous to shipment. As we then had the pleasure of inspecting the wool we are not surprised at its success.

The Daylesford Show.

THE Twenty-Second Exhibition of the Glenlyon, Franklin, and Daylesford Society was held at Daylesford last month, and was quite a success. The land passed through in reaching Daylesford from Woodend is of a very high class. Much of it is deep rich chocolate soil, with an undulating surface, resembling the Brandy Creek country. Its character, when cleared, may be inferred from the fact that from £20 to £30 per acre is the price asked for the bulk of it. The show of draught stock comprised a few high class exhibits, with a larger number of the useful description. Very few thoroughbreds were shown, but there was a fair turn out of hacks and spring cart horses. A few good Shorthorn and Hereford cattle were shown, but their numbers were limited. Several Melbourne firms and others from

country towns exhibited machinery and implements. The exhibits of grain and roots were of a very superior description, and several of the former were secured for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. It is not too much to say that they will worthily represent the district. The fruit and dairy produce also made an excellent turn out. There was a large number of swine, which, with the exception of a few very choice exhibits, were all of the useful description, and the same may be said of the poultry—in fact, taken all through, it was a real country show.

The Heidelberg Show.

THE Annual Exhibition of the Victoria Agricultural Society—the oldest in the Colony—was held at Heidelberg last month. The day was remarkably bright and fine, and, as there had been rain the night before, there was an absence of dust, so that the drive out was most enjoyable. Under such circumstances, a visit to the Heidelberg Show is a treat, for the district is a beautiful one, and the view from the yards is highly picturesque. The draught stock were not so numerous as on many former occasions, but there were some high-class exhibits; one well-known stud being in considerable force. Some good thoroughbreds were shown, while the classes for trotters, hunters, &c., were well filled with exhibits of various merit. The trial of trotters—one of which was bestridden by a famous athlete—was very amusing. The hunters, and ladies' hunters, also attracted a deal of attention; and as the people crowded in, the want of a larger area of trial ground was sorely felt. Very few shorthorns were penned, but there were some creditable exhibits. The same may be said of Ayrshires. There was a good show of Alderneys; and a fine lot of ordinary dairy cows, of no particular breed, but having all the characteristics of first-class milkers. Sheep, swine, and poultry were very sparsely represented, though there were some good pens of the latter. The exhibits of root crops, fruits, &c., made the produce shed one of the most attractive of the season. The mammoth mangolds and carrots were such as could not be beaten anywhere; and the collections of fruit were the theme of admiration of the very many visitors to the Show. Several Melbourne firms exhibited machinery and implements, and there was a good stand of buggies, carriages, &c., from the City. Taken as a whole, the Heidelberg Show is unique in its way, and must be seen to be appreciated.

The makers of agricultural implements are thrashing their brains everywhere for new grains of thought to employ in fashioning labour-saving appliances; and those who are wise will strain every nerve to second their efforts, by purchasing ease and wealth in that form.

Strange Cure for Mange.—A client of mine owned a large long-haired yard-dog that suffered from mange very bad. I tried several remedies, but none seemed to answer. He whitewashed the dog with some old whitewash. The dog was cured by one dressing.—J. S. Darwell, V.S.

Meetings.

Council.

AN adjourned meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, was held on Tuesday, March 16th, 1886.

Present—Dr. Plummer (President) in the chair, with Messrs. J. Bunce, D. R. McGregor, W. J. Lobb, D. Munro, A. Patterson, T. Brunton, J. Hurst, J. Garton, W. Learmonth, S. G. Staughton, J. G. Brisbane, T. Learmonth, F. Henty, J. Hearn, and J. Currie.

The Works Committee reported that they had considered the tenders for the grand stand. They recommended that the lowest be accepted conditionally on the contractor turning out a satisfactory man.

Mr. McGregor moved the adoption of the report, subject to the architects procuring full information and laying it before the Works Committee. Seconded by Mr. Munro and carried.

Mr. Munro moved that the Works Committee meet on the following Thursday to finally accept the tender. Seconded by Mr. McGregor and carried.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Manager of the Bank of Victoria informing him of the amount of the contract about to be entered into.

The meeting then closed.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, April 13th, 1886.

Present—James Gibb, Esq. (in the chair), with Messrs. J. G. Brisbane, J. Garton, R. Clarke, J. Hurst, W. Thomson, A. Patterson, J. Bunce, T. Brunton, F. Peppin, J. Currie, C. Lynott, D. Munro, W. J. Lobb, J. Finlay, W. Learmonth, T. Learmonth, and Dr. Plummer.

The minutes of the previous ordinary and adjourned meetings were read and confirmed.

The president (Dr. Plummer), who had come direct from a meeting of the Council of Agricultural Education, then took the chair. He stated that the meeting he had left had just elected Mr. J. L. Thompson, of South Australia, manager of the farm at Dookie, which announcement was received with unanimous applause.

REPORTS.

The Finance Committee reported that they had elected Mr. John Finlay chairman for the year. They also submitted the monthly statement of accounts, and recommended the payment of accounts amounting to £98 11s. They further approved of the recommendation of the Editing Committee, with regard to the bonus payable half-yearly to the Society by the publishers of the journal.

Mr. Currie moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Thomson, and carried.

The Works Committee reported that they had appointed Mr. D. R. McGregor chairman for the year. They had

accepted the tender of Messrs. Martin and Peacock of £3993, for the erection of a grand stand on the show grounds, and authorised the President and Secretary to sign the contract on behalf of the Society. They appointed Mr. Rees Davis clerk of works, from 62 applications for the position. They also instructed the architects to prepare specifications and call for tenders for additions to the Secretary's office. At a subsequent meeting they accepted a tender for this work.

Mr. Munro moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Garton, and carried.

The Editing Committee reported that with a view to the extension of the Journal, they had authorised Messrs. Kemp and Boyce, the publishers, to issue a circular to the agricultural societies of the colony, stating the terms on which they would post free to members of subscribing societies a copy of the Journal, allowing either one, two, or three columns for reports, &c., and advertisements—at the rate of one column for 15s. per 100 copies per month; 2 columns, 20s., and 3 columns for 25s.

They also recommended that the bonus payable half-yearly to the Society by the publishers be paid to the Secretary in his capacity as editor of the Journal.

Mr. Munro moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Lobb and carried.

The Stud Book Committee reported that they recommended the Council to undertake to compile a Victorian Draught Horse Stud Book. As the breeds had been so much mixed up, they considered it impossible to have a Clydesdale Stud Book, and they recommended the establishment of a stud book which would be a record of the pedigrees of the draught horses of the colony, admitting both the English Shire Horse and the Clydesdale breeds, but distinguishing between them. They also recommended the appointment of a Committee to go fully into details, and bring up a scheme to the Council. The previous Committee, viz., the President, Messrs. J. Gibb, A. Patterson, J. Hurst, and W. Thomson were nominated for this business, and the report was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF SHOW COMMITTEE.

Mr. Gibb moved that sub-committees of not more than five be appointed for each section, seconded by Mr. Brunton and carried. The following were appointed:—Horses—Messrs. J. Gibb, W. Thomson, J. Hearn, T. Learmonth, and J. Garton. Cattle—Messrs. Robert Clarke, C. Lynott, J. G. Brisbane, J. Hurst and F. Peppin. Sheep, Swine, and Produce—Messrs. R. Simson, S. G. Staughton, A. Patterson, T. Brunton and J. Malcolm. Poultry, Dogs, Buggies and Harness—Messrs. W. J. Lobb, W. Learmonth, D. R. McGregor, and Hon. J. Buchanan. Machinery and Implements—Messrs. H. Lennon, D. Munro, J. Currie and Hon. C. Young.

Mr. Bunce asked for leave of absence for seven months, as he was about to visit England.

Mr. Lobb moved that leave of absence be granted; seconded by Mr. Munro and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Canterbury Agricultural Society, N.Z., thanking the secretary for information supplied, and forwarding a copy of the New Zealand Herd Book for breeds of cattle other than shorthorn.

portray a connection to a slug or a mongrel. At another show the judges start with giving the prizes to quality, style, and action, and keep to that class all through. I sometimes think they end by giving prizes to stock that are too small for what they are intended—a draught horse or mare. Perhaps Societies should pause here and consider the class of a horse they wish to encourage, with the view of keeping and improving the best types of our draught horse, and then instruct their judges to award prizes to that class, leaving the commercial "value" to be decided between buyer and seller.

Yours, &c.,
NATIVE.

April 3rd, 1886.

Imported or Colonial-bred.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR—

Will you be so kind as to inform me in what class I could show a yearling draught filly, that was foaled in Melbourne from an imported dam. The sire of the foal is in England, and the mare was served before she left Great Britain.

Yours truly,
R. GRICE.

BERWICK, April 7th.

[Much may be said on both sides. The question has not been definitely determined, but should be, so that the Societies could adopt a general rule. With a view to that object we invite discussion.—*Editor.*]

Agriculture in Great Britain.

(AS IT IS AND WAS FORTY YEARS AGO.)

Notwithstanding the great improvements in all implements of agriculture, and the superior knowledge that has been obtained by experience, the farmer is in a much worse position than he was forty years ago. As I have fully explained the reasons for this, I would quote from a letter from a correspondent to the *Scotsman* wherein he says:—

"I have been in other lands for nearly forty years, and on my return find times and things greatly changed, when compared with the Scotland of my boyhood—mostly for the better, I am glad to admit—indeed, so much that sometimes I feel lost in wonderment.

Owing to the ingenious improvements effected in the manufacture of agricultural implements, labour is both lightened and cheapened. Reaping was hard work in the days of my youth, when a man and a woman (often advanced in years) on the same rig were tasked to cut down an acre of heavy corn in a day, at a wage of half-a-crown each and their food. If from thirty to fifty reapers were employed by a farmer for a month or six weeks in harvest, it added materially to his outlay, and the more so when the grain had to be thrashed out afterwards by a flail. This was eventually met by the consumer, who paid for the labour in the purchase of his meal and flour, which cost nearly double what it does now. The price of land in those days averaged from £1 to £1 10s. an acre, and farmers and their families worked harder and lived more simply than they do at present.

They did not amass fortunes, but they made a comfortable living, and their sons and daughters, as a rule, followed the same line of occupation—i.e., farming and dairy work. All this is changed now; the sons become, in many instances, ministers, doctors, and lawyers, and the daughters are ladylike in dress, culture, and appearance. The sound of the piano has superseded the *hurr* of the big wheel, and the treadle of the little one. In the days I speak of we were more self-contained, and self-sustained, than we are at present; but it is impossible to hark back, even though it were desirable. The great changes that have taken place in the social habits of life, in all classes, may in a degree account for the pressure that lies so heavily on the farmer of to-day, though the chief cause is the high price paid for land, and foreign competition.

In Canada, where almost every cleared acre of ground can grow wheat or other cereals, and where every man, to use his own expression, if

he be a Scot, in his *ain laird*, they can grow grain, and sell it at a much lower figure than any farmer in the United Kingdom could produce it. They have also the same, if not better, modern appliances at their command than we have; and their ground requires less labour in its preparation, and little, if any, manure. I speak from an experience of twenty years' residence in the country.

In India and Burmah, where I spent a good many years of my life, I saw wheat and cereals of all kinds raised in abundance. In the plains where there was good tank, river, and canal irrigation to the extent of two crops a year, but there are no modern appliances in use there, everything being as primitive now as in the days of the Patriarchs; labour is cheap, coolies, male and female, being almost as numerous as black ants, at a wage of from two to four annas a day—about twopence and fourpence of our money. In British India the *ryot* or farmer holds his land direct from the State, and pays his very moderate rent, or land tax into the Government Treasury of his district. He has also the advantage of cheap railway transit to the Presidency towns, or other ports of embarkation, and of cheap freight to the European market via the Suez Canal. With competition of the foregoing nature, it is impossible for the British farmer to hold his own, paying as he does so much for his land. A reduction in rent is inevitable, but to what extent must be a matter between farmer and landlord. Land, like every other commodity, is only worth its marketable value, and the farmer who takes it at a higher rate than he can afford to work it, and make it pay, has nobody to blame but himself in the event of his coming to grief.

Such is the opinion of a man, who may be considered a competent judge—so that it is plain the growing of cereals in Britain cannot be remunerative. I referred to the humid climate as a great drawback, more especially in the North. The following on Highland farming (large and small) will exemplify my meaning:—

"Whatever may be the cause, we have always considered that, as the large farm system has never succeeded in doing much in improving the soil by means of the plough in the Highlands, there are no good reasons for supposing that such can be expected to be done under small farmers. Even though we might make the tenant proprietor of the small patches that he cultivates, his resources are exceedingly limited. The cultivation of oats, potatoes, or turnips where the climate is so humid is not capable of leaving a sufficient reward for the most strenuous exertions. Labour expended in this way will not compete with the wages which the large towns hold out. The small Belgian proprietor or farmer has a much larger variety of crops that he can cultivate—such as all the cereals in perfection, as well as beet and flax. Very moist climates are only capable of growing the lowest qualities of the latter, and thus do not admit of a large amount of labour being expended remuneratively in the preparation of the fibre.

In vine countries we often find a dense and industrious population on the soil. The vine admits and demands a large amount of manual labour being expended in its growth and the subsequent manufacture of wine. In the silk-producing countries, also, the land, though poor, can furnish employment for a large rural population. Were it not for the vine and the silk-worm rearing in France, it is difficult to imagine how anything like so large a population could be maintained on the soil. But with ourselves, and more especially in Ireland and the Highlands, we have unfortunately no such resources to fall back upon; and wherever the population becomes dense, poverty is its predominating feature.

It is curious enough that poor land, both in Britain and the Continent, has a much greater tendency to be subdivided into small farms, on poor land than on good. Much of the rich wheat lands of France are lying in pretty large farms, while the sub-division of property has gone freely on wherever the soil is poor. In Ireland, all the best land goes naturally down to pasturage. The great mass of the cottier tenantry locates itself on the higher and more rugged grounds, or on the edges of peat bogs and other infertile spots. On the other hand, arable farming on a large scale has there been mostly tried upon land of good medium quality.

To the small Highland farmer it is only a system of economies that is held out to him. The cattle bred in the country come only slowly to maturity, and would not repay a high system of rearing and feeding. To a certain extent it is the same with him as with the large farmer in such circumstances. The sheep only come to maturity on the mountains at three years old; and where the summer pasturage is so inferior,

the winter must be so far conforming. Except for helping his boggets through the winter, a Highland sheep farmer would never think of giving the rest of his stock turnips. So also with the Highland cattle, which subsist to a great extent on what rough herbage they obtain in valleys, eked out by an allowance of hay in stormy weather. Perhaps there is a great deal to be done in irrigation throughout the Highlands as a method of readily securing a more liberal supply of hay, which must remain the chief support for stock in winter. The unpropitiative nature of much of the climate leaves but a narrow margin as compensation for labour expended in cultivating the soil. The enterprise and intelligence that have accompanied large farming in other districts have never yet found out a system by which our moist Highland districts can be brought with advantage under arable culture, and it is not to be expected that the small farming is more likely to do so."

If it were possible to introduce these smaller industries, some amendments might be made, but the same cause would operate as against cereals. A. G. YOUNG.

How Milk is Spoiled.

MILK will absorb odours at one time when it would not at another. It readily takes in vapours and odours from the air when it is at the same temperature or colder than the air that surrounds it, but parts with its own odours when warmer than the air with which it is contact. When cold air touches warm milk the air expands and becomes lighter and rises. As it expands its capacity for holding vapours, gases, or odours is so much increased that it is not only able to hold all the odours and moisture it contained before, but is enabled to take in more, and hence it is ready to take up, and does take up, any odour or vapour which is volatile enough to rise out of the milk. Thus cold air, even if it is not quite as pure as any one might desire it for breathing, does not contaminate warm milk, but, on the contrary, actually becomes an aid in purifying it. A pail of freshly-drawn milk, so long as it remains much warmer than the air in a stable, may stand in the stable unharmed, provided nothing but the air, or what is in the air, touches it. If a vessel of cold milk is placed in warm air the effect will be reversed. When warm air touches cold milk the air becomes condensed, and its capacity for holding moisture and odours is so much diminished that it becomes unable to retain the load it was carrying, and is forced to deposit its burden on the surface of the milk, to be absorbed and held in the milk or its cream in the way that the air on a hot day unburdens itself on the surface of a vessel of ice water, where the depositions become apparent in the form of dew. If a pail of warm milk and one of cold are placed side by side in the same stable, one may be growing purer and the other more foul at the same time, so much has the fact of temperature to do with the absorbing power of milk. Under the law of the diffusion of gases aeriform bodies will, to some extent, force themselves into liquids like milk or water when all are at the same temperature, but that law is largely controlled by relative temperatures. Does the reader ask how stable odours do get into milk if not absorbed by the milk after it is drawn? The answer is they get it through the breath of the cow. Standing in a stable filled with foul air, a cow cannot avoid taking in at every breath the odours with which it is loaded. Upon entering the lungs they are forced at once into the circulation. The blood becomes charged with them, and the milk which always serves as a means of unloading the blood of its impurities as well as its nutriment, also becomes loaded with the odours intensified, greatly to the disgust of those who use the milk. It is surprising to those who have never carefully noted the facts how soon and how effectually foreign odours, good or bad, are taken into milk in the air breathed by milk-giving cows.

A few instances will illustrate. It is not long ago that an account appeared in the *Journal* of milk spoiled by being saturated with the odour of onions from tethering a cow to the leeward of an onion patch. In the experience of the writer, twelve cows, in passing to and from their pasture, were subjected to the scent of a dead calf lying twenty rods from the lane through which they travelled. The exposure to

Mr. Buncle moved that the letter be acknowledged with thanks; seconded by Mr. Lobb, and carried.

From Flemington and Kensington Presbyterian Sunday School, asking the use of the show grounds for a picnic on the 21st inst. Request granted, on motion of Mr. Garton, seconded by Mr. W. Learmonth.

From N. Billing and Son, stating they wished to correct an erroneous impression which Mr. Mitchell's statement to the Council, in reference to the grand stand as reported in two of the daily papers, would be likely to convey.

Mr. Munro moved that the letter be received, and Messrs. Billing be informed that their explanation was thoroughly satisfactory; seconded by Mr. Brisbane, and carried.

MOTIONS.

Mr. Brisbane moved the adoption of the motion of which he had given notice as follows:—"If any officebearer, with the exception of the trustees, shall be absent from three consecutive meetings of Council without leave having been obtained, his seat shall be declared vacant," seconded by Mr. Peppin.

After an animated discussion the motion was put to the meeting and lost.

The motion of which Mr. McGregor had given notice, lapsed through his absence.

Mr. Finlay called attention to the death of the late Mr. T. Armstrong, who for four years had held a seat on the Council. He moved that a letter of condolence be sent to his widow; seconded by Mr. Currie, and carried.

Mr. Clarke drew attention to the Californian thistle, which was becoming a great pest in the colony. As he believed this to be only a hybrid, he wished further information about it, and asked that the secretary should write to Ballarat for a specimen of the plant to place in the office. Agreed to.

Mr. Finlay spoke of the increasing prevalence of the Bathurst burr, about which he thought some action should be taken, in which opinion the Council concurred. He suggested that the secretary should write to the Minister of Agriculture. The meeting then closed.

Agricultural Colleges Council.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Colleges Council, held last month, Dr. Plummer stated that a matter of much importance in connection with the coming election had been brought under his notice in the following letter, which he read to the meeting:—

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA.

Melbourne, 16th March, 1886.

DEAR SIR—

I have just received a circular from the Department of Agriculture, asking me to furnish a list of the present members of the Society, in order that the rolls may be prepared for the forthcoming election for the Council of Agricultural Education in June.

As you are aware the members of that Council were last year elected by the members of the governing bodies of Agricultural Societies. This year the franchise has been extended to the whole of the subscribing members of such societies, in order, as I understand it, to increase the number of voters, and broaden the basis of election.

If, however, the present request is strictly adhered to this object will be largely defeated, for at this time of the year the majority, in fact, I think I may say all—of the Societies have very few actual members. Their financial year usually closes on the 31st December, and the ticket for the year is available till the annual meeting, which is generally held early in the following year. New tickets are not issued till later on—the bulk of the subscribers paying shortly before the shows. In the case of this Society at the present time, not more than one-fifth of the last year's members have paid their subscriptions. The remainder, therefore, cannot be included in the list furnished to the Department, and it will be worse with other Societies. I showed the circular to a vice-president of a country Society—who happened to be in the office when it was received—and asked him how it would affect his Society. He said he did not believe they had at the present time one actual member. Their annual meeting—till which 1885 tickets were available was just over, and they had not yet commenced to collect subscriptions. Even the members of the governing body—elected from 1885 subscribers—had not paid, so that their Society would according to present arrangements be completely disfranchised, and this would doubtless be the case with many others.

Do you not think that it would be well for the Department to allow the rolls to be compiled from the members of the Societies for 1885, instead of as at present proposed? Were this course adopted, I am certain it would be much more satisfactory.

I regret troubling you on this subject, but you will doubtless excuse me when I remind you that as Returning Officer for the southern part, I have necessarily given the matter some attention.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS PATTERSON,
Secretary.

Dr. Plummer.

Dr. Plummer then moved that the Council recommend the Minister to decide that the term "member of Agricultural Society" as used in the Act, should be understood to mean anyone who had subscribed within the 12 months preceding the preparation of the rolls, seconded by Mr. Baird, and carried unanimously.

Yarrowonga Society.

A MEETING of the Council of the Yarrowonga and Border Agricultural and Pastoral Association was held on the 27th March.

Present: Mr. Browning, President, in the chair, with a good attendance of members.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From the private secretary, Government House, stating that His Excellency the Governor would be pleased to extend his patronage to the Society.

From the publishers of the *Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria* saying it was proposed to extend the privileges of the paper to the members of the various agricultural societies of the colony, and stating the cost.

Mr. Dwyer moved that the Council procure a copy of the next issue for each member of the Society, seconded by Mr. Hendry, and carried.

As the result of advertising for bonuses, the offer of Mr. Day, of £10 10s., for having the meetings of the Society held in his house was accepted.

The committee appointed to select a new site for show grounds reported that they had chosen a site containing from 20 to 25 acres, situated on the west side of the road leading to the cemetery, and recommended that the old site be given up, and permission asked to remove the present improvements.

A long discussion ensued on this report. The danger of retaining the present site was said to be its liability to being flooded, and having the whole of the improvements carried away. The cost of removal was objected to by some speakers, but eventually the report was adopted on the motion of Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Hendry, and the secretary was instructed to take the necessary steps to procure the site.

The tender of the *Mercury* for printing was accepted. It was decided that the Society should take part in the Railway Demonstration, and after attending to other minor matters the meeting closed.

Correspondence.

Quality or Value.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—Re the article headed "Quality or Value," in your issue of the 12th March. Having frequently heard the same remarks at shows, I wish with your kind permission to venture my thoughts with the view of eliciting sound opinions from those who have been long associated with the breeding of prize horse stock and their sale, and also if it would be wise for Societies to instruct their judges to take into consideration in their decisions "Quality or Value." To my mind it would act in opposition to the best aims of Societies to instruct judges to take into consideration "Value" when awarding prizes as the only certain way of settling that point is to place the stock in the market. At an Agricultural Show, I heard a judge say after making an unpopular decision, "Oh! I went for value" that judge might have been honest, and said, I did my best, as it is well-known to those who have any experience of show yards, that the decisions of our best and most honest judges are seldom if ever perfect from beginning to end, and yet some get nearer the mark than others. Often do I hear the cry of "take value" but I cannot help thinking it is used in most cases as a fine back door for a defeated competitor, or a judge who has made a mistake. I would like to see those who profess a ready and accurate discernment of value put to a test by placing twenty selected horses before them. I do not think they could point out the two horses that would realize the highest and lowest price selling in the open market, and left to public competition. I have seen a shrewd breeder place a very high value on a moderate animal and get his price, and another breeder sell an admittedly better beast for a less price, and I suppose we have to accept both sides as "value." The same thing happens every year at our annual sale in Melbourne, I certainly agree that Societies should adopt some rule to define how they wish their prizes awarded. If we visit two or three shows, we will find judges giving prizes to two different classes of stock the same day. In one class we find quality, substance, and action, gets first prize, and in another class they give the prize to a big, coarse, disproportioned brute, whose very air and gut

the tainted air did not exceed one minute at each passage, and yet they inhaled infection enough to make their milk offensive, and to nearly spoil, for cheese making, the milk of eighty-five cows with which their milk was mixed. When the cause was discovered, the burial of the calf terminated the effect. In four different instances the writer has known of cheese being materially injured in cheese factories from the cows of one of the dairies inhaling air scented from dead calves lying round the barn in a state of decay. The annual reports of the dairy associations have often contained similar cases. Foul air is one of the readiest modes of contaminating milk. It will injure milk sooner than bad food. What is taken into the stomach may be, and often is, to a large extent, neutralised by digestion, but infection taken into the lungs is at once, and without change, forced into circulation. There is no surer way of befouling milk than by forcing cows to breathe the confined air of their stables, saturated with the fumes of their perspiration and excrement. The consequence of breathing such odours is so plain and certain that it seems strange that it should be permitted to the extent it is. The assumption so commonly made that the milk absorbs the scent after it is drawn is doubtless one of the prominent causes. It is time that delusion was dispelled, and that dairymen should appreciate the fact that if they are to have pure-smelling and pure-flavoured milk when their cows are in the barn they must contrive to keep the odours of the stable from the nostrils of their cows, and give them pure air to breathe. Hurrying the milk out of the barn may be a good thing to do, but it will not remove the common cause and frequent occurrence of stable odours in milk.—*Live Stock Journal.*



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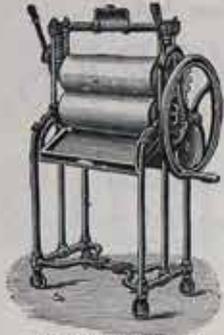
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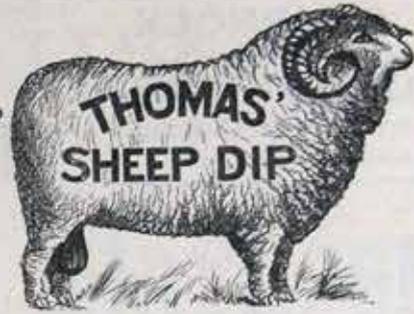
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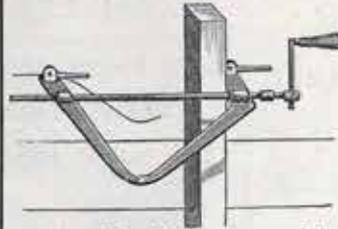
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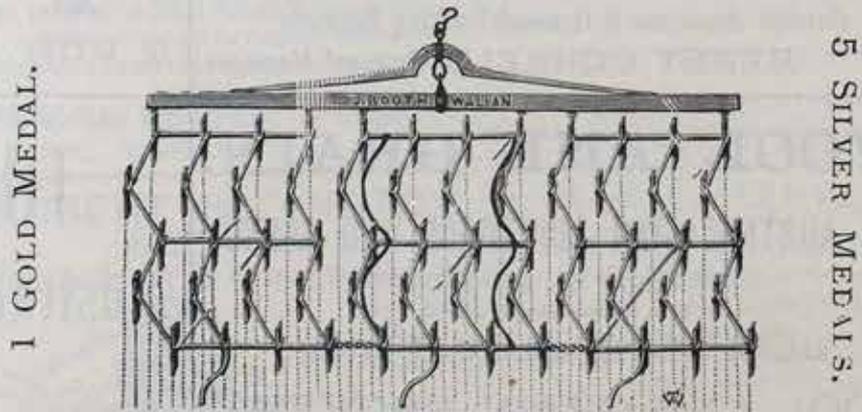
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The Patentee having thoroughly tested the efficiency of this Machine in the field for himself, has every confidence in recommending it to farmers generally, or those needing the use of such a Machine, as it will greatly expedite their harvesting operations, and effect a very great saving, as the following Testimonials will substantiate.

The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH. Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.
Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize; and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,
GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

MR. R. SMITH. Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it done; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,
GEORGE EXELL.

MR. RUPERT SMITH. Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.
Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendidly, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,
ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
Stock Yard Hill.

MR. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort. Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Winnowers. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly
TOKKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

MEMO. TO MR. RUPERT SMITH. January 26th, 1885.
Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked up on the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors.) In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,
F. DUE, Farmer,
Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885.
This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.
Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.
C. F. SUTHERLAND.

TO MR. RUPERT SMITH. Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way, and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.
Remaining yours faithfully,
G. DAVIS.

FULTON'S Improved Patent Portable Wire Strainer.

AWARDS, 1883-4.

Highly Commended—Canterbury, New Zealand, 1883.
 Silver Medal—Tairi Agricultural Society, Mosgiel, New Zealand, 1883.
 First-class Certificate of Merit—Brisbane, 1884.
 Special Prize—Mudgee, New South Wales, 1884.
 Commended—National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1884.
 Highly Recommended—Wangaratta, 1884.
 First Prize—Grand National Show, Echuca, 1884; Boort, 1884; Benalla, 1884; Nhill, 1884; Inglewood, 1884; Warrnambool, 1884; Tatura, 1884.
 Special Prize—Geelong 1884; Rochester, 1884; Sandhurst, 1884; Ballarat, 1884;

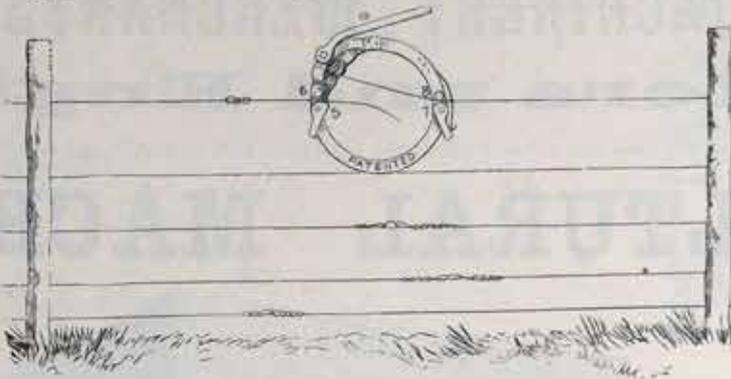


Diagram showing the Application of the Machine.

THIS MACHINE IS MADE ENTIRELY OF STEEL, AND WEIGHS UNDER 5lbs.

The Advantages claimed for this Machine are:—The ease with which a broken wire can be strained and rejoined at the break, thus saving the usual loss of time in having to go to the straining post to untie the wire; and that it can be used in the middle of a panel without any post to strain against.

DIRECTIONS FOR WORKING MACHINE.

Standing with your left side to the fence, the left foot about 18 inches in front of the right, with the left hand grasp the Strainer between the windlass and grip (5 and 6). Catch the left-hand end of the wire in grip (5 and 6), about 9 inches from the end; this done, place the machine against the left thigh so as to keep the jaw (5) from opening (still holding as directed with the left hand). Now take the right-hand end of the wire and pass it under (8) and into the hole in the windlass. With the handle in the right hand wind up the slack wire by turning the windlass (do not turn the handle right round, but every time it touches the body take a fresh grip). As each half-turn is complete, with the left hand press the grip (7) against the wire, so as to hold all the slack brought up by the windlass. When the wire is tight enough, unwind the windlass, cut off the surplus wire, leaving about 9 inches for knotting, by taking the two loose ends and rolling them together by means of two small keys; this done, remove the Strainer by striking the tail of the left-hand grip with the handle.

ALSO,

FULTON'S NEW IMPROVED WIRE-CUTTING SNIPS.

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General Importers of All Classes of Ironmongery & Station Supplies, Galvanized Iron, Fencing Wire, Machinery, &c.

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MACHINE BELTING.



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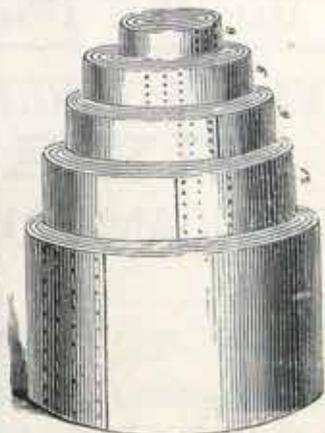
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Prices and Samples posted free on application.



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MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farme's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 3½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.

JOHN DANKS & SON,

Engineers & Brass Founders,

MANUFACTURERS OF

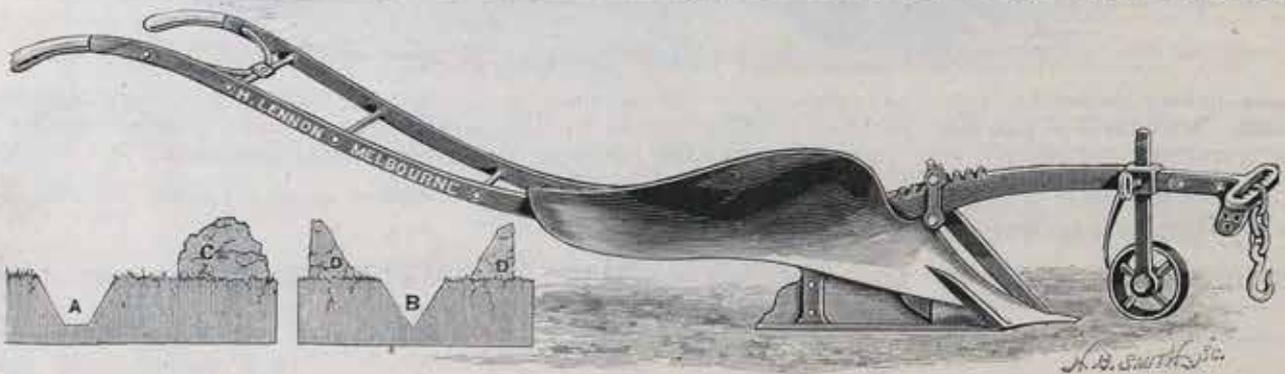
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Fire Engines, Baths, Sanitary Ware, Gas Fittings,

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**HUGH LENNON'S****World-famed Agricultural Field Implements and Harvesting Machinery**

Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes

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Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and dam sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.

Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators

Drain Ploughs, for irrigation purposes.

Vineyard Ploughs,

All fitted with H. L.'s Patent Wrought Iron Shares. A clear saving of 50 per cent.

➡ ALL KINDS OF HARVESTING MACHINERY IN STOCK. ➡

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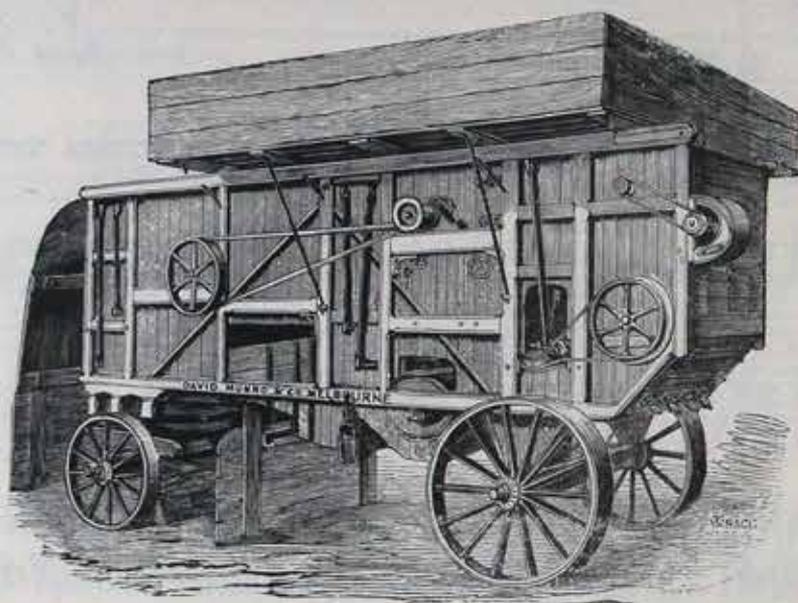
DAVID MUNRO & CO.,

MACHINERY MERCHANTS,

Importers and Engineers,

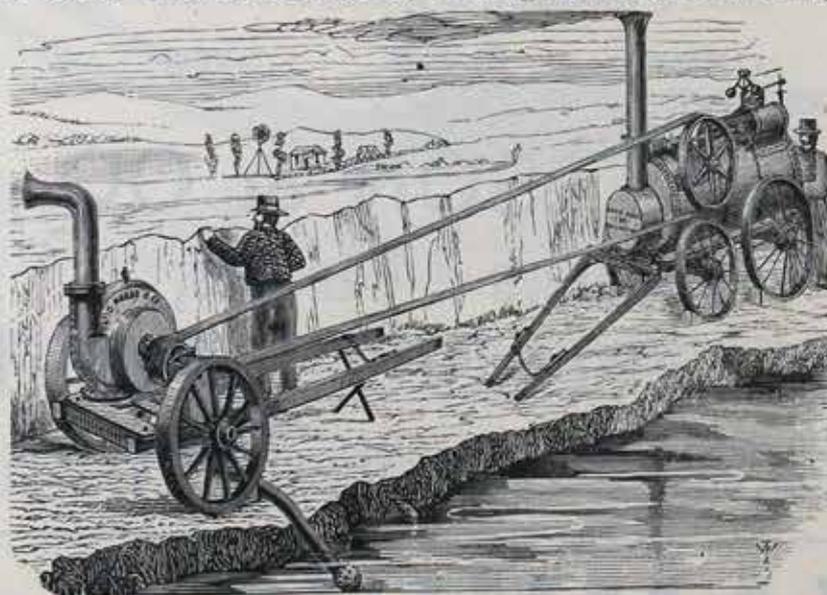
Respectfully direct the attention of the FARMING COMMUNITY to their Large and Varied Stock of

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RUSTON, PROCTOR & CO.'S COLONIAL PRIZE MEDAL STEAM THRESHING PLANTS,
EXPRESSLY ADAPTED FOR THIS MARKET.

OSBORNE Reapers and Twine Binders, Ploughs, Horseworks, Chaffcutters, &c.



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REFERENCES KINDLY PERMITTED BY PURCHASERS OF THESE CELEBRATED PUMPS.

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF MINING, SAWING & OTHER MACHINERY.

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8. Western District
9. ~~Central District~~ Port Phillip
10. Central District
11. N.A.S.V.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



VICTORIA

Vol. I.—No. 10. [Read as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, MAY 14TH, 1886.

GRATIS.

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Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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Every description of Agricultural Machinery and Implements, by all the best Melbourne Manufacturers and Importers on sale on favorable terms.
Town Agents for transaction of every description of Farmers business requiring Confidential Care and attention.

Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
STORAGE ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS.

J. F. & CO. Limited are prepared to ship Wheat if desired on Farmers' account for sale in London on advantageous terms.

£80,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security

J. B. SCOTT,
Britannia Bone Mills,
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BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has received from R. W. Emerson MacIvor:—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed through my hands, without your influence, and never have I found it to be otherwise than of first-class quality. During my eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MacIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,
LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

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The Best Disinfectant and Deodorant yet produced.
Four times the strength of any Disinfectant in the Market.

All who keep Horses, Dogs, or Poultry, and wish to keep them clean and free from insect life, should use it. It is also good for Horticultural purposes, especially for killing blight on orange and apple trees.

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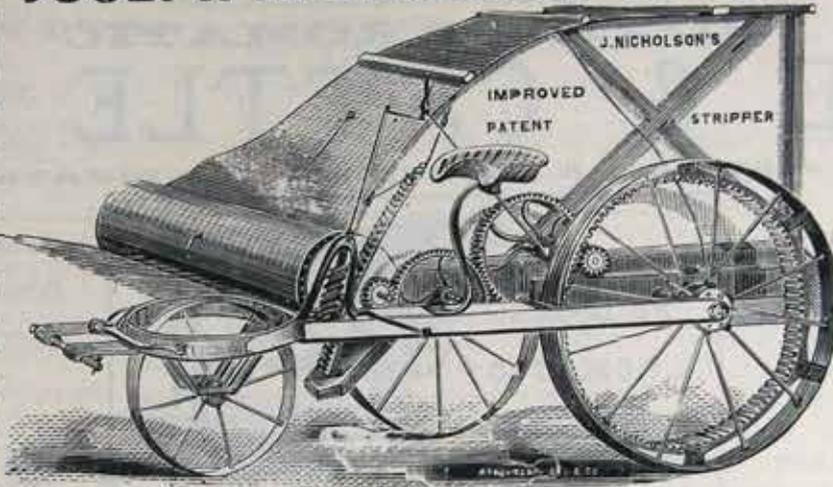
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FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1885
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 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Shepparton Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sydney Show, N.S.W., 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, March, 1883.

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PATENT SPUR GEARING STRIPPER.

The Most Successful Harvester in use.

STRIPPER PRIZES.

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 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1883
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Tatura Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Geelong Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Hobart, Tasmania Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Longford, Tasmania, Show, 1883.
 GOLD MEDAL, Shepparton Field Trial, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Echuca Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.

Our **NATIONAL PRIZE WINNOWER**, fitted with the New Patent Fly-Wheel, has attained unprecedented success as a Grain Cleaner within the last few seasons, and obtained the following First Class Prizes during the last 12 Months:—

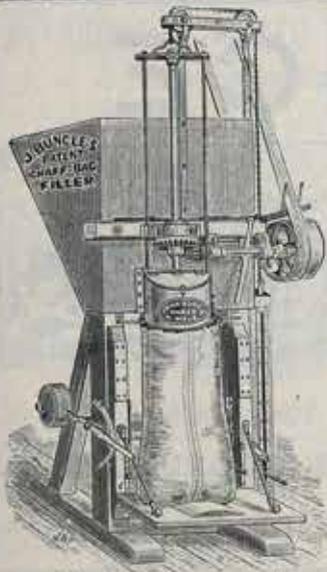
Corowa Show, 1885, Horsham Show, 1885; National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Champion Prize; Grand National Agricultural Society at Echuca, Corowa, Murtoa, Dimboola, Cootamundra, N.S.W., Numurkah, Cashel, Inglewood, Boort, 1st and 2nd, Rochester, Benalla Murchison, Sandhurst, Rutherglen, Shepparton, Gold Medal, and Field Trial.

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BUNCLE'S
Patent Chaff Bag Filler.

JOHN BUNCLE, in stating what is well known, viz., the great competition in the Hay, Corn, and Chaff Trade, begs at the same time to call attention to his endeavour to lighten the toil and increase the profits from such a business, by designing and manufacturing a machine for the above purpose, and one which cannot be approached by any other maker at present, or recommended to equal in **Simplicity, Durability, and thorough Adaptability and Cheapness** combined as in the above Machine. The **BAG FILLERS** are manufactured complete, ready to be sent to wherever ordered or in any of the colonies, either to fix in stores in connection with the fixed Chaffcutters, or to be attached to his well-known Travelling Chaffcutters previously supplied, and now supplied either with

or without Baggers. A few attempts have been made by some to supply such a want, but probably not having a theoretical as well as a practical knowledge of machines, have not been able to reduce the complicated movements in their machines, and which are perfectly unnecessary—as witness the Unique Simplicity and correctness in design, and the admirable working of **BUNCLE'S PATENT BAG FILLER** compared with the few others tried at work.

For the information and convenience of customers, a machine is kept constantly set up ready to show at work in **BUNCLE'S PARKSIDE IRONWORKS**, and many customers have witnessed **80 to 90 lbs.** of Chaff put in a bag in **15 seconds!!!** which, after making allowances for time removing the full bag and replacing an empty one, would easily on an average keep **Four** of **Buncle's No. 1 Chaffcutters**—well, if there is any doubt, say **Three** Machines clear of all the Chaff they cut (medium length.) Of course the Machines are arranged to put in as light weight as you like, or you can fill up and burst all your Bags—to pieces. As a trade requirement (in addition to filling bags) the necessity for a **Mixing Machine** is a long felt want, the laborious and unsatisfactory way at present adopted cannot much longer be endured, and there is no necessity for it!! as J. Buncle can arrange to "Blend" the worst and the best samples "To a Hair" at the least possible expense with the best results.

The season is now coming on when all those who intend having the latest improved Machines should forward their orders as early as possible, to prevent disappointment in the day of their need.

J. Buncle's Machines have, as usual, been awarded First Prize at all the leading shows wherever he exhibited last year (1885), and the many improvements introduced and constantly copied by other makers, is the best proof of the value of the continued consideration in all that affects the profits and welfare of his customers.

Chaffcutters with 14-in. wide mouthpieces and Newest Designs are now being manufactured to suit the increasing output of many of the leading Chaff Merchants. May your fortunes ever be associated with the earnest efforts to assist making them by,

Sirs and Gentlemen, yours respectfully,

JOHN BUNCLE.

Parkside Iron Works, North Melbourne.

Catalogues Post Free on Application.

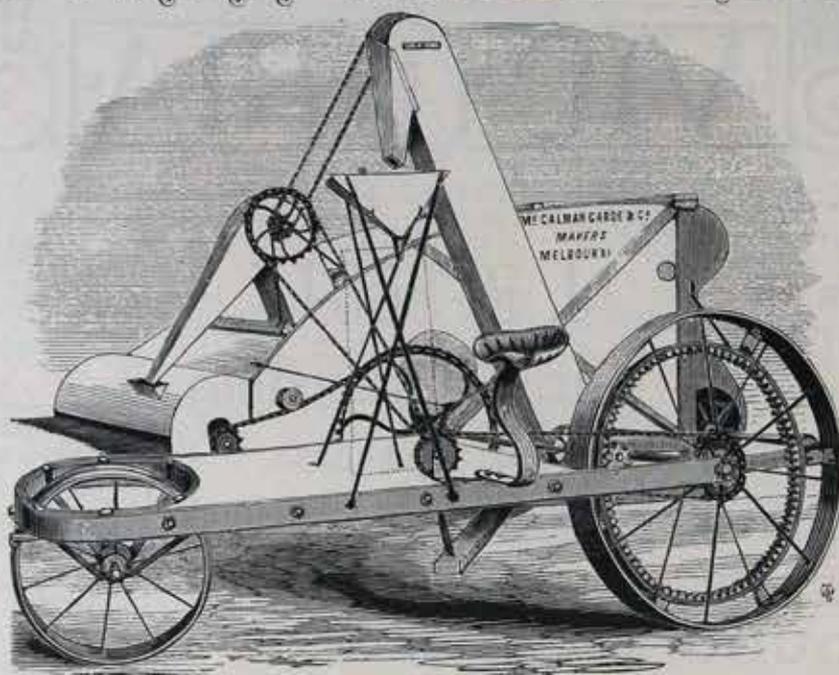
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MANUFACTURERS OF ALL KINDS OF

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Be to inform the Farming Community that they are the SOLE MAKERS of the

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All Kinds of Implements kept in Stock to select from at their Manufactory.

BLACKWOOD STREET, NORTH MELBOURNE.

METEOROLOGY.

Farmer's Barometers, with Thermometers.

Guaranteed Instrument, 25/-

RAIN GAUGES, from 15s

Standard Instruments of all Kinds.

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GAUNT'S ENGLISH LEVER WATCHES still hold their ground against all competitors as the most durable and trustworthy timekeepers in the world.

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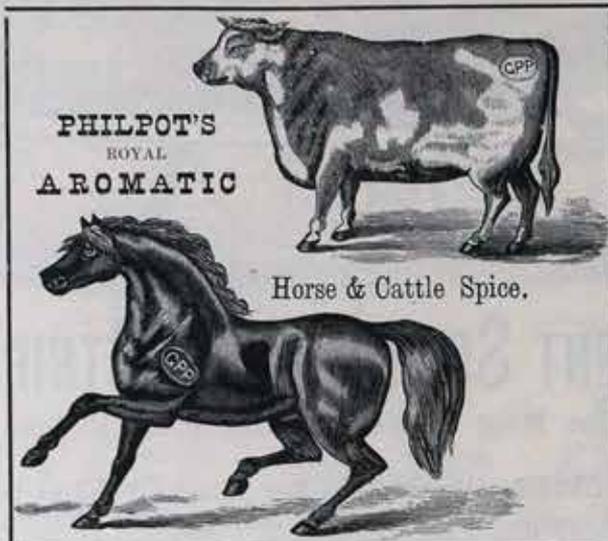
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 state the name of sire, dam, and sire of dam, to-
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SECRETARY.

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Agricultural Society

OF VICTORIA.

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 tary at the office, or to Mr. John
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THOMAS PATTERSON,

SECRETARY.

Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
 addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar,
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 Somerset Place, 6 Little Bourke Street West.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
 requested to forward to the editor the dates on
 which their respective exhibitions will be held,
 also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
 they are published.

JULY.

22.—Deniliquin.

AUGUST.

4.—Corowa.

17, 18, 19, 20.—National, Brisbane.

23 & 24.—Australian Sheepbreeders' Association
 at Goldsbrough's, Bourke-street west.

25, 26, 27, 28.—National, Melbourne.

SEPTEMBER.

1, 2, 3, 4.—Metropolitan, Sydney.

2, 3.—Champion Sheep Show, Ballarat.

8, 9.—Horsham.

8, 9.—Donald.

9, 10.—Ovens and Murray, Wangaratta.

15, 16.—Albury, N.S.W.

OCTOBER.

1.—Boort.

7.—Bacchus Marsh.

7.—Tungamah.

20, 21.—Bendigo.

PLOUGHING MATCHES.

MAY.

24.—South Gippsland, Port Albert.

27.—Victoria (Heidelberg) Society

JUNE.

2.—Bacchus Marsh.

of black flats and fine rises, lightly timbered with sheoak. The fallen underwood has all been cleared off the ground, giving the estate a pretty park-like appearance. The higher points of the hills command magnificent views of the surrounding country, which in this neighbourhood is highly picturesque, so that it will be understood that this farm combines fertility of soil with beauty of situation. The first stock inspected was a herd of pure Jerseys, all in healthy, thriving condition. Although including animals of different types, these cattle all showed evidences of high breeding, which was to be expected as they were selected from the very best strains procurable. Amongst the number were—Belle (imported) by Taxation, dam Beautiful. Beautiful took first prize at Norfolk Agricultural Show, 1875. Baggage (imported) by Cicero, was another cow which attracted considerable attention. Bagotine, the dam of this cow, took fourth prize against all Jersey in 1881, and second prize at the Great London Dairy Show in the same year. Duchess, bred at St. Saviour's, Jersey, was also imported, the balance of the herd being colonial bred. The Holsteins, which Mr. Peppin has lately imported, were next inspected. There are six head of these cattle which were purchased by Mr. Peppin in New Zealand, where they were brought from Holland. Everyone was delighted with the big, comfortable, contented, good-looking cows of this lately introduced breed, which seems to combine in an eminent degree the qualities of heavy milkers with grand beef producers. *Agriculture*, an English paper, says of these cattle:—"The great milk-giving capacity of the Holstein cows is well known in this country; and they are great favourites among the London cow-keepers, so they have for some years—since quarantine for foreign stock animals has been enforced—continued to grumble because this restriction for preventing the re-importation of diseases, acts practically as a prohibition. That this stock will mature early, as well as give a large yield of milk, is shown by the number of fat calves that are sent to the London market. These cows have long been great favourites also in America, as they have produced the largest yields of milk that have been recorded of any breeds." And *Colman's Rural World*, an American paper, says:—"The Holstein-Friesian cattle have found their best home in Texas and Mexico. The Texas people especially are clamorous for them. So well are they pleased with the manner in which they run the gauntlet of the acclimating fever, and supply them with big pails full of milk, that they cannot get enough of them. They make a splendid cross on the native cows, and in a few years their grades will be found there by thousands. No imported stock has been found to do so well in Southern Texas."

One of Mr. Peppin's cows, which came from Holland, showed a remarkably large and well-defined milk escutcheon. A visitor—a noted breeder too—had never heard of an escutcheon before, and there was some fun in "chaffing" him about it. The idea of judging the capacity of cattle as milk producers by the size and character of their escutcheons, was hit on by F. Guenon, a Frenchman, who reduced it to a system, by which the amount of milk a cow will give and the length of time she will milk, can be

infallibly told. After having a look at some pure Berkshire pigs, and admiring some beautiful Rouen ducks, the party were taken to see the silo opened. The silo is seven feet below the ground, and five feet above it at the low end, where the bank in which it is made falls nearly that height in the length of the silo. It is lined with red gum boards one and a quarter inches thick, those above the surface being backed up with the earth taken from the excavation. The cost of this lining is much less than the brick-work, stone, or concrete generally used. The silage is to be taken out for consumption by lifting two or three covering slabs from the end next the chaff house, with the floor of which the top of the silo is level, and cutting the silage down like a hay stack to the depth of five feet, when these slabs will be put down again, and the whole pit gone over to the above depth. At the far end is a door which reaches down five feet from the top, and to which a cart or wheelbarrow can be taken. This is to be removed, and a cut taken to the bottom of the pit, and the silage got out at the door. By this means the fodder has to be raised only seven feet at most when wanted for use, and the horse for treading the chaff when put in can be got nearly to the bottom of the pit. The door is made by putting slabs one by one horizontally above each other as the pit is filled. The floor of the chaff house being level with the top of the silo, any fodder to be put in has not to be raised, but is shovelled from the chaffcutter to the pit. The pit is 12 x 17 x 12, and allowing 55 lbs. to the cubic foot, makes it contain 60 tons. It is calculated that from 45 to 55 lbs. go into each cubic foot—the weight varying according to the stuff put in, how weighted, and whether chaffed or not. In this case the higher weight is taken, the pit having been twice filled, and the ensilage chaffed. The silage in this silo cost £15 to cut, cart, chaff, put in and press—horse labour not reckoned in this amount. Allowing 60 tons to be in the pit, the cost was 5s. per ton. When opened for inspection the contents of the silo were found to be in fine condition. The temperature was about 70 degrees, and the silage had a smell which may be described as something between that of the best tobacco and brewer's grains. It has since been found that stock devour it greedily. After Mr. Peppin had explained the process of ensilage, the company adjourned to the luncheon room, where an excellent repast was set out. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. John Finlay, in fitting terms, proposed Mr. Peppin's health, which toast was honoured with enthusiasm. Mr. Peppin, in replying, expressed the pleasure it gave him to show the company what he was doing on his farm, and regretted that the weather was so unfavourable as to prevent several expected visitors from attending, but hoped that those who had come had seen enough to interest them. The toast of "the Press" was then proposed and responded to by the representatives of the *Australasian*, the *Leader*, and this *Journal* respectively. After lunch, a choice little flock of Southdowns, "as like as peas," was inspected. These sheep are the progeny of ten ewes and one ram imported to Sydney in 1879, which were bred by Colonel Kingscote, at Kingscote, Gloucestershire. While admiring these sheep, a little

mob of Exmoor ponies was run into the yard. These ponies are about twelve hands high, and are more active and not so "podgy" as the Shetland. They look as clever as cats, and as if no journey would be too long for them. This was the last stock to be seen on this farm, where everything is pure and where it was evident that sound judgment had been used in forming the various herds, the inspection of which was indeed a treat. The reflection was forced on the visitors that the well-known practical knowledge of stock of the proprietor of this estate was of immense service to him in the establishment of his several studs, which bid fair not only to be a source of pleasure and profit to their owner, but to result in a benefit to the community.

Meeting.

Council.

THE Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, 11th May, 1886.

PRESENT—Dr. Plummer (President) in the chair, with Messrs. J. Gibb, J. Hurst, W. Learmonth, W. J. Lobb, W. Thomson, D. R. McGregor, J. G. Brisbane, F. Peppin, S. G. Staughton, J. Hearn, H. Lennon, D. Munro, C. Lynott, and J. Finlay.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

REPORTS.

The Finance Committee's report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts, and recommending payments amounting to £85 13s. 11d., was read.

Mr. McGregor moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Thomson, and carried.

The Show Committee (machinery section) reported that they had accepted the offer of a special prize of £20 for engines subject to test under certain conditions submitted, excepting that the latter be altered to allow a declaration from the manufacturer, agent, or exhibitor, and that the price be stated. They also recommend that a second prize of £5 be given for the same class.

They further recommend that the Society's gold medal be offered for the newest or best field implements produced within twelve months prior to the Show, and that the gold medal be offered for the best collection of machinery and the best collection of agricultural implements respectively.

Mr. Thomson moved that the portion of the report relating to the special prize and conditions for engines, be adopted; but that the remainder be deferred for consideration until the reports of all sections of the Show Committee were submitted for approval. Seconded by Mr. Brisbane and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From J. Garton, regretting his inability to attend the meeting. Received.

From the Hon. W. McCulloch, resigning his seat as a member of the Council,

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, MAY 14th, 1886.

Reformation in Stallions.

THE use of inferior stallions for breeding purposes is a practice which is to be deplored in any community; and it is one which is far too common in this colony, where many horses are to be found at the stud which should never be allowed to propagate their species. That this is the case is largely attributable to the want of knowledge on the part of breeders—and more particularly on the part of small breeders—as well as to the absurdly high estimate they are apt to form of their own animals. Men with a few horses are too apt to be like parents with their children. They think their own perfection, and either cannot, or else will not, see their faults. An amusing case of this occurred, in which an owner had a colt which he bred, fed, and exhibited at various shows, but was invariably either unplaced or beaten. However, after cursing judges, stewards, and societies in general, he would try again, but always with the same result. The man really thought the animal perfection, though he was alone in that opinion. However, he eventually got rid of him, and years afterwards, with a wider experience and improved judgment, laughed at his previous folly. In draught stock, when a farmer sends his mare to an imported stallion, he often says, "If I get a colt foal I'll mak' a stallion o' him," thinking that no matter what may be the quality of the dam, a foal from an imported sire must be something wonderful. Large owners, however, are not so apt to make glaring mistakes, for they have better opportunities of observation and comparison whereby their judgment becomes corrected. In blood stock again, it is not uncommon to see narrow, spindle-shanked, slab-sided yearlings, ungainly as camels, offered for sale entire. These, after their racing career—if they ever have a racing career—are used as sires about the country. All this is wrong, not only in the interests of the individual, but from a national point of view as well. Lately we notice that the leading racing clubs are instituting special races for geldings, with good amounts of added money, which is a step in the right direction. Vigorous steps should be taken to maintain and improve our different breeds of horses. Of all the animal creation the horse is man's noblest friend, so that it is only common prudence to endeavour to produce the various types in their greatest perfection. The animal is specially susceptible to the influence of man, who by judicious mating and crossing has produced types approaching perfection, which, as they have been so produced, are apt to deteriorate unless proper care is taken and knowledge brought to bear on the subject of breeding. The possible influence of man on the lower creation is scarcely

realised by those who know little of it, or who move about with their heads in the clouds. One of these, a learned divine, was once startled into practical thought when he was theorising to a youth on the wonders of nature. Approaching a yard he pointed to an animal therein as one of the finished works of the Creator. "No," said the youth, "God made him a bull, but my father made him a bullock." The horse, however, as we have said, is peculiarly susceptible to improvement and modification, and as many breeders have not sufficient practical knowledge to be able to see that it is to their interest to keep and use nothing but high class sires, the authorities should step in and legislate to make them do so. A tax on stallions would be the means of reducing the number of indifferent animals used for stud purposes, and we believe owners of superior horses would gladly pay such a tax. Owners of mares now send them to low class horses, because they get their services cheap, forgetting that the difference of two or three pounds expended in this way may make a difference of ten times that amount in the value of the matured progeny, while the inferior animal is just as costly to keep as the higher class one. If the number of low class horses were reduced, the owners of superior animals would be more than recouped for the amount of their tax by the extra patronage their horses would receive. Legislation for the improvement of the breed of horses is no new idea, as will be seen by the following digest from an Act in force in the reign of Henry VIII.:

"Forasmuch as the generation and breed of good and strong horses within this realm extendeth not only to a great help and defence of the same, but also is a great commodity and profit to the inhabitants thereof, which is now much decayed and diminished, by reason that, in forests, chases, moors, and waste grounds within this realm, little stoned horses, and nags of small stature and of little value, be not only suffered to pasture thereupon, but also to cover mares feeding there, whereof cometh in manner no profit or commodity." Section 2 of the Act provides that no entire horse being above the age of two years, and not being of the height of 15 "handfuls," shall be put to graze on any common or waste land in certain counties; anyone was to be at liberty to seize a horse of unlawful height, and those whose duty it was to measure horses, but who refused to do so, were to be fined 40s. By section 6 of all forests, chases, commons, &c., were to be "driven" within 15 days of Michaelmas day, and all horses, mares, and colts not giving promise of growing into serviceable animals, or of producing them, were to be killed."

Possibly there may be some difficulty in securing the passing of an Act of Parliament to tax stallions. We have, however, an alternative proposal to make, which the Federated Agricultural Societies should undertake. Let a system of inspection by the District Boards, or special jurors appointed by them, be instituted under the direction of the Central Board, whereby the owners of stallions passed by such Boards should receive certificates, something after the French plan. The system could even be elaborated, and certificates of one or two degrees might be given, as is done to ships at Lloyd's. We would, however, prefer to see all A1, and believe that certificates of fitness to stand in any district after actual examination by the Boards or their jurors as suggested, would be an excellent idea.

In the Channel Islands, when the Jersey Herd Book was established, the animals entered had to be brought up for the examination of a special committee, and those not up to the standard of appearance—no matter what was their pedigree—were rejected. That was right. While we reverence pedigree, we don't believe in buying altogether on paper regardless of appearances. Pedigrees, appearances, and last, but not most important of all, soundness, could be taken into consideration by the Boards; and while private owners could use any sires they chose, those who "stood" their horses—and they are in the majority—would be compelled to procure a certificate, or they would doubtless be boycotted. Very many owners of one or two mares have no special knowledge of horses, and they would be only too glad to fall back on the judgment of a panel of recognised ability, so that when the practice was in force those owners of sires who could not produce their certificates would have a poor chance of receiving patronage. Inferior sires would soon be altogether discarded, and the result would be a raising of the standard of our horse stock.

Concerted action to improve the breed of horses is soon productive of good results, for, as we have said, they are very amenable to influences. We notice in the *Live Stock Journal*, received by the last mail, that the Shire Horse Society has just held a most successful show at Islington Hall. At this show the picked horses are all subject to most careful and thorough veterinary inspection, and it was stated that as the result of this course out of classes—or as Victorians would say, sections—of twenty and thirty sent out of the ring to the veterinary professors, in almost every case they came back without any of their number being rejected—very different from what was the case when the Society was established six years ago. Since strict veterinary inspection was insisted on—while the number of entries had been largely increased—unsoundness had been almost entirely got rid of. We think that the result of the system here suggested would likewise be effectual in ridding Victoria of the great bulk of its inferior stallions.

Hawkridge.

A number of gentlemen interested in agricultural and pastoral pursuits were invited by Mr. Frederick Peppin to visit his stud farm, Hawkridge, near Epping, on the 17th of last month, to witness the opening of a silo he had constructed there, and to inspect his pure stock. Unfortunately the day was wet and gloomy, consequently things were seen at a disadvantage. However, notwithstanding this drawback visitors were delighted with what they saw, and the choice collections of pure stock, of various descriptions, were the subjects of much praise. As the great difference between the appearance of animals on a wet and on a fine day is well known to every practical man, the fact that Mr. Peppin's stock created such a favourable impression under adverse circumstances speaks volumes for their real merit. The farm is about 500 acres in extent, and consists

judges to a particular stallion, as the best stock-getter for hunting purposes in the yard. After the award came the veterinary examination; it showed that the horse had a curb, and consequently in the judgment of the veterinary surgeon and of the directors of the show he was disqualified. The decision, as such decisions generally do, caused a great explosion; the owner of the horse loudly declaring his intention of invoking all the veterinary aid he could press into his service, and he succeeded in securing that of several eminent men, but the directors stood firm. The owner and his professional supporters were right, the horse was sound in a sense; he was what is called *practically sound*, but the question was—“*Is he sound for the purpose for which the premium is awarded?*” The veterinary inspector and his friends, of whom I was, quite accidentally, one, said no; and the premium was withheld in consequence.

Mark the sequence; fate decreed that in a few hours I landed unwittingly within a few miles from the home of the condemned horse, and knowing that I had been to the show in question, one of the first questions put to me by my entertainer was, “How did it come about that — was awarded the £100 premium yesterday?” and the question was followed by the offer to show me, in the short space of two hours, twenty of the progeny of the particular horse with curbs or curby hocks.

Not only does the question of hereditary transmission of defects stand out prominently in connection with the selection of sires and dams, but the still more important question presents itself—*What will be the probable result of these defects when the horse or colt is in due course put to hard work?* And who, I would ask, is best qualified to give the answer? Most certainly the veterinary surgeon, not only by virtue of his scientific training, but still more importantly by virtue of his practical training; by virtue, in other words, of the experience he gains in his everyday practice as to the results of such defects, and from the treatment of which results he derives a large part of his professional income.

Some little time after the appearance of my paper on the breeding of horses, and the showing of horses in the *North British Agriculturalist* I met a well-known Clydesdale man at a railway station in the South of Scotland. We were unknown to each other, but were quickly introduced by a mutual friend. In a few minutes my new acquaintance opened up a discussion on the various points to which I had directed attention in my paper, and curiously enough he professed great indifference to the injurious effects of sidebones and roaring in working horses: “a wee bit sidebone,” “a puffed hock,” or “a bit of a grunt or a roar,” were, in his view, of no consequence; but after I had quietly asked him from what source the veterinary surgeons in towns and cities derived a very large share of their daily work, he was fain to acknowledge that “after all he was not very partial to sidebones, nor did he like puffy hocks or roaring.”

WHO LOSES BY UNSOUNDNESS.

I am convinced that there is nothing to be gained by breeders and judges wilfully closing their eyes to such defects as I have mentioned. On the contrary there is a great deal to be lost by such a course, and although they may successfully dispose of their two or three year olds, the dealer will be the loser in the long run when his high-priced youngster is condemned as having some important structural defect which renders unfit for stock-getting or for hard work.

But the difficulty in this matter is not in the making of you or me believe the truth of this statement; but in the convincing of the prejudiced mind of the breeder and the

dealer. Given a good top, good feet and legs, and a commanding appearance; grave structural defects are by these men passed over, and that too very frequently to their own ultimate loss. A little circumstance which came under my own immediate observation a year or two ago will illustrate my meaning. I was requested by the manager of a western ranche to accompany him to two separate farms in the Lothians, and there examine a two-year-old colt and a three-year-old mare respectively. The former had, very pronouncedly, bog spavins, and I had very little difficulty in convincing him that it would be a great mistake to purchase such an animal for breeding purposes. The mare had a distinct bone spavin on the off hock, and sidebone on each forefoot, and was distinctly lame, even on a soft road, on the off foot. I had no difficulty in convincing my friend of the existence of these defects, but seeing that the animal was, so far as conformation was concerned, a perfect model, and had she been sound, well worth the two hundred guineas asked, the intending purchaser had the greatest possible difficulty in making up his mind to leave her. At last he asked my candid opinion, as he said (though he had already had it a dozen or more times), as to the probability of the defects which I had pointed out to him interfering with the breeding capacities of the mare. My answer was such as I would always give under similar circumstances. I said, “If your object is to breed colts for disposal at one and two years old, well and good; but you must be prepared for the inevitable result, viz., that indeed course the defects pointed out will make their appearance in the offspring, and the character of your ranche as a breeding establishment will be effectually and deservedly damned.” Mr. T— was a conscientious man, he had a character to preserve and a name to make, and the mare remained in the possession of her owner. I think, gentlemen, it may be laid down as an axiom in breeding, “that if lasting success is to be attained, only sound sires and sound dams should be selected; but if breeding is to be carried on only for the purpose of temporary gain, then let animals of an attractive form and appearance be chosen, and let soundness go to the winds.” Those who adopt the latter part of this axiom as their guide must not be disappointed at the result. If the Manchester merchants elect to palm off shoddy articles on his customers he must not grumble if the genuine merchant displaces him in his own market.—*The Scottish Agricultural Gazette.*

On the Proper Class of Emigrants for the Colonies.

To show the class of emigrants it would be desirable to obtain, perhaps it may be best to show those who are not suitable. The following extract from the *European Mail* will explain what I mean:—“There is an enormous difference in the stuff of which emigrants are made. Most of those sent out to the colonies by the Agents-General are, at all events, fairly up to the mark, and at least capable of some kind of useful, if not directly productive, work. But it is far otherwise, indeed, with those who go out at the instance of friends on this side, who often merely wish to get rid of persons they have but a poor opinion of as workers in the harvest of the world, or those who elect to go out chiefly because they do not quite know what to do with themselves, and have—frequently without knowing it—missed their vocation, or, worse, have really no vocation at all. As a rule, the narratives of emigrants who go to the Austral Colonies especially, are, when sent home, cheery and full of wholesome stimulus and encouragement to others to go and do likewise; and such letters usually breathe a bracing spirit of independence, and self-reliance that really does one good. Unfortunately, it is not invariably so. Not a few emigrants, as most Australians know, sometimes to their sore dis-

appointment, turn out miserable failures, and their experiences form lugubrious tales indeed of wasted opportunities and blighted hopes. The other day I encountered a case of this kind. A young man—I beg his pardon, I mean a young gentleman—has just come back in my own neighborhood to spread the most depressing and damaging reports of Australians and Australian life among all who have the patience to listen to his story of successive failures to earn a living in the colonies. He went out under most favorable auspices, had a capital outfit, no small amount of ready money, and was deemed by all who knew him to be a man of considerable ability, and he was certainly not in the least lazy. He had and has no vices, and is in truth a worthy young fellow enough; yet he has returned at the cost of a compassionate colonist, almost in rags, without money, and quite crushed in spirit by what he calls his “awful experience” on the Darling Downs. He declares that all the employers he had to do with were little better than drunkards, dunces, or downright ruffians; that he was very hardly used on a sheep run; never had the least chance of rising or being aught but a menial; was cheated out of his capital on various pretexts; and had the misfortune of seeing a man, whom he calls a low-minded wretch on the high road to wealth with money of which this unlucky young man was once the possessor. In discussing his case with a clergyman’s wife, who takes much interest in his fallen fortunes, she was much astonished, and I think secretly annoyed, when I told her plainly that the young man had, in my opinion, brought all his troubles on his head simply because he would not consent to take off his kid gloves. Figuratively speaking, that phrase precisely explains all his failure. I made some searching inquiry, and soon found out that he was, from the first, unwilling to “rough it,” in any form whatever, and was mightily disappointed to find that he could not have a bedroom to himself while working on the sheep run. “He would not have minded how humble it was,” remarked his sympathetic lady friend, “but he abhorred herding with such men as he tells me the majority of the settlers were in that part.” Well, the young man is back again, a burden to his friends and one more unit to the crowd of competitors for those multitudinous “genteel” employments which, in my opinion, are sapping away the strength of this great nation. The Colonies are well rid of such men, but I fear that not a few still struggle out who will not, if they can possibly help it, soil their hands; and what wretchedness is not theirs in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred? It appears as though what the Americans call “grit” was entirely wanting in the average middle-class young man of the period, and this fondness for wearing gloves seems to make him a fool and an idler amid opportunities that would lead a Garfield or an Abraham Lincoln to independence and honor. The fact is, a large proportion of the voluntary emigrants who go out from overcrowded England to the Antipodes are far from being helpful. They expect to reach a land of smiling skies and of fields that yield plenty without labor. Mark Tapley asked the Yankee landjobber if the house grew “spontaneous” in Eden, but these exorbitant folk seem to expect that under the Austral sun fortunes are ripened “spontaneous,” and may be plucked by simply putting forth a kid-gloved hand. How far from this is the reality all Colonists know full well, but I suppose while we force education unsoundly and unwisely in this country of ours there will always be *ne'er-do-wells* whose chief “metier” is to libel the Colonies, and malign colonists who have made, or are making, a noble struggle for independence, and who understand so fully, as ever did Carlyle, the true dignity and worth of honest, hard labor.” This is the case with hundreds who have come out to the Colonies. I travelled to England with several young men (two of them young medicos) who seemed to think they had nothing to do but to go to Australia and their fortunes were assured, but because they were disappointed miscalled the Colonies for everything that was bad, and seemed to consider that they had a grievance because things had not turned out as they expected. Having thus shown those who are not desirable, I would endeavour to show those who are. 1st.—Agricultural laborers. I think farmers make a great mistake by hiring men intermittently or for short periods. It is a question whether it would not be better to hire by the year or half-year, as then they would have the men at the busy period. They could always find work of some sort in slack times, and to strangers coming from the old country this would be far preferable to short engagements. This colony would take a few thousands of this class of men, as if they could not get

in consequence of being now resident in Riverina.

Mr. McGregor moved that the resignation be accepted with regret. Seconded by Mr. Lennon, and carried.

From North Western Agricultural Society, pointing out the propriety of taking united action towards obtaining a greatly increased grant in aid to Agricultural Societies, and stating that if the amount received annually by the Societies continued to be reduced, many of those in the country would be unable to continue operations. The Committee had decided on issuing a circular to each Agricultural Society, inviting co-operation, and the appointment of delegates to a Conference, to be held at the Exchange, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 2nd June, at 11 a.m. The object being, to then arrange for a deputation to wait on the Minister of Agriculture on the following day.

Mr. Gibb moved that the letter be referred to the Central Board of the Federated Agricultural Societies, of which Board the President was chairman. He thought that many of the small Societies were useless, and if these ceased to exist, more subsidy would be available for distribution amongst the larger ones, whose operations were more beneficial to the community.

The President stated that the business of the federation scheme had been suspended, owing to the change of ministry, but Mr. Dow had prepared a bill for presentation to parliament, next session, to provide funds and place the matter on a satisfactory basis.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hurst, and carried.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES COUNCIL ELECTION.

Mr. Lennon moved that the president, Dr. Plummer, be nominated as the Society's candidate for election on the Council of Agricultural Education under the Agricultural Colleges Act, which election would take place next month. No professional man had taken a deeper interest in agricultural and pastoral pursuits, or had worked harder in their interests through a long series of years than Dr. Plummer, and he believed his nomination for the position he had so well filled during the past year would meet with unanimous approval.

Mr. Lobb seconded the nomination: the motion being carried *men con*.

Dr. Plummer, in returning thanks for being again nominated by the Society for a seat on the Council of Agricultural Education, said that it might be thought that that body had not yet made much progress, but he assured the meeting that such was not the case. Much work had been done, which, however, was like the foundation of a house, it was not open to view. A sound commencement having been made, he hoped, if re-elected, to help to bring about results which would materially advance the agricultural and pastoral interests of the Colony.

The president, at the instance of the secretary, submitted a question for the consideration of the Council as to whether an animal foaled in the colony, but got in England, was imported or colonial bred. Doubtless much could be said on both sides, but it would be well for the Council to give a ruling on the subject.

The question gave rise to an animated discussion, conflicting opinions being freely expressed. Eventually, Mr. Thomson moved that the Council pass a resolution to the effect that all animals born in the colony, no matter where their sire and dam where mated, be classed as colonial bred; seconded by Mr. Peppin, and carried.

Mr. Thomson moved that the owner of the dam at the time an animal is born, be held to be the breeder of the animal; seconded by Mr. Peppin.

Mr. Hearn and Mr. Brisbane contended that the person who mates the animals should have the credit of being the breeder; but the above resolution was eventually carried unanimously.

Mr. Thomson moved that the whole Council be appointed a committee to collect donations as prizes for the ensuing show in August; seconded by Mr. Munro and carried.

The meeting then closed.

Correspondence.

Ensilage.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria).

SIR,—Having taken some interest in silos and ensilage—carefully examined the report of the Ensilage Enquiry instituted by the new Agricultural Department in England—built a silo on my farm and filled it, I will place before your readers my views on this subject, and it is one that I think may well occupy—as it is doing—the attention of farmers and graziers, as any new and useful means of providing economical food for stock must be worthy of consideration and enquiry by those interested.

All sorts of odds and ends, worthless in seasons of plenty, but of great value in the ever recurring periods of scarcity can in this way be saved and made valuable food. I do not think like some American writers that the silo is to work a revolution in agriculture and stock feeding, but I consider a silo or silos of a capacity proportionate to the size of the holding, would be found a valuable adjunct to almost every farm, and may be made the same to large grazing estates, where the stock is of sufficient value to be worth saving at a maximum cost by artificial food in seasons of drought and scarcity.

The great advantages of silos I consider to be these—fodder can be put into them at any time in any weather which would not be made available in any other way, it can be cut and carted wet or dry, and when once in the pit, may be said to be indestructible as it maintains its quality for years, and is proof against fire and mice.

The silo has aptly been called the farmers' safe. Any small quantity of, at the time, superfluous fodder can be put into it, and it is safe. Crops that can be grown at the time of year when hay cannot be made, can be put into the silo, some that will not make good hay will make good silage. Maize for instance, peas, beans, vetches, and rye, these mixed with rough grass improve its quality and utilize it. Mangolds, a great crop for the dairyman and breeder of valuable stock, can be pulped or sliced, put into the silo and will come out valuable when grass is dry in summer, and they cannot be preserved in any other way.

Lucerne, which is troublesome to make into hay, although, perhaps, the best when saved,

makes excellent silage. Thistles also, "in that palatable form are eagerly eaten by stock." What is commonly called the clover burr, which grows luxuriantly in good seasons, and goes off with a very few hot winds, would I doubt not, maintain the same valuable feeding qualities when taken from the silo as it does in its green state, and good hay it will not make. The value of silos may be very inexpensively tested by digging a hole in a hard dry bank, and well treading into it, with a horse if possible, any fodder that can be collected, and covering it with earth a foot to eighteen inches deep, of course keeping it dry. For economy of space chaffing is an advantage, and for such crops as maize it is a necessity. Chaffed stuff is more conveniently taken out, more easily and less wastefully fed to stock, and I think when put into a permanently built silo, chaffing should always be done.

In making a silo, air should be excluded as much as possible and water entirely, and that may be done without going to the great expense of brick or stone walls cemented.

I have only commenced feeding with silage, and cannot from experience speak of its merits, but I will quote from a leading article entitled "Ensilage a Success," written in the English *Live Stock Journal*, on the evidence taken by the Ensilage Enquiry Commissioners, when the opinion of 294 experts was taken.—"Silage has been found to be an excellent food for nearly all kinds of stock. Almost unanimous testimony is afforded as to its good effects on the health of stock. Silage has been fed extensively to dairy cows as a rule, along with other material, but in a few cases alone and the weight of the evidence, is decidedly favourable to ensilage." Another season I intend trying stacking silage, the result of which I will write you.—Yours, &c.,

FREDERICK PEPPIN.

St. Kilda, May 6th, 1886.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S. will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a *post mortem* examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum, may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Hereditary Defects.

Large premiums are offered by our agricultural societies for the best sires, and it is, I aver, a sin and a shame that every possible precaution is not taken to ensure that these animals are worthy of the position to which they are elevated. In most instances, I believe, in England the question of soundness, and particularly the question of freedom from hereditary defects, is looked upon as of primary importance; and in many instances the director of shows stand firmly to their guns and uphold the decision of their veterinary inspector, upon whose dictum they implicitly rely. Of one such case which came under my own observation I have a very distinct recollection. It was a case in which a hundred pounds premium had been awarded by the

work from farmers they could always get work as laborers, navvies, etc. The other desirable classes would be tradesmen, such as carpenters, masons, bricklayers, etc., indeed, any kind of manual laborers. The following will show what has been done in the Highlands by individual effort by Lady Gordon Cathcart, who is proprietrix of the islands of Benbecula, South Uist, and Barra, and adjacent islands in the Outer Hebrides, comprising the entire parishes of South Uist and Barra.

The rental of the estates is about £8600. The population in 1881 was 8239. There are 940 crofters, who, till recently, paid rent; and 400 cottars, who do not pay any rent to the proprietrix.

In recent years the demand most urgently pressed by the crofters of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland has been for more land, and the enlargement of their holdings is one of the remedies recommended by the recent report of the Crofter's Commission, the two other leading recommendations being grants in aid of improving the fishing industry, and voluntary emigration.

These recommendations had been anticipated by Lady Cathcart, who, since her succession in 1878, has spent more than the rental in experiments for the improvement of the estates, and of the social condition of the crofters, including the three leading recommendations of the Commissioners. The result has been that, while the grants for improving the fishing industry and promoting voluntary emigration have been successful and attended with beneficial results to the crofter population, the experiment of enlarging crofter holdings by land taken from the larger farmers has proved a complete failure.

Without referring to the other two expedients, which were only partially successful, the emigration scheme is reported as follows:—"In the readjustment and enlargement of the crofts it was found that by no possible arrangement could sufficient land be provided for all the people, and consequently an offer was made to cancel their arrears of rent, to take their crop, stock, and other effects at a valuation, and to make an advance of £100 to each family who might desire to emigrate to the North-West Territories of Canada, where every male above 18, as well as the head of each family, is entitled to a free grant of 160 acres of rich prairie lands, the advance of £100, with interest, being made a statutory charge on the homestead by a provision in the Canadian Dominion Land Act. Ten families in 1883, and forty-five families in 1884, availed themselves of this offer. The success of these settlers is now so well known and universally admitted, that any detailed account of this colonisation scheme is unnecessary. A petition was presented to Sir Reginald and Lady Cathcart by a large number of crofters in Benbecula and South Uist in the spring of 1885, expressing their desire to go out and join their friends in the North-West Territories, but owing to the state of matters now prevailing in the islands, these arrangements, which have been so beneficial to the people, have had to be suspended, while the average increase of the population of these islands is 105 per annum.

Such being the results of the experiments which Sir Reginald and Lady Cathcart have made for the improvement of the crofters, they think it right, in conclusion, to call the attention of Government to the present state of these islands where influences have been at work which have materially affected the relations which formerly existed between them and the crofters, and which if allowed to remain unchecked must lead to a very alarming state of matters.

Land League Associations have been formed throughout the Hebrides, where, until recently, the people were peaceable and law-abiding. Forcible possession was taken in Benbecula and South Uist of land in the occupation of other tenants, with threats of violence; the land reclaimed, drained, and enclosed, as already explained, was seized, the fences destroyed in presence of the factor, and a large number of cattle and horses belonging to crofters and cottars put upon the reclaimed ground, with threats that if the factor interfered physical force would be used. They still maintain possession of the reclaimed fields, which are gain reverting to waste. Paraffin was placed in the proprietors' pew and on the Communion table of the parish church on a Sunday when it was known Lady Cathcart would be in attendance, which was accidentally discovered before the service commenced. About the same time the telegraph wires (for the expense of the maintenance of which Lady Cathcart had given a guarantee to the Government) were cut in

South Uist, and dangerous obstructions made at night on the public road near Sir Reginald and Lady Cathcart's residence; and the terrorism prevailing was such that the perpetrators of these crimes could not be discovered by the authorities, though well known in the district. Her Majesty's Messengers-at-Arms were deformed in the performance of their duties, and law is practically in abeyance."

A. G. YOUNG.

Horse Breeding.

I beg leave to address you in the interest of the horse and his owner. I find on working the various districts that outside the charmed circle of high-class horse breeders little is known of the mechanical value of points, their normal or abnormal condition, or their morbid presentment. This latter belongs to the qualified man to dilate on; the former may well be discussed by the breeder of fashion, action and character.

1. I believe this is "make and value" in a nutshell. The market is barely supplied with good-looking horses, having perfect freedom in their action, good leverage in their bones, with ample muscular development—briefly, that make which experience proves wears well in work.

2. Action that is clean, clever, forcible—high for harness, yet light on grounding—all round. This charm in the horse can only come from truth in the disposition of the limbs. Length in all the movable bones above knee and hock means extension, cover. Stifles always well up, bold and distinct; low-set stifles, weak hind action. Elbows clear of the floor of the chest and parallel, knees and hocks great lateral width above and below; the leverage bones at the back of these joints—*e.g.*, trapezium and os calcis. Pronounced flexion at knee and hock are mainly influenced and their quality determined on by quality of make here. A good base to the hock, knees and hocks (resting on short, broad quality limbs, stout muscular limbs), flat cannons, broad prominent fetlocks, moderate slant and length of pastern. I dare not write more technically, or I shall write over the heads of those I wish to serve in the county of Somerset. A good long hock or deep hock I like if broad and clean in make. No bursal enlargements, *e.g.*, thorough pins or spavins bog or bone. Full-sized, good open feet, good depth and breadth at heel. Substance—a deep, well-proportioned body, supported on short quality limbs—is most desirable. Length under a horse for harness or hunting is value—from his elbows to his stifles. Breed for a good underline suggests care in selection, breeding with art.

3. All bones on leaving the body should be large, because then the size of the joints throughout, and the leverage bones, will be best arranged for quality in wear, and lameness from ulceration of the sesamoids at the back of the fetlocks will be avoided.

4. Go for shoulders, rather than knee action; the one wears, the other tires. See a horse flex his pasterns well, and is not down or weak on them. I pay more attention to shoulder and stifle movement than knee and hock action, if possible. Horses loaded at the joints of the shoulder should not be used at stud, or when too thin. Raggedness is also a defective make, difficult of sale, but often found in a clipper of the Irish breed associated with grand hocks.

5. A three-quarter position gives one form at a glance. Quality or breeding is a mistake if it predisposes to general weediness. A horse may be symmetrical, but it by no means follows he is handsome. People confound these terms. To wind up, to gallop and stay is hunter form. To trot, walk, and gallop well is the true hackney form, and roadster action may be forgiven if romping, but never in the hack. Grand frames on short quality limbs for harness. Good-looking hacks, breed them as handsome as you can—as a friend writes me, go in for the ornate, for luxury. Good looks count, and good action, from the vigorous and true up to the extravagant and unrivalled. American trotters go like distraction. We breed for an out-and-out good show—neat and correct action.

6. Register your place, please. Good value shows no drop any class; outsized horses are a mistake, and undersized ones are very difficult of sale, *in medias res*, or *via media tutissima*. The middle way is the safest—the golden rule. Breeders, unbroken horses are a very broken price in town. Bear this in mind. Finishing a horse like the last food pays. Manners, the

evidence of good schooling, are seductive; ability is striking, grand shapes attract; clean-actioned, vigorous-actioned horses are in demand; a fine performer in piskin or leather is justly admired; a clipper rivets attention; a grand sort is an everyday, easy sale; rubbish is a drug; low middle class half-bred horses are raised to a profit abroad, not here. Our horses must more than ever be "Made 'uns and go." Muscular volume and condition, strength; bog fat, weakness.

Now friends, shoulders and soundness, good wind, limbs, and eyesight; bone ample, the right quality; legs, fore, well front; hind legs under the incidence of weight; limbs well outside the body. Engine-drivers would not get far with a twisted connecting rod, so, breeder, don't ask men to use horses with their limbs, badly put on, and worse in quality. We may then guarantee wear, work, and profit, for the demand increases whilst half-bred horse breeding is receiving comparatively little attention

New Industries.

The Fig.—Its Culture and Curing.

THE following essay was prepared by Dr. Gustav Eisen, of Fresno, Cal.:

The growing and curing of Smyrna figs, or rather of so-called Smyrna figs, has now for years been a desideratum for California, but so far very little has been done, and very few efforts made which have resulted successfully. If this want of success has been the result of poor varieties or of insufficient knowledge of the proper conditions of a successful culture, I leave to you to decide. We may not be far out of the way if we suspect both.

The importance of successful fig culture can hardly be overestimated for our State. In the Mediterranean countries, where the climate is very similar to our own, the fig crop is of the very greatest economical importance. Indeed, in Asia Minor and Arabia, the failure of this crop is dreaded even more than the failure of the cereals, as not only is the country at such times deprived of its chief article of export, but the failure of the fig crop means starvation for both man and beast. Such failures are, however, exceedingly rare. The figs generally known as "Smyrna figs" do not at all come from Smyrna, in Asia Minor. But this port is the one from which the largest portion of the fine figs are exported. While these figs are grown everywhere in Asia Minor, the very choicest are restricted to certain districts within easy reach of the port of Smyrna. It is difficult to believe that there should be so few localities adapted to the production of the better brands of figs, and it is far more rational to think that through the ignorance and habits of the people, the secrets of the successful culture of the finest figs have been confined to certain localities, and that no efforts have been made to distribute the proper knowledge to other districts. No doubt jealously has been a powerful agency in confining the knowledge of culture and curing of the finest figs to certain districts. To illustrate this, I will relate an incident that happened to me in Central America. The chief industry in that part of the country in which I now speak, is the making of hats from the fibres of a palm leaf. In one place there are two villages situated within three miles of each other, and the inhabitants of both do nothing else than manufacture hats. The palm leaves are not grown in the vicinity in sufficient quantity, though there is no reason why they could not be grown there. A few thrifty trees bear witness of this. The people of both villages go the Salama, 100 miles away, to get the leaves. The idea never struck them that the leaves could be grown at their very doors. Now, in one village, Monjon, they manufacture very superior hats, which in the market bring 50

to 60 cents each. Upon arriving at the next village, Tepic, I found the men having just returned from a trip to the capital, and that they had been obliged to dispose of their hats at six cents a piece. Struck by the enormous discrepancy in price, I asked the natives why their neighbour got so much more for their hats, when I was told that the Monjon hats were very much better, and that the Tepic people did not know how to make as good hats. In my simplicity I asked the men: "You say you have the same leaves; now, why don't you learn to make as good hats?" The answer was: "Sir, we do not know how, and they do not want to tell us."

The people in these semi-civilised countries have evidently no conception of the way knowledge is distributed and exchanged in countries like our own, where, with the aid of the press and conventions, we have accomplished in a few years what has taken centuries to achieve for them.

WHENCE COME THE IMPORTED FIGS.

But to return to Smyrna. The very best figs from there come to us from the valleys of the Rivers Meander and Cayster, and from the localities known as Aidin, Nasli, Eibeyli, Sultanhissar, Demirdjik, Ademish, and Locoum. But outside of these places in the immediate vicinity of the export harbor—a location which, undoubtedly, is highly favorable in a country, where, until lately, the crop had to be carried to the port on the backs of camels in sacks of hair—some other localities in Asia export figs of considerable merit. Such places are, Aleppo, Mytilene, Tyre, Damascus, &c.

In Egypt no figs seem to be produced for export, and naturally so from the condition and character of its soil, the latter being principally bottom land, which is always more or less unsuitable to the production of a perfect fig. In Greece, especially in the Grecian Archipelago, we meet with fine plantations of figs, with partly the same, partly different varieties from those grown in Asia Minor; such plantations as those of Zante and Chios, and Kalamata, but the figs from here are not equal in quality to those from Smyrna; still their export from the three places amounts to 10,000 tons a year. The coast of the Adriatic produces some very choice figs, the finest coming from Catania and from Sicily; but, in fact, the whole of Italy is largely dependent upon its fig crop, and few, if any, localities are found there in which the fig tree is not grown. In Tuscany many figs are raised, and the variety here called Dotatti, is considered superior for drying, though we believe they are principally destined for home consumption, and not for export. The south coast of the Mediterranean produces also the very choicest figs. In Algiers the fig culture is not inconsiderable, and in Morocco some of the very finest varieties are grown; according to some reports, even superior to, or at least equal to, those of Smyrna. But we have no statistics of any being exported from there. The varieties grown there are of many colors: black, white, yellow, and green, the latter being considered the finest and the most profitable.

In Spain and Portugal we find fig culture one of the prominent industries. In Sevilla and Malaga many figs are grown and many are exported. Malaga especially excels in fresh table figs, and it is from this port that we get the delicious St. Pedro and the Breda figs.

The southern part of Portugal, especially the province of Algarve, was once the chief supplier of the dried figs consumed by Northern Europe. The port of Pharo was once as famous for its export of figs as is now Smyrna, but the fig trade from these ports has of late years declined considerably. The export port of Portugal is to-day chiefly Villa Nova de Portimao, though, according to Dr. Bleasdale, even from Lisbon no inconsiderable quantities are exported. The

province of Algarve is, as far as I can judge from descriptions and from my principal informant, Dr. Bleasdale, very similar to Los Angeles county. The low plains here and there traversed by low hills, slope up towards the higher mountains inland, presenting sandy slopes, cooled by the sea breezes, but untouched by the fog of the immediate coast. The southern part of France is also adapted to fig culture, but the varieties grown here are mostly different from those of the more southern States I have just mentioned; and originated in, and more adapted to, the country and climate in which they are grown. The number of varieties originated in France is simply astonishing; they can be counted by the 100 or more. As far north as Paris fig culture is practiced in the open ground, but, of course, under the greatest difficulties, caused by the inclemency of the weather and the shortness of the summer. But, notwithstanding this, says Du Breuil, the eminent French authority, we have through the origination of new varieties succeeded in producing figs not inferior to those of the southern and more favored countries. This, of course, only refers to table figs; not to those used for drying. In the south of France, especially around Marseilles, the drying and curing of figs has reached considerable importance, but the figs produced are in size and flavor decidedly inferior to the Aidin figs.

Even north of Paris fig trees are occasionally grown, but naturally more as a curiosity than for any commercial value.

In leaving the eastern part of the world, and turning to our own, we find the figs that are grown in many of the southern States, or rather everywhere where the nature of the climate allows. The experience there has been of very much the same nature as our own in California. The fig tree grows well enough, but the varieties have been poor, in many instances worthless. In Mexico and Central America many figs are grown, both black and white of good quality, and especially in Lower California are some plantations noted for their excellence. From a gentleman who has been living in La Paz, I learn that excellent white figs are grown there, called Bredas, and that they, what seemed to me incredible, are the second crop of a variety the first crop of which is blue or black. These figs are said to be very delicious and highly valued. In the Central American highlands is grown a probably native variety of small, black fig, which, indeed, is very fine as fresh or candied table figs, but for drying of no value, or rather, of no value as an export article in competition with white figs. In those countries I have also seen enormously large wild fig trees, some 15 to 20 feet in diameter at the root, and bearing very large, luscious white figs, covered with drops of juice, like white pearls, and looking exceedingly inviting and appetizing, but upon tasting them I found that no more bitter and nauseous fruit was ever tasted by man.

In California we have, as far as I know, no native fig, the Mission or California being, if not originated from seed here, probably identical with some of the many black varieties in Spain.

SOIL AND CLIMATE.

The statistics of soil, climate and other conditions necessary for a successful fig culture are so very meagre, and so very scattered, that the task of bringing them together is not a very thankful one, and the material thus collected is by no means sufficient in any way to satisfy us.

In considering these climatic conditions and soils, it is important to make a distinction between the cultivation of the fig for table use and for drying. The conditions for the proper culture of table figs to be eaten fresh are far less in number, and far less exacting than those for the production of a perfect and superior dried fig, destined

to rival the imported article. I believe there is hardly any place in the southern States of this continent, which would not produce a fair or good table fig, provided the right variety suited to the locality is selected; but in regard to drying figs we have to look closer to conditions of climate and soil.

What strikes us then at the outset is the great similarity of the whole of the interior of California with the most favored localities of the vicinity of Smyrna. The seasons are there divided into two, just as here, one dry and one wet. The winter rain commences in November and lasts till May. From May until October are the dry months, and with few exceptions no rain falls during the summer months, thus promoting the ripening of the fig and the drying of the same. Occasionally, however, heavy rains injure the ripening figs, cause them to crack and sour, and toughen the skin, and causing the otherwise white color to turn a more or less dark brown. Such seasons are by no means unknown in even the best districts in Asia Minor, and are the causes of the bad years. Thus we see that the summer rains, which here in California are so very unwelcome to almost all of our crops, are similarly injurious to the fig districts of Asia Minor. In the most favored spots of the Smyrna districts the summer heat seldom exceeds 90° and 100° Fahr. in the shade, and 130° to 140° Fahr. in the sun, and the freezing in winter is seldom more than half a dozen degrees. A heavier frost, however, is not considered injurious, or in any way influencing the quality of the fig crop.

The soil in Smyrna and vicinity is very variable. It contains a fair percentage of lime and potash, but is otherwise of various qualities. The most luxuriant growth is obtained in a deep rich soil, but the best figs are grown on a soil which is made loose and porous by a fair admixture of sand. A sandy loam is thus the best, probably because the drainage is here the most perfect. Such soils produce large figs, of a white, thin skin, of high flavor and great sweetness.

In aspect the Meander valley resembles our lowest foothills—small valleys, separated by low ridges, during the dry season, as uninviting as the foothills of the Sierra Nevada or the Sierra Madre. Some of the fig orchards are planted on hill land, and some in the valleys, neither locality having any decided advantage over the other. The valleys and the plains generally, give thinnest-skinned fruit, the skin of the mountain fig being considered thicker. But in rainy or foggy weather the mountains or hills dry up the fastest: in this respect showing a decided advantage over the low, perhaps swampy plains.

In California we will probably find many localities likely to produce the finest figs. Our experience is that the principal necessity is a well-drained soil. The nature of the soil is less important, provided that it is sufficiently sandy to be loose and porous. Almost any soil that we have can therefore be used for figs destined for drying, except one, and that is the heavy black adobe so common in many of our lower valleys. I cannot sufficiently caution against the planting of fig orchards in such soil; it is the one of all which is by nature not destined for the fig. As to which is the best soil for the fig, only experience can tell. A sandy, reddish or light soil is the one preferred in Smyrna; a white clayey soil is the best for the fig tree at Sidon. In Morocco and Tangier, where the choicest varieties are grown, a light loam is considered superior; indeed, there the poorest soil is preferred, but instead manure is used to increase the size of the fruit, as well as the yield.

If we then recapitulate, we find that the following conditions are advantageous to fig culture:—

1. Abundance of moisture in the soil before the figs begin to ripen.

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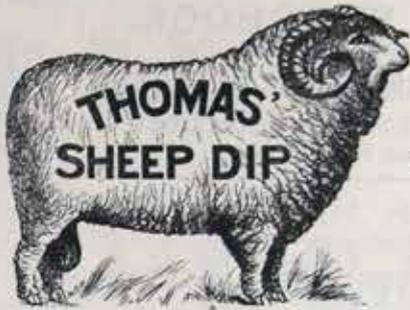
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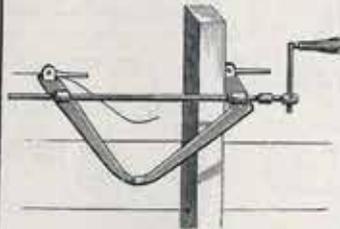
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This machine will do all work required by Fencers, as it will mend a broken wire, or strain a new one to the straining post equally well, no plugging or any fixing being required. The nuts on the levers, with the grips attached, work on a pivot, so if, when straining a new wire, the wire is not sufficiently tight when drawn up to the post, by reversing the grip on the lever against the

post, it will hold the wire; while the other lever is let out the length of the screw, when by gripping it again with the straining lever, and releasing it from the other, the wire may again be drawn up to the post, and so on until the wire is tight. For mending a broken wire, the levers are opened out, and the ends of the wire placed in the grips, and then the levers are drawn together by the screw until the wire is sufficiently close to tie. Strain is self-supporting and weighs about 7lbs.

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2. Good and perfect drainage at any time.
3. The gradual drying of the soil when the fruit is ripening.
4. Sufficient heat to insure sweetness in the fig.
5. Absence of any frost lower than 18° Fahr., though the figs can stand a temperature as low as 12 Fahr., if they are tolerably dormant.
6. Absence of heavy rains during the maturing of the fruit.

Again, the following conditions are injurious to fig trees, if the object is to procure superior fruit:—

1. A wet soil, with stagnant water during the fruiting season.
2. Cesspools, sewers and ditches in so close proximity to the trees that they can send roots to them.
3. Heavy rains on the fruit, when it is ripening. Some of the finest varieties are then apt to crack or sour.
3. Heavy rains and dews upon the fruit exposed for drying.
5. And last, a heavy undrainable black adobe soil, impervious to sun and air.

As to the favorable conditions I believe they are all within our reach in this State; indeed, few are the localities which cannot command them.—*Pacific Rural Press.*

(To be Continued.)

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PATENT

Giant Complete Harvester.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS:

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The Patentee having thoroughly tested the efficiency of this Machine in the field for himself, has every confidence in recommending it to farmers generally, or those needing the use of such a Machine, as it will greatly expedite their harvesting operations, and effect a very great saving, as the following Testimonials will substantiate.

The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR. R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.

Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize; and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,

GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

MR. R. SMITH.

Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it done; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,

GEORGE EXELL.

MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.

Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendid, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,

ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
Stock Yard Hill.

MR. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort.

Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Winnowers. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly

TONKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

Memo. to MR. RUPERT SMITH.

January 26th, 1885.

Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked upon the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors.) In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,

F. DUE, Farmer,
Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885.

This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.

Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.

C. F. SUTHERLAND.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.

Remaining yours faithfully,
G. DAVIS.

A. C. STURROCK,
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244 AND 245 SWANSTON STREET,
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Awarded GOLD MEDAL for Special Merit at London Exhibition of 1873, and TWO GOLD
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MEDALS (1st Prizes), at Exhibitions and Shows of 1872, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77,
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NOTICE.—Referring to above, D. WHITE desires to inform his numerous Customers and the Public
generally that he has secured and completed EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO HIS COACH FACTORY,
and with the increased accommodation and Steam Plant, and the Largest Stock of Seasoned Timber in
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The new premises are in Stewart Street, immediately opposite the present Factory.
Patentee of the Improved Carriage and Buggy Hood Apparatus, for raising or lowering the Hood from the
inside. Every description of Vehicle built from the best imported Materials and Well-seasoned Timber.

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Beg to inform Squatters, Farmers, and others that, having enlarged and improved their premises generally
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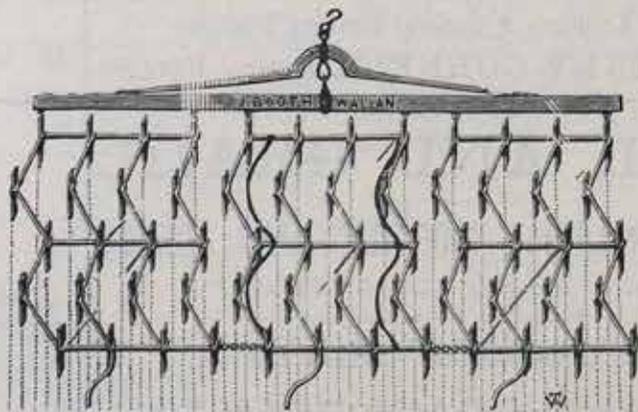
By Special Appointment to
H.R.H. the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.C.B., and
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To His Excellency the Governor Sir HENRY LOCH, K.C.B.,
and all the late Governors for the past 25 years.
Have a large selection of CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, their
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and elegant modern designs, in which are used the best
workmanship and materials procurable, comprising Landaus,
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In Great Variety.
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Unique Catalogue of Books, or List of Botanic Medicines sent
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5 SILVER MEDALS.

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RAILWAY STATION WALLAN.

HARROWS made to suit all kinds of soil, fitted with Iron or Steel Tynes.

These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tyn
cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884
and 1885 these Implements in competition with the leading Colonial-made and Imported Harrows,
secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

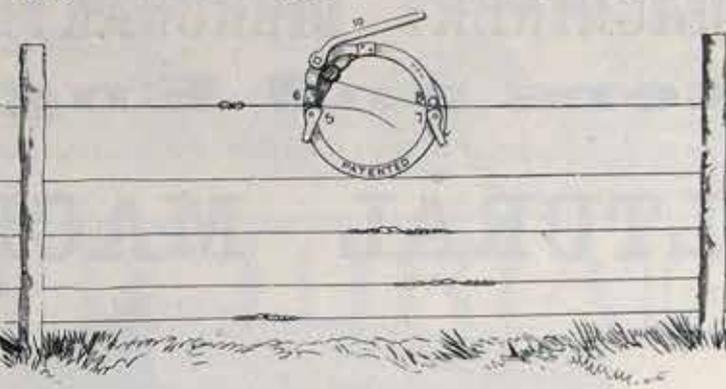
J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing
a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents
throughout the Colonies. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List free on application.

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FULTON'S Improved Patent Portable Wire Strainer.

AWARDS, 1883-4.

Highly Commended—Canterbury, New Zealand, 1883.
 Silver Medal—Tasari Agricultural Society, Mosgiel, New Zealand, 1883.
 First-class Certificate of Merit—Brisbane, 1884.
 Special Prize—Mudgee, New South Wales, 1884.
 Commended—National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1884.
 Highly Recommended—Wangaratta, 1884.
 First Prize—Grand National Show, Echuca, 1884; Boort, 1884; Benalla, 1884; Nhill, 1884; Inglewood, 1884; Warrnambool, 1884; Tatura, 1884.
 Special Prize—Geelong, 1884; Rochester, 1884; Sandhurst, 1884; Ballarat, 1884;



Rutherglen, 1884; Stawell, 1884; Numurkah, 1884; Clunes, 1884; Kyneton, 1884.
 Certificate of Merit—Shepparton, 1884.

AWARDS, 1885.

First Prize—Deniliquin, July 23rd; Horsham, Aug. 8th and 6th; Dimboola, Aug. 12th; Kerang, Aug. 27th; Donald, Sept. 2nd and 3rd; Yarravong, 3rd.
 Honourable Mention—Charlton, Sept. 16th.
 First Prize—Echuca, Sept. 17th and 18th; Shepparton, Sept. 22nd and 23rd; St. Arnaud, Sept. 23rd.
 Special Prize—Rochester, Sept. 30th.
 First Prize—Talbot, Grand National, Oct. 8th and 9th; Ballarat Oct. 14th, 15th and 16th.

Diagram showing the Application of the Machine.

THIS MACHINE IS MADE ENTIRELY OF STEEL, AND WEIGHS UNDER 5lbs.

The Advantages claimed for this Machine are:—The ease with which a broken wire can be strained and rejoined at the break, thus saving the usual loss of time in having to go to the straining post to untie the wire; and that it can be used in the middle of a panel without any post to strain against.

DIRECTIONS FOR WORKING MACHINE.

Standing with your left side to the fence, the left foot about 18 inches in front of the right, with the left hand grasp the Strainer between the windlass and grip (5 and 6). Catch the left-hand end of the wire in grip (5 and 6), about 9 inches from the end; this done, place the machine against the left thigh so as to keep the jaw (5) from opening (still holding as directed with the left hand). Now take the right-hand end of the wire and pass it under (8) and into the hole in the windlass. With the handle in the right hand wind up the slack wire by turning the windlass (do not turn the handle right round, but every time it touches the body take a fresh grip). As each half-turn is complete, with the left hand press the grip (7) against the wire, so as to hold all the slack brought up by the windlass. When the wire is tight enough, unwind the windlass, cut off the surplus wire, leaving about 9 inches for knotting, by taking the two loose ends and rolling them together by means of two small keys; this done, remove the Strainer by striking the tail of the left-hand grip with the handle.

ALSO,

FULTON'S NEW IMPROVED WIRE - CUTTING SNIPS.

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MACHINE BELTING.



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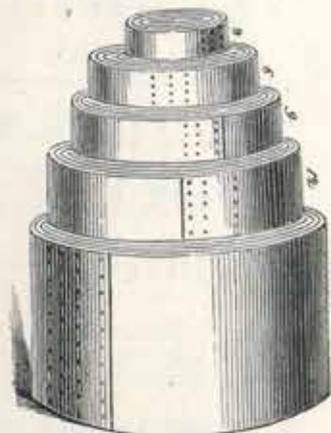
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MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 8½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

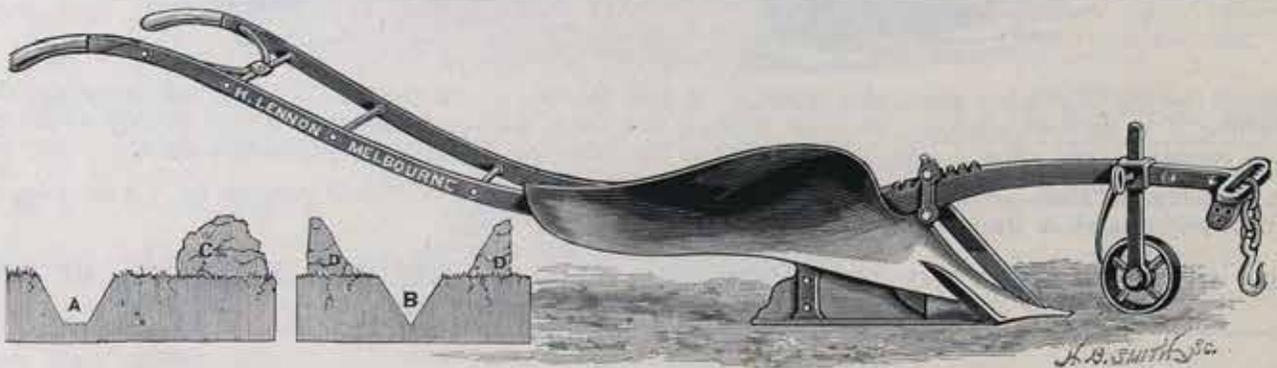
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Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes
Three and Four Furrow Ploughs.
Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and
dam sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.
Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators
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All fitted with H. L.'s Patent Wrought Iron Shares. A clear saving of 50 per cent.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



VICTORIA

Vol. I.—No. 11. [Read, as a Newspaper.]

MELBOURNE, JUNE 11TH, 1886.

GRATIS.

"If 'twere done when 't's done,
Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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CHARLES D. STRAKER,
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Caterer for the Victorian Racing Club, The National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and the Victorian Coursing Club.

Orders for Banquets, Feas, Dinners, Weddings, Suppers, on the Shortest Notice in Town or Country.

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Every description of Agricultural Machinery and Implements, by all the best Melbourne Manufacturers and Importers on sale on favorable terms.

Town Agents for transaction of every description of Farmers business requiring Confidential Care and attention.

Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
STORAGE ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS.

J. F. & CO. Limited are prepared to ship Wheat if desired on Farmers' account for sale in London on advantageous terms.

£80,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security

J. B. SCOTT,
Britannia Bone Mills,

PORT MELBOURNE,

BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has received from R. W. Emerson MacIvor:—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed through my hands, without your ill-finance, and never have I found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of detective in the Xanare Market, but my search for Adulteration in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MACIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,

LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,

Technical College, Sydney, N.E.W.

BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

Little's Soluble Phenyle.



The Best Disinfectant and Deodorant yet produced.

Four times the strength of any Disinfectant in the Market.

All who keep Horses, Dogs, or Poultry, and wish to keep them clean and free from insect life, should use it. It is also good for Horticultural purposes, especially for killing blight on orange and apple trees.

SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS.

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THE NEW HIGH ARM
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SEWING MACHINE.

GOLD MEDALS,
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ADELAIDE, BRISBANE, & LONDON.

Surpasses all others. A Universal Favorite.
UNEQUALLED FOR RANGE OF WORK AND EASE OF MANAGEMENT.

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Are cash Buyers of all Dairy Produce at highest market rates
Consignments received.
Account Sales promptly rendered.
Advances if required.



Also, Sole Agents for
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The Greatest of all Dairy Improvements. From 15 to 20 per cent more and better butter. Highest market value. Great saving in space, time, labor and the number of utensils. The construction is extremely simple, and requires no mechanical knowledge to keep in working order. The cost saved in less than a year. Can be driven by horse gear. Full particulars post free on application.

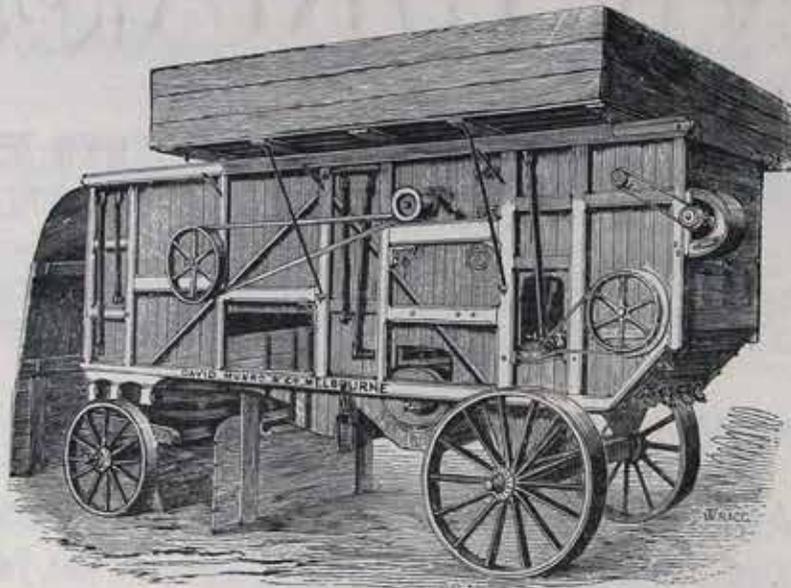
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OSBORNE Reapers and Twine Binders, Ploughs, Horseworks, Chaffcutters, &c.



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"VICTORY" SELF-ADJUSTING METAL WINDMILLS.

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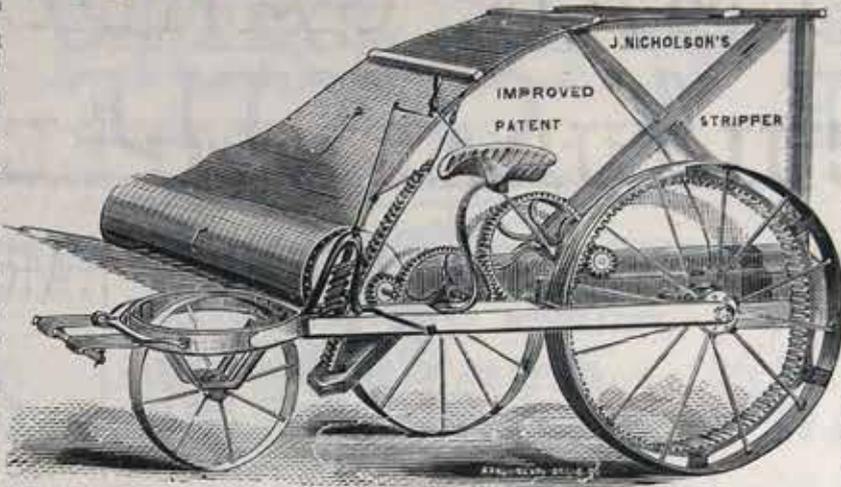
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FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1885
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 FIRST PRIZE, Corowa, N.S.W., Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Shepparton Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sydney Show, N.S.W., 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, March, 1883.

JOSEPH NICHOLSON & CO'S



PATENT SPUR GEARING STRIPPER.

The Most Successful Harvester in use.

STRIPPER PRIZES.

FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, August, 1883.
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 FIRST PRIZE, Tatura Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Geelong Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Hobart, Tasmania Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Longford, Tasmania, Show, 1883.
 GOLD MEDAL, Shepparton Field Trial, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Echuca Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.

Our **NATIONAL PRIZE WINNOWER**, fitted with the New Patent Fly-Wheel, has attained unprecedented success as a Grain Cleaner within the last few seasons, and obtained the following First Class Prizes during the last 12 Months:—

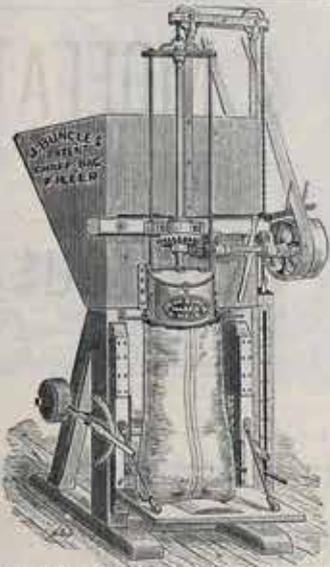
Corowa Show, 1885, Horsham Show, 1885; National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Champion Prize; Grand National Agricultural Society at Echuca, Corowa, Murtoa, Dimboola, Cootamundra, N.S.W., Numurkah, Cashel, Inglewood, Boort, 1st and 2nd, Rochester, Benalla Murchison, Sandhurst, Rutherglen, Shepparton, Gold Medal, and Field Trial.

WANT OF SPACE PRECLUDES US FROM ENUMERATING EARLIER SUCCESSES.

J. N. & CO. are also celebrated for their **PATENT REAPERS** and **MOWERS**, **SINGLE** and **DOUBLE SPEED MOWING MACHINES**, **DOUBLE** and **TREBLE FURROW PLOUGHS**, **IMPROVED HORSE WORKS**, &c., &c.

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BUNCLE'S
Patent Chaff Bag Filler.

JOHN BUNCLE, in stating what is well known, viz., the great competition in the Hay, Corn, and Chaff Trade, begs at the same time to call attention to his endeavour to lighten the toil and increase the profits from such a business, by designing and manufacturing a machine for the above purpose, and one which cannot be approached by any other maker at present, or recommended to equal in **Simplicity, Durability, and thorough Adaptability and Cheapness** combined as in the above Machine. The **BAG FILLERS** are manufactured complete, ready to be sent to wherever ordered or in any of the colonies, either to fix in stores in connection with the fixed Chaffcutters, or to be attached to his well-known Travelling Chaffcutters previously supplied, and now supplied either with

or without Baggers. A few attempts have been made by some to supply such a want, but probably not having a theoretical as well as a practical knowledge of machines, have not been able to reduce the complicated movements in their machines, and which are perfectly unnecessary—as witness the Unique Simplicity and correctness in design, and the admirable working of **BUNCLE'S PATENT BAG FILLER** compared with the few others tried at work.

For the information and convenience of customers, a machine is kept constantly set up ready to show at work in **BUNCLE'S PARKSIDE IRONWORKS**, and many customers have witnessed **80 to 90 lbs.** of Chaff put in a bag in **15 seconds!!!** which, after making allowances for time removing the full bag and replacing an empty one, would easily on an average keep **Four of Buncle's No. 1 Chaffcutters**—well, if there is any doubt, say **Three Machines** clear of all the Chaff they cut (medium length.) Of course the Machines are arranged to put in as light weight as you like, or you can fill up and burst all your Bags—to pieces. As a trade requirement (in addition to filling bags) the necessity for a **Mixing Machine** is a long felt want, the laborious and unsatisfactory way at present adopted cannot much longer be endured, and there is no necessity for it!! as J. Buncle can arrange to "Blend" the worst and the best samples "To a Hair" at the least possible expense with the best results.

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J. Buncle's Machines have, as usual, been awarded First Prize at all the leading shows wherever he exhibited last year (1885), and the many improvements introduced and constantly copied by other makers, is the best proof of the value of the continued consideration in all that affects the profits and welfare of his customers.

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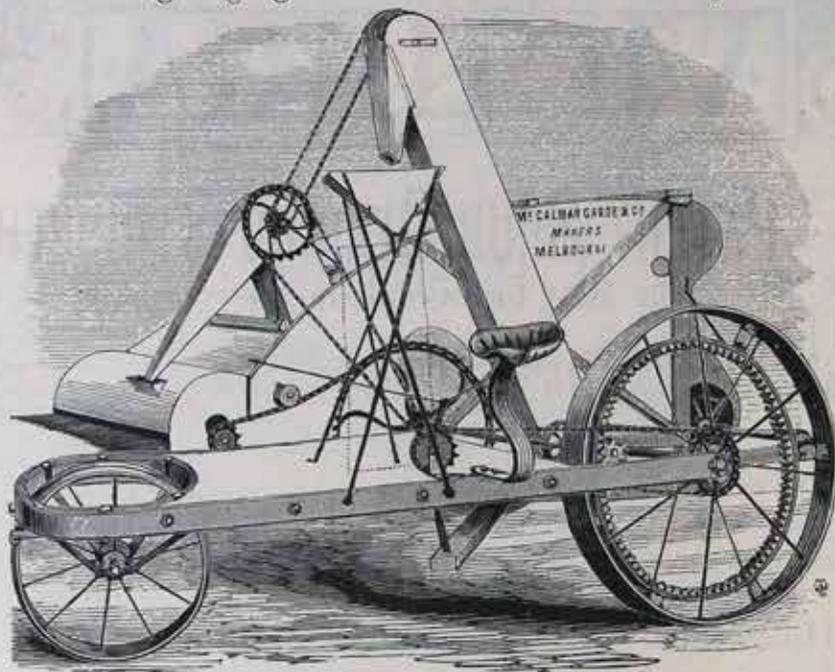
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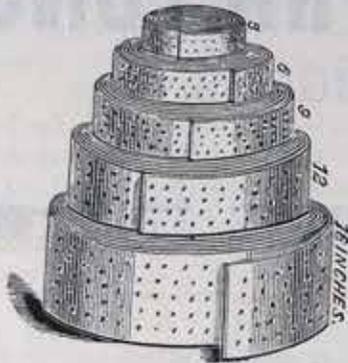
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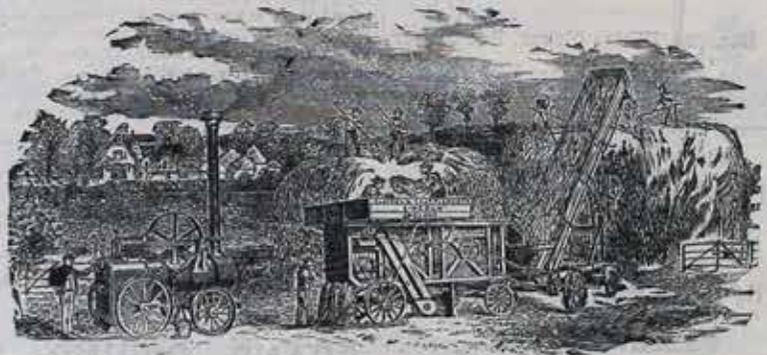
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A copy of this Journal, which
 is published monthly—on the Friday
 after the Council Meeting in each
 month—is also forwarded to each
 Member.

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Notices.

All communications for the Editor to be
 addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar,
 Bourke Street West, Melbourne.
 Business communications to the Publishers,
 Somerset Place, 6 Little Bourke Street West.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
 requested to forward to the editor the dates on
 which their respective exhibitions will be held,
 also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
 they are published.

JULY.
 22.—Deniliquin.
AUGUST.
 18, 19.—Wimmera and Stawell.
 17, 18, 19, 20.—National, Brisbane.
 23 & 24.—Australian Sheepbreeders' Associ-
 ation at Goldsbrough's, Bourke-street west.
 25, 26, 27, 28.—National, Melbourne.
 26, 27—Murtoa.

SEPTEMBER.
 1, 2, 3, 4.—Metropolitan, Sydney.
 2.—Yarrawonga.
 2, 3.—Champion Sheep Show, Ballarat.
 8, 9.—Horsham.
 8, 9.—Donald.
 9, 10.—Ovens and Murray, Wangaratta.
 14.—Mount Wycheproof.
 15.—Ararat.
 15, 16.—Albury, N.S.W.
 16, 17, 18.—Royal, Adelaide.
 16, 17.—Echuca.
 21.—Charlton.
 22.—Rupanyup.
 28.—North Western, Inglewood.
 30.—Moira, Cashel.

OCTOBER.
 1.—Boort.
 6.—Elmore.
 7.—Bacchus Marsh.
 7.—Tungamah,
 12, 13.—Rochester.
 20, 21.—Bendigo.
 21.—North-eastern, Murchison.
 28, 29.—Geelong.

NOVEMBER.
 4, 10.—Clunes and Talbot, Clunes.
 25.—Kyneton.

this connection the following extracts from the *Engineer* are worth perusal:—"Can it be said that the Royal Agricultural Society of England represents agricultural engineering? We think there can be but one answer to this question. It does not. All that the Society now does is to supply space to exhibitors at an exorbitant rental. Bearing in mind how much engineers add to the attractions of the annual shows, this is to say the least but scant justice. The whole policy of the Society is undoubtedly wrong, narrow-minded, and selfish in this respect; and it is matter for wonder that the agricultural engineers have so long submitted to the exactions of the Society, or rather of the majority of the governing council, without uttering a protest in very strong language. The Society annually gives away in prizes for stock thousands of pounds. Less than £100 is devoted to the improvement of machinery. We maintain that this is flatly opposed to the intentions of its founders, and we know that it is a policy strongly deprecated by a large number of its members. For what does the Society exist? Certainly not to provide comfortable and well-paid appointments for a number of officials. Its purpose is to develop, and encourage the development of, the art and science of agriculture in Great Britain. It was not founded, and it is not intended, to be only the great patron and developer of stock, sheep, and horse breeding. Its legitimate range is much wider than this. England is quite as much indebted for progress in agriculture to the mechanical engineer as it is to the stock-breeder. If we were without excellent ploughs, portable engines, threshing machines, reaping machines, and the whole host of mechanical appliances now found on every well-managed farm, what would be the position of Great Britain? All the excellence of our stock could not enable us to hold our own with other nations for a moment. Are tillage farms of so little account that a beggarly £100 is all that a great society can devote to them, while £3000 or £4000 can be spent in prizes for horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs? The thing is absurd on the face of it.

To what shall we look for the cause? It is to be found in the circumstance that while the majority of the council is not composed of engineers, but of men with whom stock breeding is a delight, the engineers forming the minority are men who, having won prizes years ago, are fully determined that the funds of the Society shall not be devoted to developing new inventions which may leave their prizes worthless. That there are exceptions in the governing body we admit with pleasure; but they are far too few to possess any weight or influence. The earnest protest of Mr. Jenkins (the Secretary), who ought to know as well as any man what is and what is not good for the Society, has fallen on cold and unwilling ears, and the show to be held this year at Norwich will more than ever be devoted to cattle, and less than ever to the fostering of invention. It is scarcely possible that the Royal Agricultural Society understands the full effect of its short-sighted policy. Let us try that if in a few words we can indicate some of the injuries done.

For a great many years the English portable engine possessed a world-wide reputation. It was to be found in every civilised country. Competitor it had practically none. One reason was that foreign engineers did not believe that anything like finality had been reached. Every year, for many years, our improvements appeared on the Continent; and as the foreign purchaser was resolved to have nothing but the best, foreign makers refused to compete. It was not worth while to start on the manufacture of an engine this year which was certain to be superseded by something better from England next year. But it has at last dawned on the continental mind that we have reached the end of our resources, and that any portable engine built within the last six or seven years

represents the best that England can do. So the foreigner has plucked up courage, and we have every reason to believe that a strong competition is in store for us in this direction. Will any unprejudiced reader turn to our impression for February 5th, and compare the portable engine which he will find therein illustrated with an English engine, and say if there is a wide dissimilarity. The design is one of which no English engineer need be ashamed. We have lying before us the circular of Messrs. Platz, Söhne, of Weinheim. This firm manufactures a portable engine so closely resembling one now made for some years by Messrs. Marshall and Co., of Gainsborough, that it is not easy to detect the difference. In one word, we have at last taught the foreigner how to build good engines, and he is going to build them. The foreign agents of our own firms know, if they would but confess it, that they are told to their faces that better portable engines can be had abroad than can be had from England. They are told that we are past improvement; that we can do no better than we have done. Have English engineers justified the assertion or not?

A prominent member of the governing body of the Royal Agricultural Society, not long deceased, once told us that the steam engines sold by his firm were already too good for the price, and that he would certainly oppose any action on the part of the Royal Agricultural Society which would even tend to introduce any change which would render a departure from his own standard type necessary. This ostrich-like policy has done much harm, and will do more. Nor is it in engines alone that we are being beaten. The drill trade has almost died out. The foreigner makes for himself what suits his purpose better than our drills did. There has been no attempt at improvement in drills made in England for many years. Only this week we have had brought under our notice an American drill which is simply revolutionary, not so much in its principle as in the details of its construction. It is full of dainty devices for putting work together without hand labour of any kind—almost without the aid of a machine tool indeed. Assuming this to be only half as good as it looks, it is a distinct departure, which, if it does nothing else, will permit the English machine to be fearfully undersold. Can it be denied that the energetic action taken years ago by the Royal Agricultural Society in the matter of reaping machinery helped the country enormously in beating off American competition? Can a single instance be cited in which the past influence of the Society when exerted in the development of machinery and implements has not been an unmixed good? We dare to say not one; and it is a noteworthy fact that the justice of the awards made by the Society's judges of implements have met with less criticism than the awards of any other judges whatever.

If it could be argued that the engineers never did anything for the Society, the Society might have grounds for refusing to spend money on the engineers, although we entirely dispute that such a policy can be justified at all. But what are the facts? We quote from a very clever address delivered before the Farmers' Club, Salisbury-square, on the 1st instant, by Mr. McLaren, of Leeds:—"I have taken," said he, "the trouble to look through the *Royal Agricultural Society's Journal* reports and cash accounts, and I find that for the ten years beginning with the Taunton Show in 1875, and ending with the Shrewsbury Show in 1884, the implement exhibitors have contributed, under the heading of entry fees, payment for shedding, and description of their entries in the catalogue, the sum of £47,139, while the total contributions of the exhibitors of stock have only amounted to £6498. In this period the amount of money awarded in prizes to implements of all sorts amounted to £697, and the cost of trials and judges' expenses to £2925, or £3622 in

all, including the enormous cost of the stack-fan trials at Reading. On the other hand the sun divided amongst exhibitors of live stock, including expenses of judges, amounted to £61,979. Of this sum four exhibitors of stock—Lord Ellesmere, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Farthing, and Lord Falmouth—have drawn £3920 in prize money for stock alone, or more than five times the amount of money divided amongst all the implement exhibitors put together. The amount offered in prizes for the Norwich Show this year is divided as follows:—For stock nearly £5600 and for implements £70—with the usual offer of medals to which I have referred. Now, I respectfully submit that a great deal of the money thus given away in stock prizes is simply wasted, and that the 'Royal' could have rendered a far greater service to agriculture by a more judicious expenditure of these enormous sums of money. If a silver medal, worth 7s. 6d. at the outside, be considered a sufficient encouragement for an engineer to spend years of study, and risk large sums of money in perfecting labour-saving machinery, surely the same inducement would suffice to encourage an aristocratic horse or pig breeder. The grand object of all is the same. The horse and pig-breeder command better prices for their prize wares, just as the engineer does for his, in virtue of the award itself, and quite apart from its intrinsic value.

It is impossible, we think, to put the facts in a clearer light. If engineers continue to submit to the treatment which they have endured, they will manifest less wisdom than we gave them credit for."

The circumstances under which exhibitions are held, however vary very considerably, and the following extract from the engineer (being portion of a letter appearing in a subsequent issue) shows the difficulties exhibitors have to contend with in a climate decidedly aqueous. "The circumstances of the Kilburn Show—the losses, expenses, and misfortunes to which exhibitors there were put through want of judgment by the executive in their choice of ground—is doubtless fresh in the memories of many. A number of firms, it will be remembered, brought machinery there at a great expense, only to have it cast away derelict in a sea of mud. Other firms had to go to the expense of putting down wooden gangways to afford some sort of access to the stands, for which they had to pay such heavy rents to the Society. Yet to this day one penny of compensation has never been given by those whose business it clearly was to provide a suitable place, and prevent such disasters." No wonder exhibitors growl!

This experience at the Royal Society, however, could not possibly occur in connection with this Society's shows, at the Flemington grounds, so that our machinery and implement exhibitors while still claiming the right to growl should be thankful that their lines have fallen in such pleasant places. Neither does the Society charge "an exorbitant rental" for the space supplied to exhibitors, who seem to vie with one another in introducing improvements and making such displays as will favourably impress the public; quite as keenly as when prizes were offered for competition. The Society, therefore, accomplishes all that it desires without offering prizes, so that these would appear to be superfluous, and as long as this is the case it is an advantage; for the money thus saved is available in other classes, which seem to require encouragement.

BURN THE WEEDS.—Many farmers practise throwing weeds to their pigs, putting them in the barn-yard, or keeping them to use for bedding. No harm will result from this provided the seeds are not ripe enough to germinate. The safest method of disposing of these pests, however, is to pile them on a quantity of brush or other refuse, and when thoroughly dry make a bonfire of them. It is often the case that seeds thought to be immature will grow.—*Farmers' Gazette.*

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, JUNE 11th, 1886.

National Society's Prize List.

WITH this number we issue, as a supplement, the schedule of prizes offered for competition, at the sixteenth annual exhibition of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, to be held at the Show Grounds, Flemington, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of August next. The programme is a most attractive one, considerably over £2000 being offered in prizes. Included in this amount is a sum of £500 offered by the Parliament of Victoria as Grand Champion Prizes of Australia. Exclusive of these, the large amount of money offered as prizes in the various sections is, in a great measure, the contributions of the leading institutions, business houses, and citizens; whose liberal donations show that whatever may be said about present or anticipated depression, they are determined that the institution which represents the staple industries of the Colonies will not lose in prestige for want of practical and substantial support. In the Draught Horse Class a new system of distribution has come into operation in connection with the Grand Draught Horse Produce Stakes. Hitherto the whole of the sweepstake has been divided between the first prize colts and fillies (half each), the entry fees being divided for 2nd and 3rd prizes. Under that system the 1st prize was frequently £60, and the 2nd only about £10 or £12. This was considered an unsatisfactory division, for there was frequently very little difference in the merits of the animals. Under the new sub-divisions however, the values of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes are brought more in accord with the usual relative merits of competing exhibits. Entries of yearlings for these stakes close on the 31st of July. In light horses a new feature has been introduced, by the offer of valuable special prizes by His Excellency the Governor, for upstanding carriage colts. These are offered with the object of promoting the production of this class of stock—good representatives of which are difficult to procure. Shortly after His Excellency's arrival here, he noticed this deficiency in our horse stock, and publicly called attention to it. Whether His Excellency's statement reached Lord Carrington, in England, and induced him to bring his horses with him—as he did—we are not aware. Our breeders should see to it that they claim the Governor's prizes with worthy exhibits, and go systematically to work to produce a superior class of carriage horses. The Hunters' prizes were such a success last year, that the Council has added prizes for Ladies' Hunters. If this feature prove as attractive as the ladies' hunters at the last Albury Show, it should be a great draw. Prizes for buck-jump riding have also been added to the list, and the competition for these will doubtless cause much excitement. Whatever may be said to the contrary, some horses will buck,

and men must be found to ride them. Good riders are usually rather proud of their prowess, so that there should be no lack of competitors. The grand stand on the show grounds, which is being built to hold 2000 people, will afford an excellent means of viewing these new features in the programme. Amongst the cattle, new classes have been introduced for the polled Angus, and Holstein breeds, and a valuable special prize is offered for dairy cows, to be thoroughly tested during the show. The Longwool sheep have been divided, there being separate classes introduced for Lincolns and Leicesters. No housed or clothed sheep will be allowed to compete. The mover of this condition argued that the system of clothing and pampering sheep had been overdone, and that the Society in excluding housed and clothed sheep from its programme was instituting a practice which would eventually be generally adopted. As at last show no prizes (excepting a special) are offered for machinery; this special is for engines to be tested under such conditions as should make the test of great practical value. The foregoing are the principal new features in the programme, the remainder being much the same as in previous years. General entries close on Saturday, the 7th August, at noon, to which date the special attention of intending exhibitors is directed. The schedule is printed this year for the first time in pamphlet form, so that it may be more convenient to carry about, or to have at hand for reference.

The Bathurst Burr.

The spread of the Bathurst burr over this colony is a matter which should arrest the attention of our farmers and graziers and cause them to have steps taken to stop it. The weed is such an unmitigated curse, that it is worth making a special effort to get rid of it. When rabbits first began to spread over the colony, little notice was taken of them, but eventually they became a plague, and thousands of pounds have been and are being spent in their extermination. Unless active measures are taken for its eradication, the Bathurst burr is likely to become as great a nuisance and as great a cause of depreciation in the value of land as the rabbits. It is easily killed when in small patches, but if it once gets a hold it spreads rapidly, choking out everything else, and ruining the land. The other day the Flinders correspondent of the "Argus" telegraphed that Bathurst burr had made its appearance, and was spreading in that locality. If it gets down south into the rich forest lands of Gippsland it will be very difficult to get rid of. On the waste lands about the city it cannot but be noticed how it is spreading, and travelling stock will carry it thence all over the colony. In the interests of the community this should not be allowed to go on, and our legislators should see that it does not. As Mr. Madden has given notice in the house about an amendment in the Thistle Act, we strongly recommend that the Bathurst burr be dealt with at the same time. It is related of "Jacky" Dow, on the Murrumbidgee, that one dry season he found a little green sprout where everything else around was dry as timber. He thought he had discovered a plant which would revolutionise the squatting

interest in Australia. He put a bough over it to protect it and afterwards had it fenced in, tending and watering it. This went on for a little time, the sprout becoming a plant, green and succulent. Some visitors coming to the place, he boasted of his treasure and took them to see it. His surprise and chagrin can be better imagined than described when they pronounced it a Bathurst burr. In the interests of all concerned we heartily wish the Bathurst burrs in this colony were as efficiently destroyed as thereupon that one was up on the Murrumbidgee.

A High-Class Ayrshire.

Last month Mr. Richard Gibson, of Barbiston, Tullamarine, imported from New South Wales the highly-bred Ayrshire bull Heir of Randwick (No. 343, Ayrshire Herd-book) by the celebrated bull Brandleys of Drumlanrig (335, A.H.B.), dam Gaiety of Drumlanrig (506, A.H.B.), a prize-winner in Scotland. Heir of Randwick was got in England and calved in New South Wales, so that—according to a recent ruling—for show purposes he must be classed as colonial bred. He is a red and white, 5 years old, standing on short legs, and evidently possessing a grand constitution. He should prove a valuable addition to the already famous Barbiston herd. There can be no doubt that animals of this class are a desirable acquisition to the colony.

Prizes for Machinery and Implements.

Last month the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria sent out circulars to the exhibitors of machinery and implements, enquiring if they were in favour of the continuance of the system adopted last year of offering no prizes in that class. Replies have been received; in almost every case expressing a desire to have the system repeated at the coming show. The Council has, therefore, resolved accordingly. The reason exhibitors wish last year's arrangements repeated is that under them they are individually allotted a portion of ground or "stand," at a small rent, on which they have every facility for showing their goods to the best advantage. They dispose of their exhibits as they please and have them all altogether, which enables them more readily to do business, which, after all, is their ultimate object in showing. On the other hand when they compete for prizes they have to set out their exhibits in the various sections throughout the yard, thus scattering them about and rendering it impossible to be in attendance on all of them. They, therefore, forego the chance of prizes in order to have their exhibits together on their stands, where they can effectively display them, and dilate on their merits to the crowds of interested visitors at the show. The system was found to be most satisfactory, not only to exhibitors, but to the Society as well; for it was acknowledged on all hands that no such display of machinery and implements had ever been seen at an Australian Agricultural Show as that last year on the Flemington grounds. The Council, therefore, has no desire for change, and it has now been ascertained that exhibitors have not either. While this is the case in this country it is interesting to note the feeling on this subject elsewhere, and in

Meetings.

Council.

A Special Meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, 25th May, 1886, pursuant to notice.

Present—Dr. Plummer, President (in the chair), with Messrs. C. Lynott, F. Peppin, R. Clarke, J. G. Brisbane, D. R. McGregor, H. Lennon, F. Henty, J. Malcolm, J. Currie, D. Munro, J. Finlay, J. Garton, and the Hon. J. Buchanan, M.L.C.

The prize list for the Spring Show, as drawn up and passed by the Show Committee, was submitted.

The various classes and sections were read over *seriatim*, and adopted, with the exception of the following items, which were reserved for further consideration, viz.:—The regulations in connection with the special prize for Dairy Cows, the champion prizes previously offered for small breed of swine, the silage prizes, the rough riding prizes, and some of the general regulations.

After the sheep classes had been agreed on, Mr. Peppin moved that no housed or clothed sheep be allowed to compete for the Society's prizes. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm, and carried. The Secretary was authorised to go on with the printing of the prize-list. The meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

THE Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, 8th June, 1886.

PRESENT—Dr. Plummer (President) in the chair, with Messrs. F. Peppin, J. Hurst, W. Thomson, J. Hearn, Robert Clarke, W. Learmonth, A. Patterson, D. R. McGregor, H. Lennon, J. Currie, J. G. Brisbane, J. Garton, C. Lynott, D. Munro, J. Finlay, and J. M. Peck.

The minutes of the previous ordinary and special meetings were read and confirmed.

ELECTION OF MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Mr. Peppin moved that Mr. J. M. Peck be elected a member of Council *vice* the Hon. W. McCulloch resigned. Seconded by Mr. McGregor, and carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The President suggested the appointment of two Committees in connection with the Show, and Mr. Thomson moved the following gentlemen be appointed. Executive Committee—The President, F. Peppin, D. R. McGregor, T. Brunton, and J. Currie. Parade Committee—J. M. Peck, T. Learmonth, J. Garton, J. Hearn and C. Lynott. Seconded by Mr. Lennon, and carried.

REPORTS.

The Finance Committee report, submitting the monthly statement of accounts, and recommending payments amounting to £1592 6s. 6d., was read.

Mr. McGregor moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Mr. Currie and carried.

The Works Committee reported, that with a view to increasing the water supply at the Show Grounds, they instructed the Secretary to see

Mr. Davidson to consult with him as to the best means of increasing such supply.

They also made the following recommendations to the Council, viz., that the whole of the space below the grand stand be enclosed, and that an estimate be procured from the architects for this work, as well as for the cost of asphaltting the whole of the floor, that the front gates and caretaker's cottage have a fresh coat of paint, and the fence erected last year round the trotting track be painted, that blinds be procured for the windows, and matting for the hall of the new offices, that four bays or skylights be put in the sheep shed to improve the light, and lastly that an additional place for washing stock be built.

Mr. McGregor moved the adoption of the report, and moved that tenders be called for the work, excepting that relating to the grand stand. Seconded by Mr. Munro, and carried.

Mr. Peppin was elected a member of the Works Committee in the room of Mr. Buncle, who was absent from the colony.

The ordinary business was then adjourned, to allow Mr. Curr to read his paper on the Prohibition of the Importation of Stock. After the paper (which appears in full elsewhere) had been read, Mr. Hurst proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Curr, which was seconded by Mr. Clarke, and carried with acclamation. The paper will be discussed at the next ordinary meeting of Council.

The ordinary business was resumed, and the balance of the prize list for the show was considered, the Secretary reporting that £773 8s. had been promised as donations for prizes.

Letters were read from Messrs. Panton and Fox, in relation to the wine prizes. Mr. Panton wrote as follows:—

"I think that your Society ought to make the wine a more important exhibit than has been done hitherto. In a few years it will take first rank with your society, therefore the baby ought at once to be taken in hand and educated. The system of awarding prizes to the best few bottles of red and white, full bodied and light, &c., is a farce, and of no value to the winegrower or the public. Some fellow gets hold of a good cask of wine, exhibits a few bottles at every exhibition, gets prizes, and on the strength of such an advertisement, sells rubbish as prize wine. Exclude merchants and amateur growers from the exhibition of annual vintage, award prizes for the best samples of the year's vintage (*i.e.*, the young wines), each sample to represent not less than 200 gallons, and exhibitor to state quantity in hand. This system will assist the grower in disposing of his green wines to the merchant who understands the treatment in the cellar. If your society can afford it prizes might also be given for three-year old wines (which are supposed to be bottleable), that is the vintage of 1883, in this class the merchant to be at liberty to exhibit because he is supposed to have purchased green wine and managed it in cellar. This exhibit is an assistance to the public—the consumers who may wish to know where they can procure wine fit to drink. Exhibitors in this class ought to exhibit not less than two hogsheads, and state quantity represented. A jury of winegrowers, say three, might be appointed to place a value on each sample—apart from the judges as to quality, and after the award of classification, another jury of merchants might be appointed to go over the samples and place their value on them. A proper cellar will be wanted to receive the exhibits in."

It was resolved to pass a vote of thanks to Mr. Panton for his valuable suggestions, which, however, could not be adopted this year, as they had come to hand too late.

The price of admission to the Grand Stand was fixed at 2s. 6d. on Wednesday, the first day of the Show; and 5s. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and the question as to who should be admitted free was deferred.

TENDERS FOR CATALOGUES.

The tender of Messrs. Fergusson and Mitchell, £131 10s., for the privilege of

printing and publishing the catalogues for the Spring Show was accepted.

It was resolved to apply to the Government to have Thursday, the second and official opening day of the Show proclaimed a public holiday.

Mr. Peppin suggested the propriety of the Society having a public Agricultural dinner in the evening, in Melbourne, during the Show, and the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for report.

The meeting was then adjourned for a fortnight, for the appointment of judges for the Show, and for other business.

Government Grant to Agricultural Societies.

A conference of delegates from agricultural societies, convened by the North Western Society (Inglewood) was held on Wednesday, June 2nd, at the Exchange. Mr. D. C. Sterry, M.L.C., president of the Bendigo Society presided, and representatives from 44 societies and a large number of members of Parliament were present.

Mr. Klein (North Western Society) moved—

"That, on account of the material increase in the settlement of the country under the various land acts, particularly in outlying districts, vast strides have taken place in agricultural, pastoral, and horticultural pursuits, resulting in the establishment of agricultural and other societies in various parts of the colony, and the present grant-in-aid is found altogether inadequate to meet the increased demands of such societies, and this conference wishes to urge on the Minister of Agriculture the necessity for having the endowment substantially increased."

This was carried, as also was the following resolution—

"That this conference is of opinion that the privileges enjoyed by the residents of Melbourne and suburbs, of return tickets on the railways, should be extended to the country districts, and that the Commissioners of Railways be asked to issue return tickets at reduced fares on all the Victorian lines."

The chairman announced that Mr. Langdon had made arrangements for an interview with the Minister for Agriculture, at eleven o'clock the next day.

A large deputation, attended by about thirty members of Parliament, accordingly waited on the Minister of Agriculture, the Premier also being present. The Minister was requested to increase the grant so that societies should receive two-thirds of the money awarded in prizes, or 13s. 4d. in the £. He was also asked to fulfil a promise made by the late Government that the grant for last year received by each society should not be less than that of the previous year. It was also stated that the conference on the previous day had agreed to the principle laid down by the federated societies, that no society should receive more than £600 of the grant in one year.

Mr. Dow, in reply, said there were two main features in the request of the deputation. The first, was that Mr. Leven's promise, that the amount received this year should not be less than that granted last year should be fulfilled, which he would leave to the Treasurer. The other was that the societies should receive an amount of 13s. 4d. in the £. The Government had always tried to distribute the grant on that basis, but though the latter had been increased from £9000 per year to £12,000 and then to £15,500, the claims sent in by the societies had also increased so fast that the grant did not meet them; so that a *pro rata* division had to be made. Last year it had fallen to 11s. 3d., and this year it was still less. The Government was willing to do all in their power to meet the claims of the societies, but in order to give the 13s. 4d. on this year's claims, an amount of £22,000 would

be required. If this were granted it would give the societies power to offer larger prizes the following year and thus still further increase their claim, so that there was no knowing where it would end. He thought that not only should there be some minimum below which any society offering prizes should not be entitled to participate in the grant, but also a maximum amount fixed to be paid to any one society. He said that perhaps it would be well to ask Parliament for a fixed sum, say £20,000, to be equitably divided, and he promised that the Government would deal as liberally with the societies as practicable.

Mr. Gillies then said that he would see that the promise made last year was kept, and he also promised to do what he could in the interest of the societies.

Correspondence.

Insufficient Space for Horses on board Ship.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—For some time past it has been my intention to write you on the above subject, and the opportunity has only just now presented itself.

As you are aware horses on Intercolonial Steamers are allowed about 2 ft. 3 in. by 7 ft. for a stall. The result is, that if anything like rough weather be experienced, the animals are chafed and cut to pieces if not killed outright. In the Indian trade where medium-sized horses are allowed about 3 ft. by 9 ft., they are generally landed with an insignificant percentage of deaths; but in the Intercolonial trade deaths are frequent, and the horses so disfigured and maimed as to be almost worthless.

My experience has been that it is no use appealing to the tender mercies of the managers of the different companies, as they invariably say that no more room can be spared, but I think something should be done to compel steamboat owners to give more room to the animals. I think it comes under the heading of "Cruelty to Animals." Why not make it a punishable offence? It is a far more cruel thing than tying calves legs, putting pigs in bags, tying fowls legs, &c., and these are punishable offences. On one trip from New Zealand I lost thirteen horses out of a shipment of seventeen. Just picture to yourself Sir, what intense sufferings these horses must have endured, and lend your valuable aid to alleviate a little of the sufferings of the noblest of animals.

Before closing I would like to point out, that the fact of your not being able to land a horse here in a condition fit to be seen, is equal to a prohibitive tax altogether.—Yours, &c.

E. W. EDWARDS.

Hawthorn, June 8th, 1886.

On the Prohibition of the Importation of Live-Stock into Australia.

[Paper read by E. M. CURRIE (Chief Inspector of Stock), at a meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, on Tuesday, 8th June, 1886.]

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

The object of the paper which I am about to read to you, is to bring under your notice in few words what has been done in the past in the matter of prohibiting the introduction of live-stock from Europe and other parts into this, and neighbouring colonies, as far as I am cognisant of the facts; and to suggest a step which seems to me urgently necessary to prevent the eventual introduction into this continent of several contagious diseases common in other countries, but up to the present time non-existent in Australia.

As regards the past. In June, 1872, as you will remember, there was an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on the Werribee Plains, which was traced to a bull imported from England. December, 1872, was an epoch in the history of Victorian live-stock, as the first Act of Parliament dealing with diseases generally, and prohibiting their introduction from abroad, was passed at that time, for prior to that date cattle had always been admitted into these colonies without examination or interference, scab and catarrh in sheep being, as far as I am aware, the only diseases of animals which had been legislated against. As the result of this inexplicable supineness on our parts, our cattle are now suffering more or less, as they will continue to suffer probably for all time, from anthrax, tuberculosis and pleuro. Whether steps were taken by others in consequence of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on the Werribee, beyond the Commission appointed to enquire into it, and, if I remember rightly, a meeting of stock-owners held at Scott's Hotel, I am not aware, but on two occasions prior to the passing of the present Diseases in Stock Act, concerning which I had been consulted officially, I represented to the Minister the desirability of introducing into it the policy of the total prohibition of importation of sheep, cattle and pigs, from countries in which contagious diseases, not found in Australia, were known to exist. This was not done, but power was taken in the Health Act to enforce prohibition by Regulations, and in January and February, 1873, the policy of prohibition was adopted for a period of two years by New Zealand, Tasmania, and by all of our Governments, excepting that of Western Australia. In 1874, at a Conference attended by the Chief Inspectors of stock of this Colony, Queensland, N.S. Wales and South Australia, I moved that importation of live-stock from Great Britain should be prohibited as long as any infectious or contagious diseases of animals, save scab in sheep, existed in that country. This I knew meant in effect prohibition for all time, as it was and is quite clear that the contagious diseases of animals now in Great Britain will never be got rid of. In making this proposition, however, I stood alone, for it was negatived by all of the other members of the Conference, who desired apparently to affirm the principle that importation should be renewed after a time and under certain circumstances, of which freedom from disease in the country whence stock was to be introduced was not one.

In 1877, that is after five years, the removal of prohibition began to be agitated by stock-owners in Queensland and New South Wales, who desired to see the importation of stock, especially cattle, renewed. In South Australia the movement was generally and vigorously opposed, and in Victoria, also, to some extent. In that year I had the honour of reading two papers before this Society in support of prohibition, on the last of which occasion you passed a resolution in support of its continuance for a time at least. The importation, however, of European and other foreign stock was legalised in the four Australian colonies mentioned above in 1878, and also in New Zealand, Tasmania still sticking to the policy of prohibition, in which it has persevered to the present time. Very few persons availed themselves of the opportunity of importation, which continued to exist until 1881, between which date and 1883 prohibition had again become general. Being of opinion that a change of policy in this matter would again be sought, I urged the Ministerial head of my department, when occasion offered, to get the other colonies to enter into a more permanent arrangement in the matter, the result of which has been that during the last twelve months, owing in a great measure to the action taken by Mr. Levien, late Minister of Agriculture, the Governments of the neighbouring colonies, with the exception of

that of Western Australia, have agreed amongst themselves to continue to enforce prohibition, whilst in the last mentioned colony that policy is shortly to be submitted to Parliament to deal with. That Mr. Levien adopted this view of the case; that the live-stock of the Australian colonies is at present protected to a certain extent from a further introduction of infectious and contagious diseases, the public, I think, owes to the decided and persevering interest taken in the matter by my superior officer, Mr. Martin, Secretary for Agriculture. Had he not taken that interest in the question, it is probable that importation, with its many risks, would be going on at this moment. For as there is no statute law on the point in any of the colonies, it has been their custom, since the dangers of the situation has been brought prominently to view by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease at the Werribee, to enforce prohibition in moments of funk, and to relapse into importation when the scare, *but not the danger*, has passed away.

To impress on you more strongly a subject, which seems to me to touch the well-being of the public as intimately as any to which the attention of any Australian Legislature has yet been directed, I may remind you that about eight years ago your President, Dr. Plummer, pointed out to a meeting in this room, that the question of prohibition had been initiated by me. Whether this handsome statement of Dr. Plummer's was absolutely correct or not, I am unable to say, nor is it of much consequence; but the circumstance of my addressing you to-day on the same subject, shows that the thorough protection of the live-stock of Australia from disease is a matter still open to private advocacy, and does not yet, as it should do, rest on the firm basis of a general law.

Touching the immense losses these colonies have suffered, and continue to suffer, from diseases formerly imported; the fact that quarantine, as lately exemplified in New South Wales, affords no sufficient protection against disease, and that the rush to the Kimberly goldfields may result in the introduction of cattle from Timor, at Cambridge Gulf, as they were formerly imported from that island to Port Darwin, it is my intention to say nothing, further than that it seems to me that prohibition rigidly carried out is of much greater importance to ourselves and our descendants than, for instance, the ownership of New Guinea or the New Hebrides, about which we have interested ourselves so much of late.

To put this business once for all on a safe footing, it seems to me that what is needed is the passing of an Act common to the whole of the Australian, Tasmanian and New Zealand colonies, which shall prohibit permanently the introduction of live-stock and some other animals from all places outside of them. I would further suggest that this Act should be restricted to this one subject, and not form a portion of any Diseases in Stock Acts, as these may require to be altered with altering circumstances, amidst which the principle for which I contend would stand a chance of being laid aside.

Finally, it seems to me that the present time is a favourable one for bringing this matter forward; the several Parliaments are in session; some steps will probably be taken ere long in connection with federation; and in all of the Australian colonies, save Western Australia, prohibition is being enforced as a temporary measure. It seems to me also that the Society which I have the honour to address is specially interested in supporting the policy I advocate, and that nothing would redound more to its credit than a vigorous effort to avert permanently all further risks of importing disease.

Labour saving implements fully up to good work are now in everything called for to make money.

New Industries.

The Fig.—Its Culture and Curing.

[CONTINUED.]

PLANTING AND CULTIVATION.

The horticulturists of California can, I believe, have but little to learn from the mode of planting and cultivating in countries so backward in these respects, as South of Europe and Asia Minor. But the very fact that in this very home of figs certain operations are adopted which to us may seem highly ludicrous, or even injurious, should set us to think that we do not know it all, and at least set us to inquire as to the reasons for these peculiar practices.

First, then, in the Aidin district the fig trees are always set two in the same hole. What would we think if we saw peaches and apples planted two and two, immediately joining? After the ground has been sufficiently ploughed and dug, holes are made in varying distances of 25 to 30 feet, according to quality of soil, the poorer soil requiring the lesser distance. In these holes the fig trees are ploughed in the month of March one foot apart, and then joined at the top, and here made to cross each other like the letter X, a few inches above the ground. At the junction of the trees they are tied to each other and to a stake, so as to keep steady. From Dr. Stillman, who has visited Smyrna, I learned that both trees are allowed to grow and develop into a tree, and the stems are wound one around the other, like a trailing vine around a pole. The object of this peculiar custom is difficult to explain, as we know of nothing analogous in our horticulture. I have, however, thought the object sought is as much as possible to prevent self-fertilization, and to increase hybridization by the pollen of another tree. The first years the figs are irrigated by some means or other, and first, when fully established, are they considered able to reach the underground moister strata. The land is ploughed several times a year and highly manured. The latter is the more necessary, as small crops, such as beans and corn, are grown between the trees for several years, or until the trees reach sufficient size to shade the ground. In some orchards, however, the trees are set much further apart, or 66 feet every way, and the intervening space is set in olive trees or peaches. In Catania, in Sicily, the figs are set 26 feet apart, without other trees between, and the soil is ploughed or dug twice a year. Without this annual plowing the figs are said to become small and inferior. In Nice, in France, the figs are set 19½ or 6 meters apart.

The different varieties of figs attain their full bearing capacity at different ages. But in Smyrna a fig tree is considered to be in good bearing at five years after planting, or at least at that age they are considered to bear sufficiently to pay well, the yield then being 150 pounds to the tree. From that time on the tree is considered to increase in productiveness for 20 to 30 years.

In regard to California, the distance between the fig trees should vary with the variety. For heavy growing varieties, such as the Adriatic and the San Pedro, I would think 25 feet would suffice; at least, that is the distance I have adopted for my own trees.

In setting out fig trees it is necessary not to expose the roots to the drying winds or to sunshine. A few moments of each is sufficient to injure the roots in such way that they will require several months to recuperate.

The irrigation of the fig is a question of greatest importance. I have already shown that trees on wet or swampy soil produce inferior fruit, not fit for drying. In localities where irrigation is necessary, the supply of water must not be such that the soil is in

any way made swampy, or supplied with so much water that it cannot be sufficiently drained in the fall. To give any general rule is quite impossible. There is hardly two localities in our State exactly similar in regard to the dryness of the soil, and accordingly each locality should be supplied with water differently, if at all. If we again, regardless of locality, should consider only the fig tree proper and its growth, I would say that the tree should have just moisture enough to be kept at a healthy growth, and as such I consider one that would produce branches of from one and a half to two and a half feet each season, and rather less than more. When long sappy roots are produced it is always an indication that there is too much water in the soil. Such wood will produce watery figs, deficient in flavor and sweetness, and flat and insipid in the taste. Such figs are neither fit for table nor for drying. It is especially during the drying season the supply of water should be limited, and I am satisfied that if the trees have had all the water necessary during the spring and early summer months, they will be much the better off, by having no artificial irrigation after the first of the month of August. But this refers only to older bearing trees. Lately planted trees may require water much later, in localities where irrigation is necessary. Such well matured wood is not likely to be injured by frost, even in our most severe winters.

Of no less importance to a successful fig culture is the mode of pruning. Unlike most fruit trees, fig trees should be but sparingly pruned. Any wholesale topping and heading back is decidedly injurious, and fig trees treated thus will produce inferior fruit the following season. I can not learn that any such heading back is practised in Smyrna or elsewhere where fine figs are grown, and it certainly must be considered as highly favorable to the cultivator that such pruning is not necessary.

In Smyrna the trees are first raised to the height of five or six feet, then cut square off and allowed to branch out. For California I advocate to branch the fig trees very low. My plan is to sucker and pull off the sprouts the first year, but afterwards allow the tree to branch freely low down from the main stem above ground, only keeping the real root-suckers away. In this way a goblet-shaped tree is produced with a solid main trunk not liable to split. The branches are sufficiently near the ground to allow the majority of the figs to be pulled by hand without the necessity to use a ladder, or without the inconvenience to climb the tree. In this way, also, the ground is kept cool and shaded, and not heated by the hot winds. The temperature of the fruit is thus kept more uniform, which, of course, is of the greatest importance. As regards after-pruning, it will only be necessary to from year to year cut out the dead wood and crossing and superfluous branches—to thin out, but not to cut back, except in an emergency. Such fig trees will be very different from those now generally seen. They will be trees grown for their fruit, but not for their shade.

CROPS AND THEIR TREATMENT.

All cultivated varieties of figs have three crops of figs, more or less distinct. The first of these crops are figs which were set already in the fall of the year previous, upon shoots formed in July and August. These figs are, except in a few varieties, of no value. They are larger, as a rule, than the later crop of figs, but not equal in flavor or sweetness. The French call these figs *fig fleures*, meaning fig flowers. Through some documents kindly placed in my hands by Mr. Nelmes, of Pasadena, I find that in Smyrna such first crop figs are called Boccere. It would, however, be unjust to condemn all first-crop figs. The French grow for table use certain varieties of figs which produce good first-crop figs or *fig fleures*, which are there used for table only.

On such varieties the later crops are generally of indifferent quality. This first crop is generally ripe in May and June. The second crop of figs is the principal one, and in drying fig the only one of any value. These figs are developed the same year as they ripen, and are found at the inner base of every leaf, while the first crop is found scattered on the branches and in places where there was a leaf the previous year. In Smyrna this crop only is used for drying figs, and is there called Karmouse. This crop begins to mature there in the end of July, but the majority ripens in the middle of August. The crop lasts generally six weeks. The third crop may be considered as the tail of the second crop, and if the weather is favorable it will keep on ripening until frost.

Here in Fresno I find the first Adriatic figs ripen in August, but the bulk of the crop will ripen in end of August and beginning of September, yet superior figs will keep on ripening until October is well advanced. When the figs are ripe, or sufficiently ripe to be dried and cured, they in some varieties drop to the ground, but in others again hang on to the tree and must be cut off. When this time arrives in Smyrna the figs are picked and put one by one, without touching each other, on matting, or even on the ground covered with cut grass or straw. The figs are on this exposed to the sun for 10 to 12 days or less, according to the weather. To begin with they are turned every day, so as to be equally exposed to sun and air, and if dew is expected they are covered over with matting during the night time. What is needed during the drying season is not an excessive heat, but steady sunshine and dry winds. It seems to me that here in California we could satisfy the most exacting Turkish demands in this respect. When the figs are sufficiently dry, the skin feels dry, but the inside should yet be perfectly soft and pliable. The ripe and sufficiently cured figs are now picked out, and the others left to remain until ready. It will thus be seen that the figs are not dried haphazard on roofs or the ground, and then dumped into boxes and shipped. This I have known to be the general practice in California, and still we wonder why our figs are not any better. When the figs in Smyrna are dried sufficiently, they are by the fig-raisers assorted in three different sizes, then sacked in sacks made of camel's-hair—barley sacks would, on account of the fuz, not do—and then sent into Smyrna. The merchant who has furnished the fig-raiser with his year's supply takes the crop out of his hands. The figs are now again assorted and are then ready to be packed.

In Portugal they have either a different variety of fig or the climate is more favorable, as the figs there dry sufficiently in five or six days. It may, however, be that some years are more favorable than others, and I am rather inclined to think this to be the cause of the shorter time assigned to the drying in Portugal. Last year I dried some Adriatic figs in five days sufficiently, but this year, which in every respect has been an unfavorable one, it needed 10 to 12 days to dry the same variety.

In Portugal the figs are dried on mats made of the esparto weed—some kind of a fiber plant, the name and nature of which is unknown to me. When the figs are sufficiently dried they are stored in bulk for five or six weeks, probably to undergo a sweating process, or at least to have the moisture equalized.

(To be continued.)

The want of the age is knowledge! We are opening our eyes slowly to the thought that we know very little. When once we realise that our ignorance is the biggest and most swaggering part of us, we shall be prepared for turning over the leaves of the book of nature to see what she has in store for us.

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer, Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S., will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest; the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a *post mortem* examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum, may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Parasitic Disease in Animals.

OF recent years, as the necessary conditions are focussed, parasites have increased apace, so that now a heavy penalty is sustained by the loss of health and condition in stock, and if the necessary prevention and curative measures are neglected a heavy mortality occurs. Animals in robust health resist to a great measure the gradual inroads of parasitic attacks, but when a combination of circumstances occurs to lower the healthy tone, then the hosts find their visitors unwelcome guests, and, unless aided by man, the victims ultimately succumb to the united attack. When we consider that animal life, from the lowest to the highest orders, is regulated by the unalterable laws of nature, and that any trespass of these laws carries disease and death in its train, then the necessity and importance of directing our efforts to stay the havoc that results from our wilful neglect is forced upon us. Disease may be defined as any condition of the system deviating from what is called health, so that to be enabled to detect the former the latter must be thoroughly understood, and by comparing the two we can ascertain the deviation from the normal state. Of all known causes of disease, unwholesome food and water top the list; the food we refer to in the present instance is innutritious rank grasses and stagnant contaminated water. These are usually found in a concentrated form on swamps or flats from which there is defective drainage with a retentive subsoil. These localities become parasitic hot beds, especially when fully stocked year after year with the same species of animals, particularly sheep. In the days of bush fires the remedy was at hand, and had the recommendation of not costing *any money*, although the eradication of diseased herbage and the destruction of a bush fence were sadly lamented. Latterly, by constant stocking—and in many instances cultivation as long as it would yield a payable crop—it has resulted in grasses in a great measure being replaced by weeds; and here it may be said disease follows the plough on soil, robbed in the first instance, until it produces no profitable return, and then considered good enough for grazing, till nature draws the line by fostering parasitic disease. The following extracts from recent correspondence will show the gravity of the subject.

On behalf of ——— I have made a *post mortem* examination, perhaps not nearly as perfect a one as you yourself would make, but one sufficient to suggest an idea of the disease likely to aid you in forming a correct diagnosis. Like most sheep when first affected their skin becomes very unhealthy in appearance, and the wool is separated easily from the skin; the sheep generally fall off in condition when on rich pastures, and when shaken about show signs of dropsy, which would be the usual *fiat* of a V.S., not knowing the disease prevailing on the estate and causing such mortality among the flock,

death would evidently be declared to arise from dropsy. Phosphorised oats have been used on this run to destroy vermin.

One six-tooth wether on opening the abdomen the liver was found to be diseased and half as large again as normal; left lobe very fibrous and discolored blue, ducts containing fluke, heart walls soft and flaccid, dilated very much; lungs, left discoloured, covered with blue spots; mesenteric glands enlarged; mesentery contracted and weak feeling full of knots; kidneys diseased, and yellow melt healthy. Stomach—colon much inflamed, stomach impacted with food and incapable of use, paunch full of green food. 2nd sheep—stomach, full of worms; melt, healthy; gallbladder, healthy; liver enlarged and diseased, especially fibrous; heart, soft and flabby; left lobe of the lungs very peculiar, and, when blown up, full of white spots, tough and leathery, and when spots were pressed retained indent. They were fed on marsh land, which has, till lately, been very productive, and in fact used for fattening purposes only. 3rd sheep—stomach containing a great many fine red and white worms, apparently blood worms. These worms while living are always red and white and on death all white. Liver very hard and fibrous and blue appearance; abdomen containing at least three gallons of water; lungs very small, containing a few hydatids, not unusual on this run. Most of the sheep killed there are found fluke-like hydatids plentiful. Fourth stomach generally contains many worms floating like eels in the fluids.

General appearance of sheep—when driven languid, heads up, ears down when hurried up those in any way affected turn round and refuse to move. Wool has a filthy appearance as if from dead sheep, skin pale, covered with tan spots. I trust I have given fair particulars, and I will forward samples by first steamer direct if necessary. I have found a remedy which seems to kill the worm, but we wish to know the basis of the disease, and with your aid we hope to succeed.

Several of my bullocks have died suddenly without any apparent cause, and on opening them I found the stomachs filled with something like snails. Not, however, having had any previous experience of this disease I would feel obliged by your informing me what it is and if there is any remedy for it; the disease has shewn itself only in one brand of cattle which were purchased in ——— in August last. I have put specimens of the worms in spirits and forwarded them to your address.

A few of the lambing ewes are dying, and it is not from starvation; in all cases the sheep are in good condition. I have opened several, and all the organs appear healthy but the womb, which is packed full of, what I think, parasites, resembling a mushroom after the stem is removed. I am sending you down one sealed in a glass jar, containing two sheep wombs preserved in spirits. Though I am losing only odd sheep they have lost thousands at ———. Symptoms—the sheep at times stagger then fall down, lose the power of their hind quarters, looking back to their flanks. I may state in all cases the sheep opened by me have had lambs at foot about ten days old. The cull ewes, which are not in lamb and which I am killing for rations, are not affected.

Trades Connected with Agriculture

(NOW AND FORTY YEARS AGO).

IN a former paper I endeavoured to show the difference in the condition of farming forty years ago and now. I would like to glance at the difference in the trades since that time.

First.—Forty years ago the implements of agriculture were manufactured by the blacksmith and carpenter, or wright, as he is called in Scotland, but now he is supplanted by the implement manufacturer.

Besides the ploughs, carts, and other farm implements, the country wright made all the household furniture in our fathers' days. Even in the farm-houses, fifty years ago, you would have scarcely seen an article which was not of his construction. In some houses, indeed, there might even then be a chest of drawers, an old bureau, or a cupboard, not of his handiwork; but the box-beds, the *oumries* and presses, the clumsy straight-backed chairs, the tables, and the indispensable "lang seat," were all made by him. Little attention was then paid to elegance of form, or to the caprice of fashion—the chief requisites being strength and durability. Many articles descended as heir-looms from father to son for generations; and in some houses in the district beds and other things might be found which have stood the tear and wear of a century.

When we compare the wooden-handled ploughs and other implements with the iron ploughs and machines, such as the improved winnowing machines, strippers, and binders, which we see at our Agricultural Shows, the improvement and saving of labor must be immense.

Second.—The millwright of the village has given place to the large mill-owner, who grinds his wheat by means of steam power, by the thousand bushels per week.

In the old days he was the miller in the most restricted sense, grinding the corns brought to him, and returning the produce, after deducting his *mill dues*. The farmer in these days disposed of his surplus crop in the form of meal, either in his own neighbourhood or to the meal-sellers in the towns. As farming improved, and its operations began to engross more of his attention, he carried his corn to the miller, who ground it, disposed of the meal, and handed over the proceeds to his employer. Perhaps these were the palmy days of the miller trade, and in some places a little is still done in this way. After the country corn-merchants began to attend the local markets, the farmers soon tired of this plan. They found that they could get more for their oats than the price of the meal said to be in them; and, as the corn-merchants paid on delivery and asked for no *luck pennies*, they were rather formidable competitors to the millers. Some of the wealthier millers, by making advances in backward times, were able to retain a share of the trade on the old system, but small capitalists were too often driven to the wall, and there are not nearly so many mills now in the district as formerly. There is very little grinding for *multure* now, for many of our farmers sell all their corn and purchase the meal required for their servants and families. Like other parties who minister to our wants, the miller has come in for his share of obloquy, and has had various practices ascribed to him not altogether consistent with fair dealing. In our days they are sometimes accused of *flaughting*, or mixing other grain with the oats, thus deteriorating the meal. The old millers, it is said, had a rather curious way of helping themselves when grinding the farmer's corn. Besides the proper funnel through which the meal escaped from the stones, some of them are said to have had a small opening farther back, through which a small quantity of meal trickled as the stone turned round, and fell through a small spout into a bag which hung in a dark corner. This *pock* was facetiously called the miller's *black bitch*, but the whole may be only a joke at the expense of *old disty*.

Then we had the saddler in the village, who made all harness, &c., and other minor trades.

Now, with the competition in agriculture, as in other things, every thing must be done on a large scale, but it does not follow that the people were more comfortable, or their occupation a more profitable one.

A. G. YOUNG.

Brains are as necessary on a farm as in Parliament. Ploughing may be done either with or without brains; but those who excel in the use of brains in any department in life will show the best balance at their bankers.

The National Agricultural Society's monthly journal continues to improve, the articles being written in a plain, straightforward manner. It is quite evident that the writer has a comprehensive knowledge of the subjects he deals with from time to time.—*Weekly Times*.

Messrs. Horrell and Mendell, of 10 William-street, Melbourne, report of the money market as follows:—The price of money has increased somewhat during the past month, with every prospect of becoming still dearer. None but the best securities are accepted by lenders, and from 50 to 60 per cent. of the value of a security is the limit of advances. For the present the Associated Banks are content to restrict their operations to existing engagements, and new business is not encouraged. There is no immediate prospect of the discount rates being raised, although at present they seem to be quite arbitrary. Discount rates are—for 3 months' bills, 7 and 7½ per cent. per annum; beyond 3 months, 8½ per cent. per annum. Interest on overdrafts, 10 per cent. per annum. It can hardly be said that money is scarce, although it is not likely to be cheaper for some time to come. The recent rains throughout Australasia have inspired confidence, and with the better prices for staples, a revival of trade may be easily discerned. The Melbourne Savings Bank report the receipt of £111,106 during May, or an increase for the month of £5,256.

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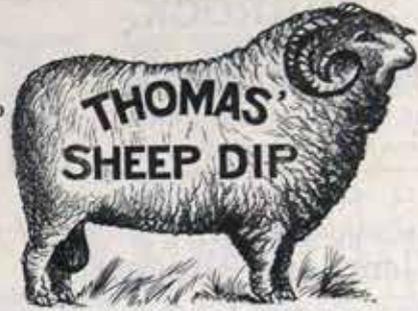
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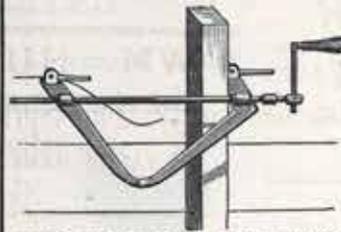
Messrs. Miles & Co., of Christchurch, report of last season's clips, that those who had been previously dipped with

THOMAS' SPECIFIC

Realised fully One Penny per lb. extra, and some as much as 3d. per lb. extra, clearly due to the use of this Specific.

Flockowners! Consider what this means in your Account Sales.

DARK & BURY'S PATENT WIRE STRAINER.



This machine will do all work required by Fencers, as it will mend a broken wire, or strain a new one to the straining post equally well, no plugging or any fixing being required. The nuts on the levers, with the grips attached, work on a pivot, so if, when straining a new wire, the wire is not sufficiently tight when drawn up to the post, by reversing the grip on the lever against the post, it will hold the wire; while the other lever is let out the length of the screw, when by gripping it again with the straining lever, and releasing it from the other, the wire may again be drawn up to the post, and so on until the wire is tight. For mending a broken wire, the levers are opened out, and the ends of the wire placed in the grips, and then the levers are drawn together by the screw until the wire is sufficiently close to tie. Strain is self-supporting and weighs about 7lbs.

Agents { McLEAN BROS. & RIGG, Victoria.
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Patent Sheep Labels. Ceiling or Floor Cramps. Horse, Cattle and Sheep Brands. Pliers for Sheep's Ears.
Stencil Plates in Zinc or Copper. Tattoos for Sheep. Docking Irons. Carriage Jacks, and all other Squatters' requirements supplied.

E. DARK & CO.,

19 LITTLE BOURKE STREET WEST, MELBOURNE.

THOMAS CRAINE,
Australian Carriage Factory,

MANUFACTURER OF

DEXTER AND OTHER BUGGIES

OF LATEST STYLES.

☛ All Materials of Best American Quality. ☛

Workmanship Guaranteed.

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Full particulars of Rates, Agencies, and Instructions post free.

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Manufacturers of Galvanized Iron Spouting,
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Galvanizer to the Trade.
Wholesale Ironworker and Galvanizer of
Cast and Wrought Ironwork of
Every Description.

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WHITE & ALLAMBY
Have replenished their Stock in view of ensuing
season. Best ENGLISH GOODS ONLY kept
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Single and Double, Carriage, Brougham, Gig, and
Buggy, in ALL of which none but the best
English and American Leather is
used in making up.
50 BOURKE STREET WEST.

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On Sale—Chaff, Pollard, Barley, Onions, Ham, Sugar, Oats,
Wheat, Maize, Butter, Bacon, Bran, Peas, Potatoes,
Eggs, Tea, &c., &c.
N.B.—All kinds of Garden, Farm, and Dairy Produce Bought
and Sold.

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Dairy and General Produce Merchants,
STEAM CHAFF CUTTERS, AND
DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF FRUIT,
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By Special Appointment to the Marquis of Normanby, K.C.M.G. & under the Patronage of His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.

DANIEL WHITE'S
STEAM CARRIAGE WORKS,
244 AND 245 SWANSTON STREET,
And 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 & 21 STEWART STREET, MELBOURNE.

Awarded GOLD MEDAL for Special Merit at London Exhibition of 1873, and TWO GOLD
MEDALS for best Carriages at Melbourne Shows of 1883 and 1884, and THIRTY-TWO
MEDALS (1st Prizes), at Exhibitions and Shows of 1872, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77,
78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85. Also, THREE FIRST AWARDS
OF MERIT (1st Prizes), at International Exhibition of 1880.

NOTICE.—Referring to above, D. WHITE desires to inform his numerous Customers and the Public
generally that he has secured and completed EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO HIS COACH FACTORY,
and with the increased accommodation and Steam Plant, and the Largest Stock of Seasoned Timber in
Melbourne, is now prepared to meet the increasing demand for his well-known Carriages and Vehicles.
The new premises are in Stewart Street, immediately opposite the present Factory.
Patentee of the Improved Carriage and Buggy Hood Apparatus, for raising or lowering the Hood from the
inside. Every description of Vehicle built from the best imported Materials and Well-seasoned Timber.

STICKLAND & SONS
COACH BUILDERS,

Beg to inform Squatters, Farmers, and others that, having enlarged and improved their premises generally
they are enabled to keep a large and varied stock of Vehicles, which they invite all interested to inspect.

MAIL, VICTORIA, PONY AND OTHER PHÆTONS.

Also numerous TOP and NO-TOP BUGGIES, &c., NOW ON VIEW.

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Bristol Poultry and Fancy Bird Stores.

CHARLES FOX,



IMPORTER, EXHIBITOR,

BREEDER AND DEALER

IN

High class Poultry

1 & 2 EASTERN MARKET, MELBOURNE

LOWER QUADRANGLE (next Arcade.)
Champion Prize Taker at past Shows. Exchanges made
any way. Fowls Eggs for Sitting. Orders despatched to any
part of the colony on receipt of P.O.O.

DAL. CAMPBELL & CO.,
Stock and Station Agents,
49 BOURKE ST. WEST, MELBOURNE.

AGENT AT TERANG, MR. HENRY MAWBEY.

STEVENSON & ELLIOT,

By Special Appointment to
H.R.H. the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.C.B., and
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To His Excellency the Governor Sir HENRY LOCH, K.C.B.,
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Have a large selection of CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, their
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and elegant modern designs, in which are used the best
workmanship and materials procurable, comprising Landaus,
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Bretts, Single and Double-seated Buggies, Dogcarts, &c.;
also Plain and Fancy Farmers' Waggon, built specially for
country use.

A variety of Second-hand Vehicles kept in stock.
Heralry executed in correct style.

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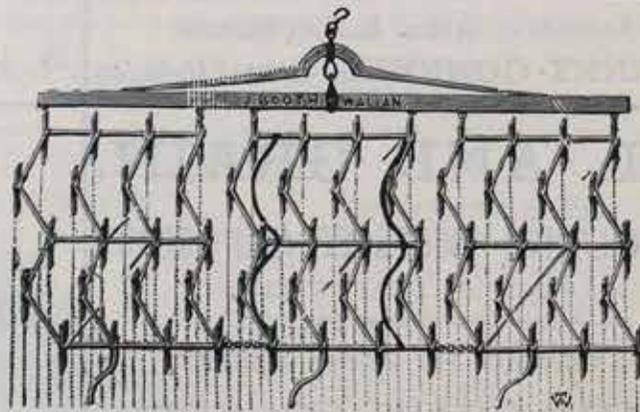
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Unique Catalogue of Books, or List of Botanic Medicines sent
Free on Application.

1 GOLD MEDAL.



5 SILVER MEDALS.

J. BOOTH,
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RAILWAY STATION WALLAN.

HARROWS made to suit all kinds of soil, fitted with Iron or Steel Tynes.

These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tye
cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884
and 1885 these Implements in competition with the leading Colonial-made and Imported Harrows,
secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing
a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents
throughout the Colonies. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List free on application.

Note Address--RAILWAY STATION P.O., WALLAN.

R. SMITH'S PATENT Giant Complete Harvester.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS:
HUMBLE & NICHOLSON,
VULCAN FOUNDRY, GEELONG.



The Patentee having thoroughly tested the efficiency of this Machine in the field for himself, has every confidence in recommending it to farmers generally, or those needing the use of such a Machine, as it will greatly expedite their harvesting operations, and effect a very great saving, as the following Testimonials will substantiate.

The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR. R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To Mr. RUPERT SMITH. Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.
Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize; and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,
GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

Mr. R. SMITH. Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it done; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,
GEORGE EXELL.

Mr. RUPERT SMITH. Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.
Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendid, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,
ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
Stock Yard Hill.

Mr. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort. Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Winners. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly
TONKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

Memo. to Mr. RUPERT SMITH. January 26th, 1885.
Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked up on the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors.) In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,
F. DUE, Farmer,
Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885.
This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.
Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.
C. F. SUTHERLAND.

To Mr. RUPERT SMITH. Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.
Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.
Remaining yours faithfully,
G. DAVIS.

PRICE WILLIAMS,

FRANKLIN STREET, WEST MELBOURNE,

MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

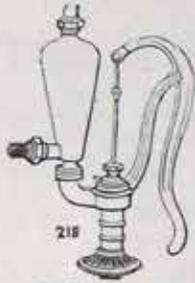
Lever and Chain Farme's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 8½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,

HUGH GORDON.



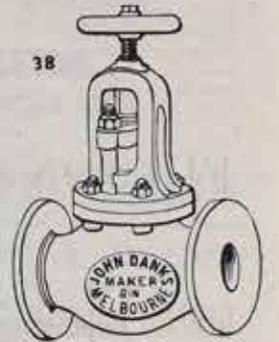
JOHN DANKS & SON,

Engineers & Brass Founders,

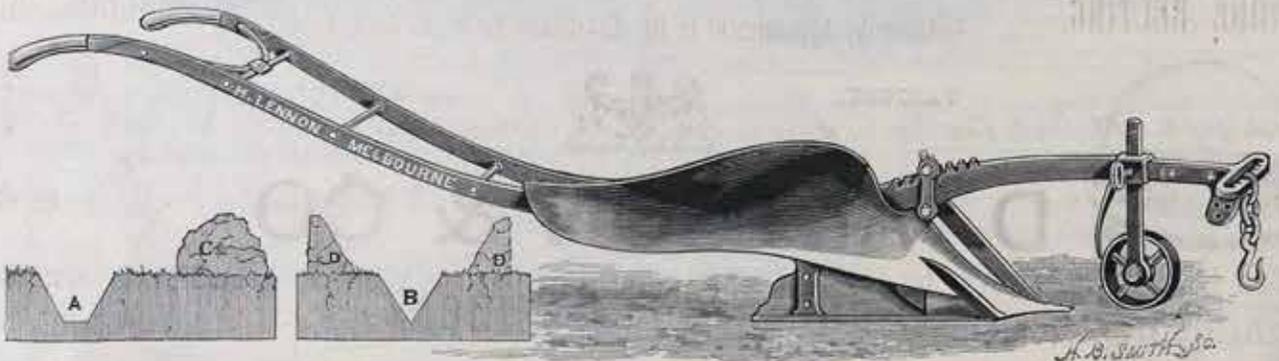
MANUFACTURERS OF

PUMPS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

Fire Engines, Baths, Sanitary Ware, Gas Fittings,
Iron, Lead, and Compo. Pipes, Water Supply Goods.



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HUGH LENNON'S

World-famed Agricultural Field Implements and Harvesting Machinery

Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes
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Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and dam sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.
Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators
Drain Ploughs, for irrigation purposes.
Vineyard Ploughs,

All fitted with H. L.'s Patent Wrought Iron Shares. A clear saving of 50 per cent.

ALL KINDS OF HARVESTING MACHINERY IN STOCK.

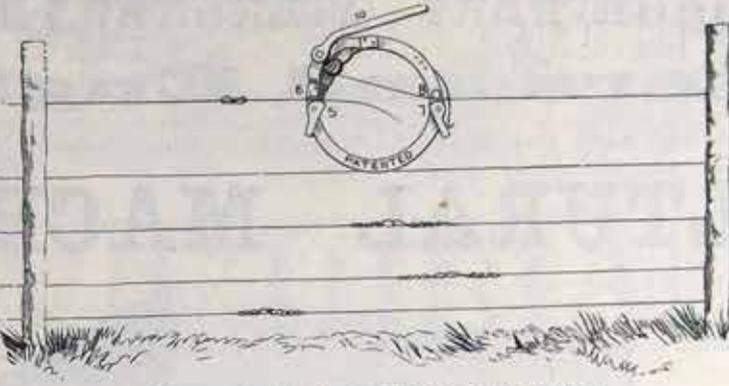
CATALOGUES FREE ON APPLICATION.

Factory and Show Rooms: Opposite North Melbourne Railway Station.

FULTON'S Improved Patent Portable Wire Strainer.

AWARDS, 1883-4.

Highly Commended—Canterbury, New Zealand, 1883.
 Silver Medal—Faiseri Agricultural Society, Mosgiel, New Zealand, 1883.
 First-class Certificate of Merit—Brisbane, 1884.
 Special Prize—Mudgee, New South Wales, 1884.
 Commended—National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1884.
 Highly Recommended—Wangaratta, 1884.
 First Prize—Grand National Show, Echuca, 1884; Boort, 1884; Benalla, 1884; Nhill, 1884; Ingwood, 1884; Warrnambool, 1884; Tatura, 1884.
 Special Prize—Geelong 1884; Rochester, 1884; Sandhurst, 1884; Ballarat, 1884;



Rutherglen, 1884; Stawell, 1884; Numurkah, 1884; Clunes, 1884; Kyneton, 1884.
 Certificate of Merit—Shepparton, 1884.

AWARDS, 1885.

First Prize—Deniliquin, July 23rd; Horsham, Aug. 5th and 6th; Dimboola, Aug. 12th; Kerang, Aug. 27th; Donald, Sept. 2nd and 3rd; Yarrawonga, 3rd.
 Honourable Mention—Charlton, Sept. 16th.
 First Prize—Echuca, Sept. 17th and 18th; Shepparton, Sept. 22nd and 23rd; St. Arnaud, Sept. 23rd.
 Special Prize—Rochester, Sept. 30th.
 First Prize—Talbot, Grand National, Oct. 8th and 9th; Ballarat Oct. 14th, 15th and 16th.

Diagram showing the Application of the Machine.

THIS MACHINE IS MADE ENTIRELY OF STEEL, AND WEIGHS UNDER 5lbs.

The Advantages claimed for this Machine are:—The ease with which a broken wire can be strained and rejoined at the break, thus saving the usual loss of time in having to go to the straining post to untie the wire; and that it can be used in the middle of a panel without any post to strain against.

DIRECTIONS FOR WORKING MACHINE.

Standing with your left side to the fence, the left foot about 18 inches in front of the right, with the left hand grasp the Strainer between the windlass and grip (5 and 6). Catch the left-hand end of the wire in grip (5 and 6), about 9 inches from the end; this done, place the machine against the left thigh so as to keep the jaw (5) from opening (still holding as directed with the left hand). Now take the right-hand end of the wire and pass it under (8) and into the hole in the windlass. With the handle in the right hand wind up the slack wire by turning the windlass (do not turn the handle right round, but every time it touches the body take a fresh grip. As each half-turn is complete, with the left hand press the grip (7) against the wire, so as to hold all the slack brought up by the windlass. When the wire is tight enough, unwind the windlass, cut off the surplus wire, leaving about 9 inches for knotting, by taking the two loose ends and rolling them together by means of two small keys; this done, remove the Strainer by striking the tail of the left-hand grip with the handle.

ALSO,

FULTON'S NEW IMPROVED WIRE - CUTTING SNIPS.

JAMES M'EWAN & Co., SOLE AGENTS,

General Importers of All Classes of Ironmongery & Station Supplies, Galvanized Iron, Fencing Wire, Machinery, &c.
 79, 81, 83, AND 319 ELIZABETH ST., AND 4, 6, AND 10 LITTLE COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE.

MACHINE BELTING.

Saddlers by Appointment to His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.

MACHINE BELTING.



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TANNERY:
 FLEMINGTON.

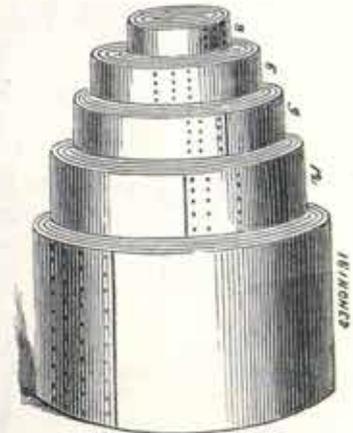
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Saddlers & Tanners,

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Contractors for Machine Belting, Saddlery, &c., to the Government, War & Naval Departments of Victoria.

Prices and Samples posted free on application.



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Manufacturing Stationers, Lithographers,

ENGRAVERS, &c., &c.,

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



Vol. I.—No. 12. [Read as a Newspaper.] MELBOURNE, JULY 16TH, 1886. GRATIS.

"If 'twere done when 'tis done,
Then 'twere well done 'twere quickly done."

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CHARLES D. STRAKER,
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Caterer for the Victorian Racing Club, The National Agricultural Society of Victoria, and the Victorian Coursing Club.
Orders for Banquets, Fetes, Dinners, Weddings, Suppers, on the Shortest Notice in Town or Country.
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Every description of Agricultural Machinery and Implements, by all the best Melbourne Manufacturers and Importers on sale on favorable terms.
Town Agents for transaction of every description of Farmers' business requiring Confidential Care and attention.

Advances on Grain at Current Rates of Interest.
STORAGE ON VERY FAVORABLE TERMS.

J. F. & CO. Limited are prepared to ship Wheat if desired on Farmers' account for sale in London on advantageous terms.

£60,000 to Lend on Freehold or Leasehold Security

J. B. SCOTT,
Britannia Bone Mills,
PORT MELBOURNE,

BEGS to draw the attention of Farmers and others requiring Manure to the following unsolicited Letter which he has received from H. W. Emerson MacIvor—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,

29 QUEEN STREET, Melbourne, May 26, 1884.

To J. B. SCOTT, Sandridge.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of my departure from Victoria to occupy the post of Lecturer on Agriculture at the Technical College, Sydney, I must say your BONE DUST has often passed through my hands, without your influence, and never have I found it to be otherwise than of first class quality. During my eight years residence in this colony I have played the part of detective in the Manure Market, but my search for Adulteration in this material from your Factory was search in vain.

I remain, yours very truly,

R. W. EMERSON MacIVOR, F.I.C., F.C.S.,
&c., &c.,
LECTURER ON AGRICULTURE,
Technical College, Sydney, N.S.W.

BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

Little's Soluble Phenyle.



The Best Disinfectant and Deodorant yet produced.

Four times the strength of any Disinfectant in the Market.

All who keep Horses, Dogs, or Poultry, and wish to keep them clean and free from insect life, should use it. It is also good for Horticultural purposes, especially for killing blight on orange and apple trees.

SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS.

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THE NEW HIGH ARM
DAVIS
SEWING MACHINE,

GOLD MEDALS,
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SURPASSES ALL OTHERS. A UNIVERSAL FAVORITE.
UNEQUALLED FOR RANGE OF WORK AND EASE OF MANAGEMENT.

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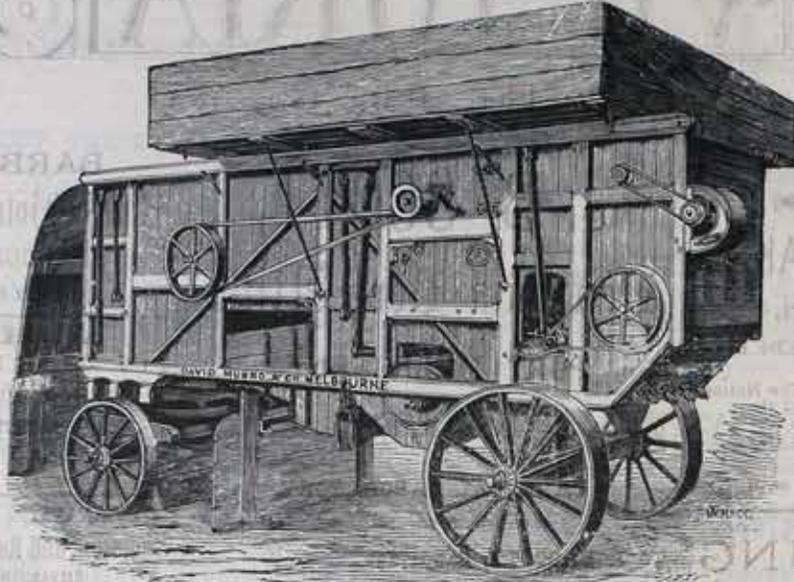
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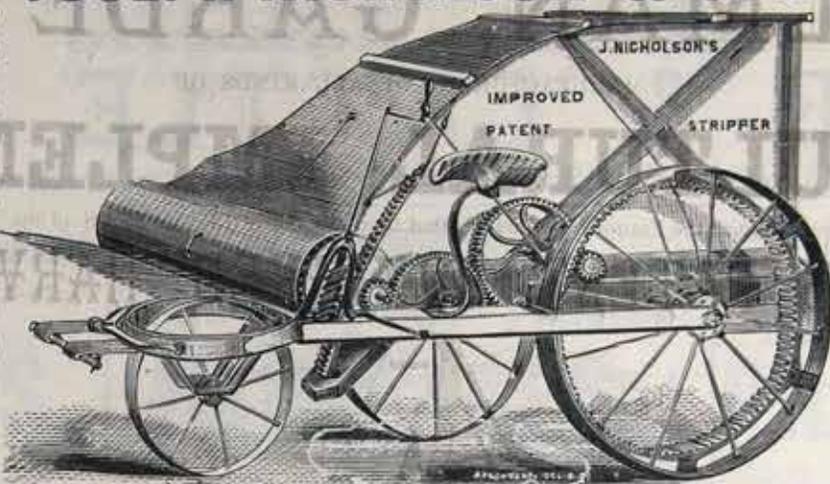
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FIRST PRIZE, Murtoa Show, 1885
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Melbourne International Exhibition Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Champion Gold Medal, National Agricultural Show, Melbourne, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Grand National Show at Echuca, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Corowa, N.S.W., Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murrumbidgee Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Albury Show, N.S.W., 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Numurkah Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wedderburn Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Inglewood Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rutherglen Show, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Gold Medal, Shepparton Field Trial, 1884.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sydney Show, N.S.W., 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, March, 1883.



FIRST PRIZE, Cootamundra Show, August, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rochester Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Tatura Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Geelong Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Wangaratta Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Hobart, Tasmania Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Longford, Tasmania, Show, 1883.
 GOLD MEDAL, Shepparton Field Trial, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Border Town, S.A., Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Sandhurst Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Show, 1883.
 FIRST PRIZE, Rupanyup Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Nagambie Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Benalla Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Echuca Agricultural Show, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Boort Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.
 FIRST PRIZE, Murchison Agricultural Show, Field Trial, 1881.

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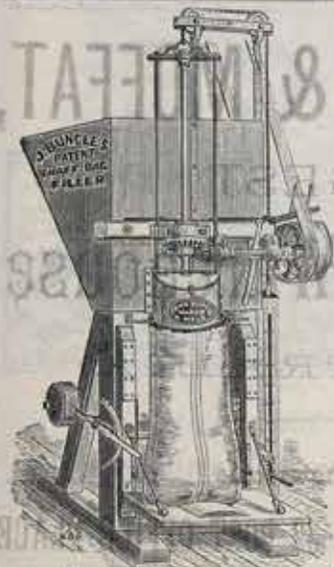
Corowa Show, 1885, Horsham Show, 1885; National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Champion Prize; Grand National Agricultural Society at Echuca, Corowa, Murtoa, Dimboola, Cootamundra, N.S.W., Numurkah, Cashel, Inglewood, Boort, 1st and 2nd, Rochester, Benalla Murchison, Sandhurst, Rutherglen, Shepparton, Gold Medal, and Field Trial.

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JOHN BUNCLE, in stating what is well known, viz., the great competition in the Hay, Corn, and Chaff Trade, begs at the same time to call attention to his endeavour to lighten the toil and increase the profits from such a business, by designing and manufacturing a machine for the above purpose, and one which cannot be approached by any other maker at present, or recommended to equal in **Simplicity, Durability, and thorough Adaptability and Cheapness** combined as in the above Machine. The **BAG FILLERS** are manufactured complete, ready to be sent to wherever ordered or in any of the colonies, either to fix in stores in connection with the fixed Chaffcutters, or to be attached to his well-known Travelling Chaffcutters previously supplied, and now supplied either with

or without Baggers. A few attempts have been made by some to supply such a want, but probably not having a theoretical as well as a practical knowledge of machines, have not been able to reduce the complicated movements in their machines, and which are perfectly unnecessary—as witness the Unique Simplicity and correctness in design, and the admirable working of **BUNCLE'S PATENT BAG FILLER** compared with the few others tried at work.

For the information and convenience of customers, a machine is kept constantly set up ready to show at work in **BUNCLE'S PARKSIDE IRONWORKS**, and many customers have witnessed **80 to 90 lbs.** of Chaff put in a bag in 15 seconds!!! which, after making allowances for time removing the full bag and replacing an empty one, would easily on an average keep **Four of Buncle's No. 1 Chaffcutters**—well, if there is any doubt, say **Three Machines** clear of all the Chaff they cut (medium length.) Of course the Machines are arranged to put in as light weight as you like, or you can fill up and burst all your Bags—to pieces. As a trade requirement (in addition to filling bags) the necessity for a **Mixing Machine** is a long felt want, the laborious and unsatisfactory way at present adopted cannot much longer be endured, and there is no necessity for it!! as J. Buncle can arrange to "Blend" the worst and the best samples "To a Hair" at the least possible expense with the best results.

The season is now coming on when all those who intend having the latest improved Machines should forward their orders as early as possible, to prevent disappointment in the day of their need.

J. Buncle's Machines have, as usual, been awarded First Prize at all the leading shows wherever he exhibited last year (1885), and the many improvements introduced and constantly copied by other makers, is the best proof of the value of the continued consideration in all that affects the profits and welfare of his customers.

Chaffcutters with 14-in. wide mouthpieces and Newest Designs' are now being manufactured to suit the increasing output of many of the leading Chaff Merchants. May your fortunes ever be associated with the earnest efforts to assist making them by,

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Parkside Iron Works, North Melbourne.

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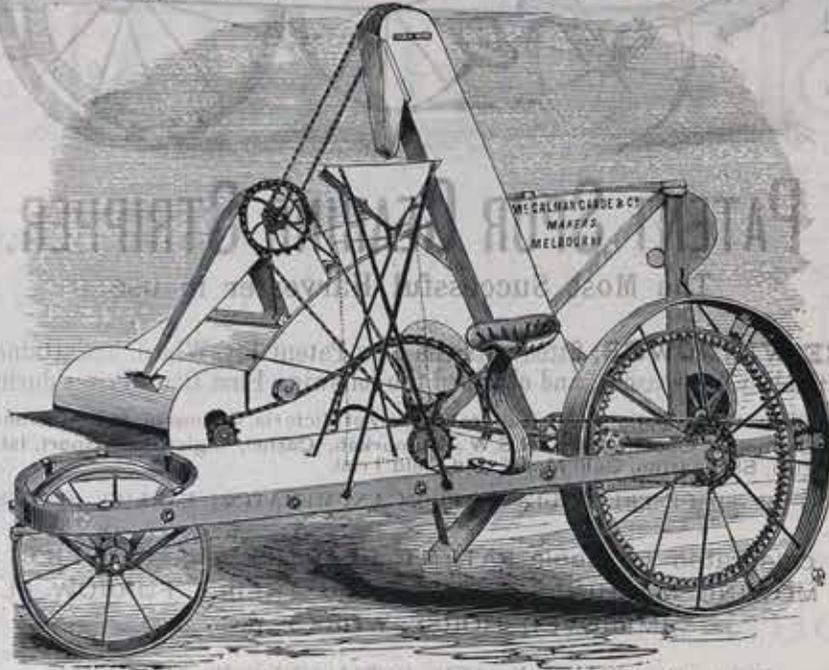
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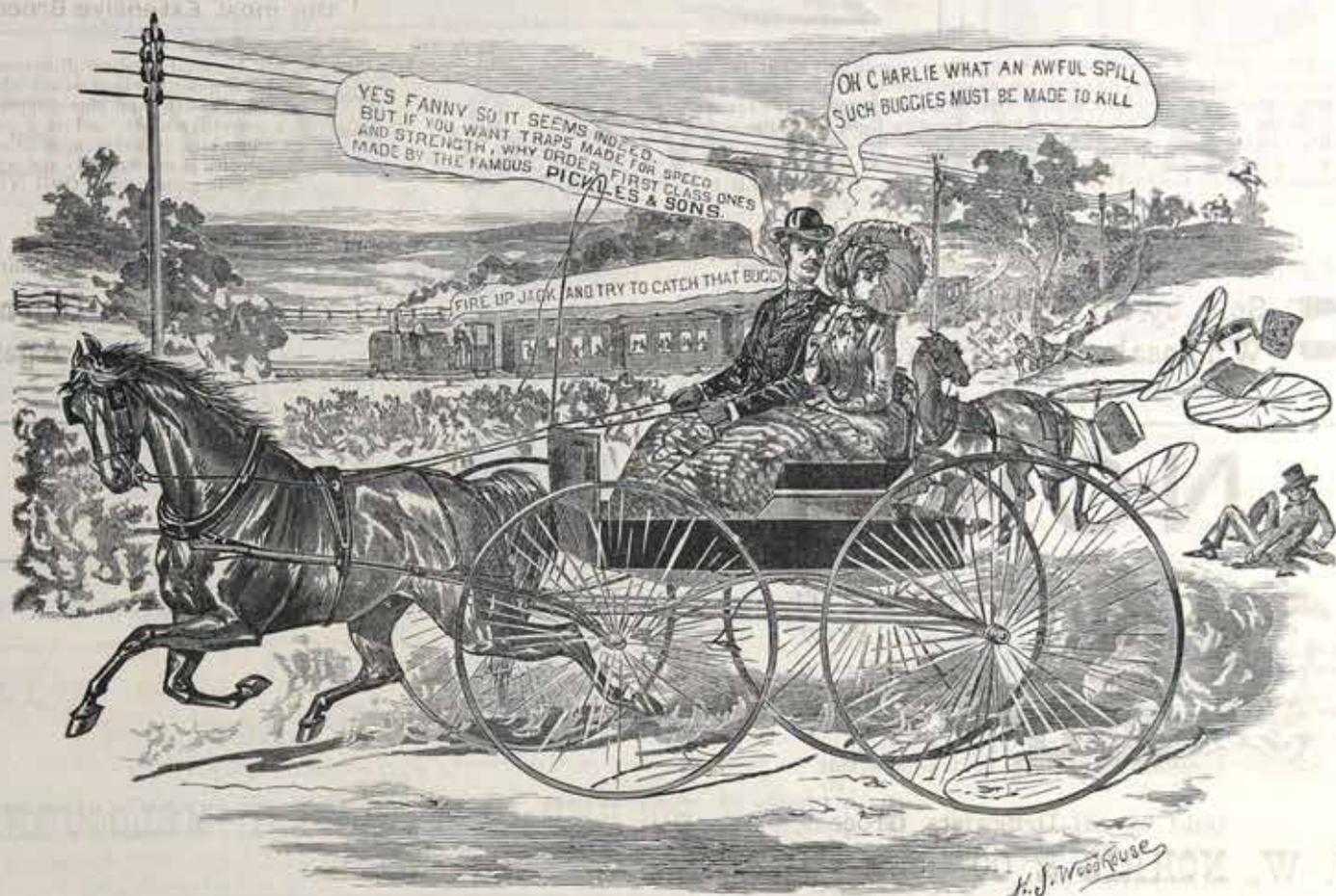
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A DISTINCT & PECULIAR COMBINATION.

Proved and Warranted to be
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THIS FOOD possesses extraordinary tonic, condition, alterative and feeding properties, far surpassing that of any Artificial Food yet discovered. It increases the appetite, assists digestion, assures thorough assimilation of food, enables the animal to eat provender of an inferior quality, which would otherwise be considered useless, and, by mildly stimulating the action of the Liver and Kidneys, imparts to the coats of the Horses a fine healthy and glossy appearance. For Worms in Horses, Urinary Complaints, Swollen Legs, Skin Diseases and Impurities of the Blood, this FOOD is a certain remedy, and is a valuable addition to the ordinary food of aged horses whose digestive powers are impaired. The value of this FOOD, which is an important discovery, appears evident from the fact that the best prevention to contagious or other diseases is to keep the animal in good health and condition, which is more readily and certainly effected by giving the ROYAL AROMATIC HORSE AND CATTLE FOOD than by any other means. One great advantage in giving this FOOD is that no alteration is required in the work of Horses or care of Cattle.

We are prepared to send on any quantity at COST PRICE, provided we have no local representatives, in that case we would ask you to obtain it from them, as we make it a rule not to supply customers direct in districts we have representatives appointed.

➤ Sold by all Stock Agents, Storekeepers & Chemists, &c., throughout the Colonies.
➤ Wholesale only from C. E. BROOME and CO., Grain Brokers and Agents,
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Tried, Proved and Certified to be the Best Medicine for Horses ever discovered. Will coax the appetite when all other things have failed. Gives a bright eye to the Horse, makes his skin like velvet, his looks and temper good. Increases the quantity of milk in Cows, and enriches the quality. Fattens Pigs in half the usual time. Makes Geese, Turkeys, Ducks and Fowls as fat as butter, and double their value. Converts the commonest of Hay and Straw into a superior provender.



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 Any of the above will be supplied in any quantities to Members
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 Saddles, which for Shape, Price, and Quality, cannot be equalled.

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The English Prize-winners, imported to strengthen my
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The above lot are from the very best strains, direct male
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Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

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To be held at the Grounds, Flemington, on

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday,

25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th August, 1886.

A special prize of £5 5s. is offered by Messrs.
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A special prize of £3 3s. is offered by E. S. Parkes,
 Esq., for the best Stallion for getting weight-carrying
 Hackneys and Carriage Horses.

A special prize of £3 3s. is offered by Messrs.
 Butler and Moss, for the best trussed load of hay of
 not less than 20 trusses.

A special prize of a silver shield, value £12 12s.,
 entitled "Fame," is offered by Messrs. Andrew
 Agnew and Co., for the best Double-seated hooded
 buggy.

All produce must be grown or made by the
 exhibitor.

Entries of yearlings for the Grand Draught Horse
 Produce Stakes close 31st July.

General entries close 7th August, at noon.

Prize lists and entry forms on application.

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Kirk's Bazaar, Melbourne.

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Notices

All communications for the Editor to be
 addressed to the Society's Office, Kirk's Bazaar,
 Bourke Street West, Melbourne.

Business communications to the Publishers,
 Somerset Place, 6 Little Bourke Street West.

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Dates of Forthcoming Shows.

SECRETARIES of agricultural societies are
 requested to forward to the editor the dates on
 which their respective exhibitions will be held,
 also copies of their prize schedules as soon as
 they are published.

JULY.

22.—Deniliquin.

AUGUST.

- 18, 19.—Wimmera and Stawell.
- 17, 18, 19, 20.—National, Brisbane.
- 23 & 24.—Australian Sheepbreeders' Association
 at Goldsbrough's, Bourke-street west.
- 24.—Rupanyup.
- 25, 26, 27, 28.—National, Melbourne.
- 26, 27.—Murtoa.

SEPTEMBER.

- 1, 2, 3, 4.—Metropolitan, Sydney.
- 2.—Yarrawonga.
- 2, 3.—Champion Sheep Show, Ballarat.
- 3.—Warracknabeal.
- 7.—Chiltern.
- 8, 9.—Horsham.
- 8, 9.—Donald.
- 9, 10.—Ovens and Murray, Wangaratta.
- 14.—Mount Wycheproof.
- 15.—Ararat.
- 15, 16.—Albury, N.S.W.
- 16, 17, 18.—Royal, Adelaide.
- 16, 17.—Echuca.
- 21.—Charlton.
- 22.—Nhill.
- 22.—Rupanyup.
- 23.—Kerang.
- 28.—North Western, Inglewood
- 28, 29.—Tatura.
- 30.—Moira, Cashel.
- 30.—Benalla.

OCTOBER.

- 1.—Benalla.
- 1.—Boort.
- 5.—Numurkah.
- 5, 6.—Euroa.
- 6.—Belfast.
- 6.—Elmore.
- 7.—Bacchus Marsh.
- 7.—Tungamah.
- 12, 13.—Rochester.
- 12, 13, 14.—Shepparton (National).
- 13.—St. Arnaud.
- 13, 14.—Villiers and Heytesbury.
- 13.—Warnambool.
- 13, 14, 15.—Ballarat.
- 14.—Seymour.
- 20, 21.—Bendigo.
- 21.—North-eastern, Murchison.
- 21.—Rutherford.
- 26.—Koroit.
- 28, 29.—Rochester.
- 28, 29.—Geelong.

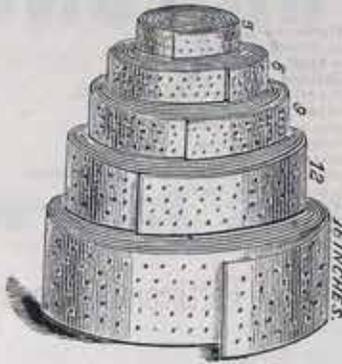
NOVEMBER.

- 9, 10.—Clunes and Talbot, Clunes.
- 11.—Bairnsdale.
- 11.—Heathcote.
- 11, 12.—Sneaton.
- 18.—Traralgon.
- 25.—Kyneton.



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WELL-STRETCHED

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Special Lists for BELTS for IRRIGATION PURPOSES.

A Large Stock of the "PREMIER" BELT LUBRICANT, and Well-Seasoned BELT LACES, kept in Stock.

TESTIMONIAL.—[copy.]

UNION FLOUR MILLS,
Brunswick-street, Fitzroy,
March 17th, 1886.

Messrs. Frank Vial & Co.,
Macaulay Road, Hotham.

Gentlemen.—In reply to your enquiry respecting the (23") twenty-three inch double belt supplied by you to ourselves, we beg to state we have been working it for a period of seven months, and we find it to be all we could desire, as also is the other belting which we had from you.

We therefore feel great pleasure in recommending your belting to anyone requiring the same.

We are, Gentlemen, yours truly,
(Signed) W. S. KIMPTON & SONS.

Other Testimonials received too numerous to print, which, with Price Lists, can be had on application.

R. HORNSBY & SONS Ltd.
REAPER & BINDERS.

THE HORNSBY BINDER

Has met and defeated in the Australian Field Trials during the Harvests of 1884 and 1885:—

McCormack	- 35 times	Buckeye	- 13 times
Wood	- 20 times	Johnston	- 12 times
Deering	- 20 times	Howard	- 8 times
Osborne	- 6 times.		

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DEPOT.

ROBB'S BUILDINGS

COLLINS STREET WEST.

H. BRINSMEAD, FEBBY & Co.

AGENTS.

The Journal
OF THE
National Agricultural Society
OF VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, JULY 16th, 1886.

Veterinary Practice.

THE opening of the Veterinary Hospital in Fitzroy last month may be said to mark an epoch in the history of Veterinary Surgery in this colony, for at the lunch given by Mr. Kendall on that occasion, stockowners, and those representing their interests, were brought into more intimate relationship, and were apparently on better terms with the members of the profession than was ever the case here before. There can be no doubt that in Victoria a sort of feud has existed between stockowners and veterinary surgeons; the latter being not only regarded with suspicion, but whenever opportunity offered, "sat upon" by the former. Latterly, however, this feeling seems to be wearing off; so that we hope ere long to see the hatchet buried. In older countries the veterinary profession is duly recognised, and its importance admitted, and it would be beneficial if it were so here; for the conditions under which our stock exist are becoming such as to render this expedient—if not absolutely necessary—in the interests of the community. In the early days when stock roamed at large over wide areas, and had the pick and choice of food, they had certainly better and stronger constitutions than those which have been bred since the country has been fenced in, and they have been confined to smaller areas and more crowded together. It is just the same as is the case with human beings, who by crowded town life certainly "rub each other's angles down," but at the expense of their physical constitutions—becoming, as they do, "the dwarfing city's pale abortions." The grass-fed stock horses of former days could perform journeys which stable-fed animals could not now accomplish, principally because of the different conditions under which the former were reared. The affection called Stringhalt, which is now becoming increasingly prevalent, is probably attributable to the cause already alluded to. The majority of persons who are asked to account for this disease in horses say, "Oh, it's something they eat," but we believe it is something they *don't* eat. In other words, it is the absence of certain elements in their food, often through constant stocking having exhausted the supply, which accounts for its increasing prevalence. The fact that the disease shows worst at the end of summer, when feed is dried up, and when what is called the best of the season is over, would seem in a measure to justify this theory; and the further fact that the disease is extending to previously sound country after it has been stocked with horses for a number of years continuously, would seem to support it. However, there is still room for further observation and investigation, and it is in this and similar cases that stockowners would find it advan-

tageous to work amicably with the profession, so that science might be combined with practice in arriving at data on which to base the treatment of our stock. Mr. Curr, the Chief Inspector of Stock, speaking at the opening of the hospital already alluded to, said that from letters he frequently received, it was evident many of our stockowners were entirely ignorant of even the first principles of veterinary science, which statement was beaten by that of Mr. Kendall, who declared that for all animal diseases—bovine, ovine, equine and canine—they almost all considered the sovereign remedy a pint of turpentine. From compassionate considerations this state of things is to be deplored, and we hail with delight the dawn of a new era when our stock shall be rationally treated; even if it is brought about by mercenary considerations. Not only in the treatment of stock is scientific knowledge now appreciated, but it is also being applied to plant life, so that the plant doctor—the specialist in the diseases of plant life—may yet become as duly recognised as our own family physician. Biologists tell us that it is very difficult to determine where plant life ends and animal life begins, there being no line of demarcation between some forms of the former and the lowest forms of the latter, so that there is nothing inconsistent in the idea. A step in the direction has already been taken by Miss Omerod, the distinguished entomologist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England; and the process of evolution will doubtless produce in time the recognised plant doctor. The big irrigation scheme lately introduced to Parliament by our Chief Secretary, will, when carried out, bring about a still more crowded, forced, and artificial style of growth in our plants and animals; and where life is artificial disease becomes more rife, so that the necessity for scientific treatment of the ailments of our lower animals, and the blights and failures of our vegetable productions will be forced upon us. Our Agricultural Societies and Council of Agricultural Education should, therefore, anticipate the requirements of the community by establishing and fostering institutions in which instruction in the scientific treatment of animals and plants may be readily obtained by those who, in the future, are to become "the backbone of the colony."

Report on Ensilage.

THE Commission appointed some time ago by the British Parliament, to enquire into the practice of Ensilage, has issued its final report. The Commission, after having obtained all available information, has made out a strong case in favor of ensilage as a valuable auxiliary to farm practice. Although the difference in climate makes the conditions of farming in this colony unlike those in England, still the fact that ensilage has been so favorably reported on by competent authorities should give farmers encouragement to adopt the system here. In our May number we gave a description of the construction of Mr. Peppin's silo, at Hawkrigge, Epping as well as of his mode of filling it, from a perusal of which anyone intending to adopt the practice could learn the method.

We now give the final portion of the report of the British Commission. It runs as follows:—

"The advantages which are claimed for the process of ensilage may be classed under three heads:—1, in rendering the farmer independent of weather in saving his crops; 2, in increasing the productive capabilities of farms; (a) in greater weight of forage saved, (b) in greater available variety and rotation of crops; (c) in increased facility for storage; 3, in connection with feeding; (a) dairy stock, (b) breeding stock, (c) store stock, (d) fattening stock, (e) farm horses.

1. Independence of Weather in Saving Crops:—In this respect it has been abundantly proved to us that ensilage is of great economic value. In Scotland, in Ireland, and in the north and west of England, few seasons occur in which more or less difficulty is not experienced in reducing green fodder crops to a sufficiently dry condition for stacking in the ordinary way. This is especially the case with second crops of clover and aftermath. The loss occurring through ineffectual attempts to dry such crops, or through their inferior condition when carried, is often very considerable, and it is obvious that any system which enables a farmer to store these in good condition for future use must be a great saving of expense and anxiety.

2. Advantages in Increasing the Productive Capabilities of Farms:—(a.) In greater weight of forage saved. It is obvious that unless the forage in a weighty condition be of more feeding value per acre than when saved in a less weighty form, there can be no gain to the farmer. It has been contended that the loss of weight in the process of drying is simply loss of water by evaporation, and that by avoiding this nothing is saved. If such were truly the case, dry forage should give the same feeding results per acre as green forage. No practical farmer would contend that it does so, and the difference is especially noticeable in the case of dairy stock. So far as we have been able to ascertain the opinion of competent men on this subject, we estimate the value of green forage well preserved in a silo at somewhat more than one-third, weight for weight, of the value of the same material made into hay under favourable conditions. The very wide difference of value between good and bad silage cannot be too strongly insisted upon. It is found that grass well preserved in a silo, after deduction for loss, will yield approximately five times the weight of the said grass made into hay. We have, therefore, say, five tons of silage, which, taken at one-third the value of hay per ton, yields a profit of over 60 per cent., as compared with one ton of hay. If we take it at one-fourth, it still leaves a profit of 25 per cent. Any waste that may occur to reduce the weight of nutritious forage, whether by evaporation or by excess of chemical change, must necessarily affect this calculation, which is based upon the highest degree of perfect preservation so far known to be attainable.

(b.) In available Variety and Rotation of Crops:—By the process of ensilage many crops can be preserved which would not otherwise be found profitable if used in the form of green forage. Rye, oats, millet, maize, barley, and even wheat if cut about the time of attaining their full development, but before the seed begins to harden, have been successfully used as food for cattle through the medium of the silo. Such of these crops as are found to reach the required condition before the middle of June, if cut before that time, will leave the land free for a second sowing, and thus increase its capabilities of annual production, while maintaining the fertility of the soil. Where land is well treated, maize, buckwheat, or in some parts of England also turnips, can be sown after green rye or oats are cut and carried, and thus a second crop may be secured for preservation in

the silo, or for consumption by sheep on the land.

(c.) In Increased Facility for Storage:—This advantage has been forcibly impressed upon us. It enables farmers to guard themselves against emergencies, such as frequently arise in our climate through prolonged cold in February, March, and April, causing great scarcity of food for cattle and sheep, where the supply of roots is adequate.

3. Advantages Connected with Feeding:—(a.) Dairy Stock.—We have received the strongest evidence of the undoubted advantage of the system for the feeding of dairy stock. The effect of dry winter food given to such stock has always been to reduce in quantity and to deteriorate in quality milk, cream, and butter, as compared with the same products resulting from green summer food. Although the degree of perfection attainable in summer has not been reached, it has been at least much more nearly approached by ensilage than by the use of hay and other foods, while at the same time the objections inseparable from the employment of roots for this purpose have been overcome. A sensible improvement in the colour of butter has been especially noticed.

(b.) Breeding Stock:—Green fodder preserved by ensilage has been successfully employed in feeding sheep and cattle at the time of breeding; and it has been shown to increase the flow of milk, it will undoubtedly be found useful for this purpose, although the proportion of its admixture with other kinds of food must always require care and judgment.

(c.) Store Stock:—It forms a complete and wholesome food for store stock.

(d.) Fattening Stock:—The value of this process for the purpose of forming flesh and fat has not yet, perhaps, been so widely demonstrated as in the case of dairy produce. At the same time, the results attained shows that it compares favourably with the use of roots, and if given in proper proportions with other food, it affords a cheap substitute for the same bulk, which would otherwise be required in some different form. The advantage of its use is most apparent in the degree to which it enables a farmer profitably to consume straw chaff, rough hay chaff, and other dry materials, which, without admixture with some kind of moist food, would not be palatable or advantageous to the growth of stock.

(e.) Farm Horses:—Strong as the evidence has been of the advantage of ensilage for keeping all stock in healthy condition, farm horses have by no means been excepted. We have received highly satisfactory accounts from several quarters of the health of working teams when given a limited proportion of silage mixed with other food.

As in the case of all important innovations, it is not surprising that the introduction of the system of ensilage into this country has been met by a considerable amount of prejudice and incredulity. During the progress of our enquiry we have endeavoured amply to discount all exaggerated estimates of its merits. After summing up the mass of evidence which has reached us, we can, without hesitation, affirm that it has been abundantly and conclusively proved to our satisfaction that this system of preserving green fodder crops promises great advantages to the practical farmer, and if carried out with a reasonable amount of care and efficiency should not only provide him with the means of ensuring himself to a great extent against unfavourable seasons, and of materially improving the quantity and quality of his dairy produce, but should also enable him to increase appreciably the number of live stock that can be profitably kept upon any given acreage, whether of pasture or arable land, and proportionately the amount of manure available to fertilise it.

The juice of young fern shoots if applied to the wound is said to at once stop the pain of the bite of a bull-dog or other ant.

Order or Method.

It is very astonishing, and may appear paradoxical, but it is nevertheless true, that a man may be intimately acquainted with a certain fact for a long series of years, and yet during the whole of that period he may not rightly realize its full significance; when suddenly some casual circumstance will enable him to view it from a different standpoint and perceive that about it which, though always discoverable, had previously remained unknown. The individual who has such an experience seems all at once to gain a new possession—a fuller power—and he rejoices in the acquisition of a wider understanding, or he feels something which is akin to the well-known, but indescribable thrill a youthful bather experiences when first he finds that he can swim. The foregoing thought was suggested to the writer who had an experience somewhat resembling this on the occasion of a recent visit to the country with a professional gentleman who observed the most thorough system in the management of his property. All operations were carried out in a most methodical manner, the whole of the details of the work for a considerable time on, were sketched out on paper, a sort of skeleton plan being drawn up, which was kept in the office where it was constantly referred to. Thus nothing was allowed to fall behind, while everyone and everything were kept up to the mark, so that the work of the farm progressed most satisfactorily. The beneficial effects of this methodical system of management were apparent on every hand, yet, excellent as were the results, they did not so much impress the mind of the writer as did the system itself. It has been well said that there is nothing like a good definite plan; not cast iron, you know, but flexible and modified by circumstances as you go along, and there can be no doubt that steady adherence to pre-considered and well ordered lines of action is eminently conducive to success in any walk in life. In relation to the improvement of time John Foster says:—"The importance of method extends throughout the whole system, since the application of its principles alone can produce that arrangement and combination which cause the diversified activity of life to be a system instead of a confused multiplicity of efforts without mutual dependence or connection, and perhaps counteracting one another." And again he says: "Man is not naturally or essentially active; there are few persons on whose activity we could reckon if they were neither compelled by necessity nor led by habit. When exempted in the distribution and succession of his employment from those laws of method which might soon have acquired an almost prescriptive authority, and would have precluded both deliberation and delay by fixing a habit, a man will often let the consideration of what he shall do melt into the pure indolence that will do nothing." All that is very true, for how often does procrastination—the thief of time—rob men of their chances, and mar their prospects in life. Would men but press on—keep moving—according to a methodical plan, there is no limit to be placed to their achievements. The greatest workers have almost invariably laboured methodically, and no man ever yet attained the true greatness which is that which is allowed to be so by the most great; without work. In thought, also, as well as in action, method is not only highly advantageous, but essential to the attainment of the best results. What an amount of time is wasted by men allowing their thoughts to wander in every conceivable direction, and skip from subject to subject aimlessly and unprofitably. A man should endeavor to have his thoughts entirely under the control of his will if he wishes to employ his powers to their fullest extent. It is related of Napoleon Buonaparte that no matter what exciting scenes he had been engaged in he

could go off to sleep immediately he laid his head on his pillow, and it should be possible for most men to have their minds so well controlled by their wills that they could, when required, banish all thoughts from their brains, and by a simple act of volition will themselves to rest, or in other words, compel the 'dull god.' The possibilities of a man's mind are astounding, and by application he may arrive at heights of which he previously had no conception whatever, from which again he may proceed to other and higher elevations till his mental horizon embraces a marvellous prospect, the limits of which continually extend in proportion to the successive advances he makes. Then if we look beyond ourselves, what unbroken order and marvellous method are displayed in the laws which govern this world of ours, and all the myriad other worlds scattered throughout space. Astronomy while on the one hand overwhelming man with its revelations of the mightiness of the universe, on the other hand calms and delights him with its further revelations of the majestic order and beautiful simplicity of the relation of the whole—

That very law which moulds a tear,
And bids it trickle from its source;
That law preserves the earth a sphere,
And guides the planets in their course.

"Order is Heaven's first law," and man should also endeavour to make it a law to himself. But no matter how much the importance of the subject may be enforced it can never be realized till the person is ripe for it. This just goes to show that there is no royal road to knowledge, it must be worked for, and the more work done the faster will be the process of evolution towards it. It has been said that in the economy of nations it is useless to promulgate an idea before the nation is ripe for it, and this is also true of the individual, as it is useless for a man to expect to fully realize certain facts till he has diligently prepared his mind for their reception. Hence the necessity for methodical exertion. Though knowledge leads to dissatisfaction with itself, there is still much pleasure to be derived from its acquisition, and the elevation of the mind to higher planes by which the mental horizon is extended should be the aim of every right-thinking man. In this endeavour nothing will conduce so much to success as the steady observance of the law of order in conduct, actions and thought.

Meetings.

Council.

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, June 22nd, 1886.

Present—Dr. Plummer, President, in the chair, with Messrs. F. Henty, D. R. McGregor, F. Peppin, W. Learmonth, W. Thomson, W. J. Lobb, C. Lynott, S. G. Staughton, J. G. Brisbane, R. Clarke, J. M. Peck, J. Hurst, J. Garton, J. Currie, J. Hearn, H. Lennon, D. Munro, T. Learmonth, T. Brunton, and J. Finlay.

REPORT.

The Works Committee reported that they had visited the Show Grounds and inspected the yards and buildings.

They recommended that the space under the Grand Stand be allotted for dining-rooms, bars, coffee-rooms, and ladies retiring-rooms, in accordance with sketch plan submitted.

They also recommended the raising of the outer edge of the trotting track, at

the turns, in order to make fast going safe.

They also recommended that cattle and sheep pens, to the number of last year's entries, be put in proper repair with regard to divisions and covering; and that a small tank be provided, beside the boiler at the restaurant.

In connection with the foregoing, the Secretary reported that, in accordance with instructions, he had seen Mr. Davidson with regard to the improvement of the water supply at the yards. He had subsequently seen Mr. Byron Moore, Secretary of the V.R.C., who intimated that in view of the increasing demands on their supply not only by the Club, but by others as well, he thought it probable that they would ultimately be compelled to disallow any attachment to their main. The Committee had, therefore, not taken any action in the matter.

Mr. Billing, the architect, was present and submitted a sketch plan of the works recommended by the Committee. He also submitted a tender from Messrs. Martin and Peacock of £580 16s., for enclosing and flooring the space below the Grand Stand, in accordance with order of previous report of the Works Committee. Mr. McGregor moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Peppin, and carried.

The President submitted a financial statement showing the Society's position with regard to the overdraft at the bank.

A tender was then accepted for painting the front gates and money boxes, the fence round the trotting track, and for putting up an extra washing place for stock.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES FOR THE SHOW.

Before proceeding with this business, Mr. Peppin moved that the Society institute the system of appointing three judges, only two of whom should go into the ring at a time, the third to act as umpire and to be called in only in the case of a disagreement between the two. Then, in the next section, one of the judges who had acted should retire in favour of the one who had stood out in the previous one, and so on; a change of judges being thus made in each section. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brisbane, and a lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Lynott moved as an amendment that the single system of judging be introduced. The motion was seconded by Mr. T. Learmonth, and strongly supported by Mr. Lennon.

Mr. Peck moved that the old system as hitherto be continued, seconded by Mr. Hearn, and carried.

The appointment of judges (three for each class) was then proceeded with, and was not finished when the meeting adjourned.

An adjourned meeting of the Council was held on Thursday, June 24th, 1886.

Present—Dr. Plummer, President, in the chair, with Messrs. J. Finlay, J. M. Peck, D. R. McGregor, W. Learmonth, J. Hearn, Robert Simson, D. Munro, and J. Currie.

The meeting completed the appointment of Judges for the Spring Show.

The President then reported that he had seen the Minister of Lands and Agriculture with regard to the Society's

Show Grounds site. The Minister said that he believed the Government would not favour the idea of advancing the Society a sum of money at a low rate of interest, but he thought he could support the suggestion of having a bill passed through Parliament to grant the Society the fee simple of the grounds. The President stated that such a bill had already been prepared by the Society's Hon. Solicitor, and had been handed to Mr. Service when he was Premier. As he thought the matter should be pressed on, he asked if he should take steps to procure this bill or a copy of it, and arrange for a deputation to the Minister.

The proposition of the President was unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

The Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria was held on Tuesday, July 13th.

PRESENT.—Dr. Plummer (President) in the chair, with Messrs. D. R. McGregor, J. Currie, W. Learmonth, W. J. Lobb, T. Learmonth, W. Thomson, F. Peppin, A. Patterson, J. M. Peck, C. Lynott, J. Garton, J. Hurst, F. Healy, D. Munro, and J. Finlay.

The minutes of the previous meetings were read and confirmed.

The President, who was congratulated on his election as Chairman of the Council of Agricultural Education, reported that he had seen the Hon. the Minister of Lands, who had promised to grant a public holiday on Thursday, the official opening day of the Society's Show.

The Executive Committee reported that they recommended that the idea of holding a dinner in the evening, in connection with the Show, be allowed to stand over this year. That the Blind Asylum Band be engaged for the Show. That special invitations to the Show be issued to His Excellency the Governor, Lady Loch and Suite, Sir James and Lady McBain, the Hons. T. Bent and Walter Madden, the Members of the Ministry, the Hon. the Speaker, the Mayor, and Lady Mayoress, the Hon. J. McKean (Hon. Solicitor) and Mrs. McKean, and that a ladies' ticket to luncheon be given to each member of the Council. That the Governor be invited to open the Show at noon, and lunch at 1.30 p.m. That the following be admitted free to the Grand Stand: The Governor and party and Members of Council with one Lady, to separate special parts, the Judges and Stewards to the General Stand, and the Press to their special part. That no side shows be allowed on the grounds. The report was adopted.

The Finance Committee's report submitting the monthly statement of accounts, and recommending payments amounting to £1338 11s. 10d., was read. In connection with this report, the President stated that he had been endeavouring to get the grant converted into a negotiable article. As the Council was aware, an effort was made to have a Bill introduced to Parliament granting the Society the fee simple to the grounds, but he had since had an interview with the Minister and Secretary of Lands, when it was suggested that certain clauses, similar to those in the Scotch Church grant, giving the Society power to mortgage, might be introduced into the title. It was afterwards found that something further than this was required,

and another clause was suggested, to the effect that the Governor in Council should first sanction the amount of mortgage, and that in the event of the Society failing to comply with its obligations, the Government to have power to resume possession, the mortgage being a first charge on the land. The President said that as this would meet the requirements of the Council, there would be no necessity for a deputation. The statement was received with applause, and the reports were adopted.

The Parade Committee recommended that the rough-riding should take place on Friday, the 3rd day of the Show, at 3 p.m., and that there be only one day's competition; also that the Hunter's Competition take place on Thursday and Saturday, at 2 p.m., and the Ladies' Hunters, on Friday, at 2 p.m. They also recommended the erection of a log wall in front of the Grand Stand, and that the judging rings be shifted up to the front of the Stand.—Report adopted.

Amongst the correspondence, a letter was read from the Railway Department, stating that holiday excursion fares would be issued on all lines to Melbourne from the 20th to 28th August, in connection with the Show, available for return to 30th August.—Received.

Also from Andrew Agnew and Co., offering a special prize of a handsome silver shield, entitled, "Fame," value, £12 12s., for the best double-seated hooded buggy.

Also from Messrs. J. C. Smith and Co., offering £5 5s. as a special prize, for the best turn-out, three working horses, lorry, and harness.—Received with thanks.

The following tenders were accepted:—C. D. Straker, £425, for the privilege of supplying refreshments and catering; and for supplying tent and flags, £14; E. Wade, for privilege of supplying fruit, £10; J. Whitelaw, for privilege of supplying forage, £2 2s.

A discussion then ensued on Mr. Curr's paper on the prohibition of the importation of live stock into Australia.

Mr. Peppin said that as there was no necessity for the importation of foreign stock, by which disease might be introduced, the Society should take steps to prevent it. He moved—

"That this Council is of opinion that it is desirable in the interest of the Colonies, that the importation of cattle, sheep, and dogs be prohibited from all infected countries for a period of five years, and that steps be taken to get these views carried out by Victoria and the other colonies."

Mr. Hurst seconded the motion. He thought the colonies could now produce as good stock as any they could procure.

Mr. Lobb admitted we had excellent stock here, but thought we might still improve by judicious importation. He was not in favour of absolute prohibition.

Mr. Thomson did not believe that we were independent of other countries in the maintenance of our stock at a high standard. He gave some strong arguments against inbreeding, particularly with regard to pigs, and said that fresh stock should be occasionally introduced.

Mr. Graham Mitchell said that Mr. Curr had not supported his arguments by statistics, nor shown conclusively why stock should be prohibited. He believed that fresh blood was beneficial,

and that it should be introduced under stringent quarantine regulations agreed on by the colonies unitedly.

Mr. Finlay supported the motion, and said he was entirely in favour of prohibition.

Mr. Curr having summed up the discussion, thanked the Council for the opportunity given him of bringing the subject before the public, and concluded by saying that after long experience he believed he was advocating the right course in the interests of the colonies.

The resolution was then put, and lost.

Mr. Thomson then moved the adoption of the resolution amended to read, "From all foreign countries for a period of three years," which was seconded by Mr. Lobb and carried.

APPOINTMENT OF STEWARDS.

Mr. Munro moved that the Council adjourn to 2.30 p.m. on Monday, the 19th inst., for the appointment of stewards for the Show.

The meeting then adjourned.

Correspondence.

Judging at Shows, Quality or Value.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—In your issues of late, several letters have appeared on the above subject.

With your permission I shall endeavour to point out a few defects in the present system. All the prize lists I have read state that the prize is for "the best" bull, cow, or horse, as the case may be.

In the event of two animals competing, one excelling in quality as much as the other does in value, which often takes place at shows, I find that breeders are about equally divided in opinion as to which should win. Where one animal excels its competitors in both quality and value, there can be no two opinions as to which is "the best."

If Societies made a rule that the prize is to be awarded to the exhibit of most value, or of most quality, for the purpose for which it is competing, more satisfaction would be given than under the present indefinite wording. Judges would have something before them on which to base their decisions, exhibitors would know on what ground they were defeated, and the result would be more satisfactory to all concerned. I do not mean to say that if this system were adopted it would give entire satisfaction, yet it should be worthy of a year's trial.

We see the same animals meeting at different shows within a few days, and not infrequently the judgment of the previous show is reversed; which is often caused by the judges at one show favouring quality, and those at the other value. The result is, exhibitors are dissatisfied, accuse the judges and Society of favouritism, and discontinue their subscriptions.

Many judges who favour quality are led by "show condition." It develops all the qualities of which the animals are possessed to the fullest extent for the time being, but they are more or less injured by it; a large percentage becoming barren or dying a premature death. If value were made the sole point in judging it would cause exhibitors to show their stock in breeding condition, as good judges would place a much less value on a sire or dam when in "show" condition, than when in "breeding" condition.

Another objection to judging by quality, though of minor importance, is the waste of food and attention in putting on this condition. At present it is simply one exhibitor striving with another to get his beast to take the judges eye, or, in plainer words to deceive them. The consequence of this feeding is, that some of our best breeders have declined to exhibit, knowing

that if their animal be not in show condition it will be defeated by an inferior one got into such condition as would lead visitors to think the prize was for the fattest.

Animals with hereditary disease should be at once rejected. As few men who undertake the responsibility of judging, know sound from unsound animals, I suggest that the Societies' veterinary surgeon certify that the prize takers are sound, or disqualify them.

At the last Warragul Show, a first prize was awarded to a draught mare badly afflicted with ringbone, a hereditary disease of the worst description, and none of the judges appeared to have detected it. Against this animal were shown three first-class sound young animals, winners of from ten to twenty first prizes each, notwithstanding this, a confirmed cripple was placed first. Many other similar cases might be given, but as time and space will not permit, I must conclude. Yours, &c.,

A. CRICHTON.

Gembrook, July 5.

Prizes for Rough-Riding.

(To the Editor of the Journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria.)

SIR,—Please let me say something about the above subject. Since the prize list for the Melbourne Show has come out, there has been some hard writing against the prizes offered by the National Society for the best rough-riding, and there has been a good deal said that is not right. It is stated that the prizes are offered for the encouragement of buckjumping, but to my mind it is not so, for they are for the best riders of horses that have already turned out buck-jumpers—as they sometimes do with the best management. It would be no use to take an untried colt to the yards with the idea of making him buck in the competition for the prizes, for not one in twenty can really buck even if he tries. The horses for this competition must be tried and proved buckjumpers, which are so in spite of the best breakers; these are always to be found, for, as was said in your last Journal, some horses will buck. Some time ago I knew a colt which was carefully handled and ridden for three days as quiet as could be, but on the fourth day it bucked—taking its rider unawares and throwing him—and it will never be safe. Only last week I was helping with a colt which was mouthed and handled, and when the saddle was put on it, it started to buck, pulled away, smashed through the gate of the yard, and ran itself to a standstill. There is no doubt that, with such a careful and experienced man as Mr. Beckwith, the best way of breaking horses is adopted by the police—yet they have some notorious buck-jumpers. This is generally known, for there have occasionally been exhibitions of rough-riding given for the amusement of distinguished visitors, when whole columns of admiring description have appeared in the papers. Why has the tune changed now, and why has the word "harbarous" been used? So long as the business of the show is not unduly interfered with, surely a little sport can do no harm. This rough riding will only be giving the public a chance of seeing in Melbourne what has before been confined to a limited few, and with good entries it will sure to be a great draw.

Yours, &c.,
July 9th.

Alice FAIRPLAY.

A Basket of Pansies.—Among arrangements of flowers for the sitting-room table, none have truer charms than may be gained by a handful of some simple flower placed loosely and easily in a receptacle of quiet form and color. Pansies should be largely grown for cutting; they last longer in water than most summer flowers, and their varied markings, rich colouring, and velvet-like texture make them worthy of the closest examination. They have an almost human interest from the varying expression of their innocent, face-like flowers, while not the least of their charms is a delicate and delightful scent. They should be cut long, with a liberal supply of stem and leaf, when they will readily fall into natural, easy bunches: cut with the flower stalk alone, they are less easy to manage, and never look or last so well.—*The Garden.*

Veterinarian.

UNDER this heading our Veterinary officer, Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S., will give Stockowners and Farmers useful information on the nature, prevention, and treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, and answer correspondents who may desire advice on particular cases of general interest: the symptoms should be fully described, and when a fatal case occurs, a *post mortem* examination should be made, and a small portion of any diseased organs forwarded. These, or any morbid specimens suitable for the Veterinary Museum, may be dry salted, and parasites, &c., should be placed in spirits. The name and address of correspondents must accompany all communications; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Examination of Horses at Fairs and Auctions.

In an age which is characterised by the growth of aesthetics and culture of the arts, which we are told, "soften men's manners and suffer them not to be fierce," there is a danger of falling into a maudlin state of mind in our dealings with the brute. Indeed, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that in the present day many well-meaning people are disposed to look upon every horse, dog, or pig "as a man and a brother," even if they do not go to the length of considering them "rather more so" than otherwise. From this form of the ultra humane sentiment we ourselves may, without prejudice, claim to be free; still we do not hesitate to denounce deliberate or ignorant brutality when we meet with it; and on this occasion we are about to tilt at a custom which, to avoid any mistake as to our exact meaning, we define at once as one of inexcusable cruelty, although it is so constantly adopted by unprofessional examiners of horses, especially that it has long since ceased to attract any attention. We allude to the practice of *pinching horses' throats to make them cough*. In favor of the practice it may be said that it is ancient; horsecopers in all ages have done it, and not one of the honorable fraternity could omit the ceremony without afterwards suffering from the repentant conviction that he had failed to perform an incumbent duty, and had lowered himself in the eyes of his supporters.

To the general reader the remarks which we have made up to this point will probably carry no meaning with them, and we therefore proceed to explain that veterinary surgeons, in the course of the examination of a horse as to soundness, sometimes find it necessary to cause the animal to cough, in order that they may judge from the sound emitted whether or not a suspicion of unsoundness in the wind is justified.

We have ascertained that this test is applied to horses examined at the Royal Veterinary College at the rate of about 1 per cent., and only when indication of defective respiratory action are observed. The test is applied by a professional examiner, with due regard to the animal's feelings, and generally very slight pressure on the larynx at a particular point suffices to cause a horse to cough. At the very worst the test is applied once, and there is an end of it, so far as the horse is concerned. Very different is the fate of an animal which is sent to a horse fair or public auction, even of the highest class, say the "Corner" or St. Martin's Lane, or any equally well-conducted establishment. In such a position the best-looking and most valuable horses are the most unfortunate. Anyone who wishes to wile away the time and look "knowing" may have the animal out, run him up and down, punch him in the stomach, and pinch his larynx to his

New Industries.

The Fig.—Its Culture and Curing.

[CONTINUED.]

In France, where fig culture is carried on only under great difficulties, some proceedings are adopted to hasten the ripening of the fig, which I here will mention more as a curiosity than for any necessity of imitating them. My own experience is that none of the varieties which I have seen so far need the manipulation practised by the French, so as to accomplish what nature, unaided, does for us:

1. Shortly before the fruit is expected to set, the terminal buds of each branch are nipped off or suppressed; this prevents further terminal growth and throws the force of the sap into the lateral leaves or fruit-buds.

2. When the figs have begun setting, all the pushing, lateral leaf-buds are also suppressed except two at the base of each fruit branch. Then two buds are allowed to grow to serve as fruit-bearing branches for another year. The leaves at the base of each bud are, however, not disturbed, as they serve to draw the sap and furnish the developing fig with sufficient nourishment.

3. Less than two weeks before the expected maturity of the fig, and when the eye of the fig begins to color, a drop of pure olive oil is deposited in the mouth of the fig. This operation is always performed in the evening, shortly before sunset. The next day the fig, which was green and hard, shows softening and change of color, and the maturity of the fig is henceforth advanced eight days. This process is used only for table figs, but is not considered profitable for figs destined to be dried.

In some districts, again, a goosequill dipped in oil is inserted in the eye of the fig. Again, in others, the eye is simply punctured with a needle dipped in oil. In speculating upon the possible effect of this dipping and oiling, it may be of interest to remember the effect the boring of the larvæ of the codlin moth has upon the apple and the pear, or the sting of insects generally upon fruit, it causes them to ripen prematurely, evidently through the greater influx of sap, in the effort of the fruit to heal the wound. The few notices we have of fig drying in France are scanty enough, our only authority being Du Breuil, and the few remarks upon this subject which I am able to make are principally copied from him.

The figs are packed after all the dew is evaporated by the sun, placed on small trays made of reeds, and then exposed to the sun. Every evening these trays are either removed under shelter or covered over with cloths, &c., to exclude dew or rain. Every morning and noon again the figs are turned in order to equally expose every side to the sun. The figs are sufficiently dried as soon as upon being flattened out towards the stalk they do not crack or break. If left later they will be too hard and spoil. In certain localities the figs are only picked when they begin to shrivel; they are then dried in the sun for two days, and afterwards packed in sweat-boxes and let remain there for seven or eight days, and afterwards again dried in the sun. In rainy seasons the figs are dried in machine driers or evaporators, but there is some doubt of these figs being equal to sun-dried ones.

In packing, Smyrna excels both Portugal and Spain. We all admire the way the Smyrna figs are packed—it is the very perfection, and I believe cannot be improved upon. When the dried figs reach the packing

houses, they are, as I said, again assorted by women, and then packed by men. While packing, the hands of the packers are constantly kept moist by sea water, which prevents the sugar sticking to their hands. There are two ways of packing: In the first the figs are flattened out in such a way that the eye of the fruit is placed very nearly in the centre, and then the stem very nearly opposite the same. The figs are now packed in layers in boxes, in such a way that the front margin of every fig just sufficiently covers the stalk end of the fig next in front. The figs are packed in straight rows the same in the bottom, middle and on top. To keep every row separate, and to prevent one row overlapping the other, I am satisfied they use a small frame of iron, with partitions running longitudinally. The figs must first be packed in this frame and slightly pressed. The frame is now withdrawn from the box, and a heavy pressure is applied, which causes the surface to flatten out and become smooth.

The second way the Smyrna figs are prepared is this: Instead of being pulled or flattened out the fig is compressed sideways until it assumes the shape of a small bag or cube or die. Upon opening a box of such figs the surface resembles a checkboard, every square being a fig. I have no doubt but that in this mode of packing an appliance is used somewhat similar to the partitions in our common egg boxes, where each egg lies in its own square department. When all the figs are in position this partition is withdrawn and the figs are slightly pressed. These square figs are never pressed as heavily as the other kind.

The size of package used for the Smyrna figs has of late gradually decreased. The largest now containing 30 and 60 pounds. But smaller packages, as being much more handy, have become more common, and five and two and a half pound boxes are now sold most extensively. The smallest of all is undoubtedly the half pound, oblong box, with one good fig on the top and with a few bad ones below, which are offered us by the railway boys. No uniform sized is used, and it seems that different brands are packed in different sizes, according to the size of the figs, which always in the flattened varieties are spread out to the best advantage. The larger the fig, the more valued is the brand. The pulled and flattened figs are by the Turks called the Eleme.

But this word is not always marked on the box, two or three Crown London layers being a common brand for the better figs. Inferior brands are backed in drums, with less expense and less careful manipulation, but also with less pretensions. Of the other packing of figs, those bag or die-shaped ones, the finest brands I have seen were the Erbelli or Erbeyli and the Loucoum figs, especially the latter. Both Erbelli and the Loucoum are the names of localities in the fig districts of Smyrna, and from examination of those figs I am confident they are of a different variety. They seem to me different both in shape, color and flavour.

The Portuguese figs are inferiorly packed in so called mats made of esparto weed. The best of those figs is the *Fico da Comadre* evidently an entirely different variety from the Smyrna figs. The next best are the Pharo figs, taking their name from the port of Pharo, from which they are exported.

DRYING IN CALIFORNIA.

In drying the figs which I have exhibited here to-day, I endeavored to follow the Smyrna way as much as possible. While we evidently have yet much to learn in, drying, and manipulating the figs after they are dried, I still believe that we are a good way on the right track, and it will be for you to decide if my suppositions are correct. The variety is the Adriatic, not only the best but the only which I have found suitable for drying for commercial purposes.

When the figs began to wilt and to show small white seams they were cut from the trees by means of scissors or knife, then carefully placed on trays similar to the raisin trays. I believe a further great improvement would be to nail laths across the bottom of the tray in such a way that they would form longitudinal ribs on the bottom, just the thickness of the lath, or about one-eighth inch. By placing the figs with the eye elevated on the rib the sugary contents are prevented from leaking out, which else may happen quite frequently. The figs are now placed in the sun to dry. They were turned every day to begin with by hand, but when more dry, in the same way as we turn the raisin trays. Every night the trays were covered over, and for this purpose it is best to have all the trays on one place, and not scattered around, as is the custom with raisin trays. The figs are sufficiently dried when they show the same dryness in the morning as in the evening. This is a point of great importance. If not sufficiently dried, they will afterwards puff up and spoil, as if they were in a state of fermentation. In the evening the figs may seem to be sufficiently dried, but in the morning they will be found slightly swollen and puffed. They must be dried more. It is, however, a great danger to overdry the figs. Such figs will get a cooked and earthy taste, which afterwards will never leave them, and which will injure them or spoil their value entirely. It took from five to twelve days to dry the figs, according to the weather. When dry they may be dumped in sweat boxes for a few days, but the better way is to dip and pack right away. Now prepare a kettle or tub with boiling water, in which put enough of unrefined rock salt, such as is used for cattle; table salt will not do. I believe the more unrefined is the salt the better. Sea water may be preferable. The latter and the rock salt contain substances which preserve the moisture of the figs and keep them pliable.

About three big handfuls of rock salt to one gallon of water is enough. When the salt is dissolved and the water is again boiling, immerse the figs, for two seconds; immediately afterward thumb the figs, and work the eye of the fig downward and the stalk end upward; in fact, imitate the appearance of the imported Smyrna fig. This process is necessary. First, it distributes the thicker skin around the eye of the fig evenly, and in eating we thus get equal parts of the thicker skin and equal parts of the thinner skin. Secondly, it places the fine skin of the stalk end all on top, and when the figs are packed and pressed they present a beautiful smooth surface. I believe the dipping of the figs in boiling salt-water may be dispensed with if the figs are sufficiently pliable without it. But it is absolutely indispensable to dip the figs in salt water, and during the thumbing of the figs the hands of the packer must be constantly moistened by salt-water or the sugar will stick to the finger and make the operation almost impossible. After having been dipped in the brine the figs taste at first exceedingly salt, all the salt being on the surface; but after a few days the salt works into the fig and gives the fig a peculiar appetizing taste, counteracting the excessive sweetness, which else would be too predominant. I have examined the best Smyrna figs microscopically, and I find that the white floury substance, which on old figs covers the surface, is entirely due to uncrystallized grape sugar sweated out of the fig, and to small crystals of rock salt. I believe that in Smyrna when the box is packed, and before it is pressed, the whole box is immersed in salt-brine, so that the latter will fill all the pores and crevices between the figs, and thus kill any possible insect eggs and germs of fungoids or bacteria deposited on the figs, which afterwards would cause them to become wormy and spoil. In opening boxes I have found the sides covered with the white incrustations of salt.

heart's content, without attracting the slightest attention; whereas if he gave the animal two or three cuts with a whip, which would do no harm at all, he would most probably be turned out of the yard.

A case which illustrates the subject of the preceding observations occurred a few weeks ago. A well-known veterinary surgeon went to one of the auction yards to examine a pair of valuable carriage horses, the history of which was well known. While standing behind one of the animals he heard it cough two or three times, and remarked to the coachman that the animal had a cold. The reply was: "No, sir, the horse has no cold, but he has been had out twenty times this morning, and each time his throat has been pinched to make him cough." Whether the estimate as to the number of times the horse had been subjected to this quite gratuitous ill-treatment were an excessive one or not is of no consequence, twenty people might have pinched the animal's throat if they had so wished without infringing any regulation of the place. Although we are inclined to believe that if the owner of an animal which was so treated by an unprofessional man who could not claim that he was bound to apply the test in the course of his examination, chose to take proceedings he would have a good chance of success.

Under any circumstances we hold that proprietors of auction yards should, for the protection of the animals under their charge, make it a law in their own establishments, that the practice should not be permitted, and from this law we would not except even the members of our own profession. The test is rarely necessary, and certainly may be dispensed with in all public sales with advantage, at any rate to the animals, which are the victims.

It occurs to us that the agents for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals not uncommonly select for prosecution instances of inhumanity to brutes of a less pronounced kind than the practice which we have condemned.

The Veterinarian.

The Basis of Individual Success.

PREPARED and read by W. E. Coleman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Missouri, before the Farmers' Meeting, at Fulton, Mo.]

No community, state or nation can ignore the fact, that its stability, perpetuity and prosperity are necessarily dependant upon the physical development, intellectual training and moral culture of its inhabitants; and that people is happiest and best contented from whom want has been farthest removed; while dissatisfaction, contention and bitter animosities are characteristic of that people on whom the necessary and responsible duties of life become the greatest burden.

Cheap bread, cheap fuel and cheap clothing insure cheap living; and cheap living insures home comforts, cheerful firesides and happy families; but, when the body is pinched by hunger and tortured by cold, discontent will manifest itself by a total disregard of that sacredness of right and title to property that should obtain in every home and in every well regulated community. Then it becomes apparent that—in order to the protection of society as well as of the individual—such means and measures should be inaugurated as will be the best calculated to foster a spirit of self-reliance, by placing in the reach of the individual those appliances necessary to a partial solution of the problem which he proposes to fully demonstrate by rendering the forces at his command subsidiary to the immediate supplying of his own wants and the wants of those dependent on him for support, protection and comfort.

There is a tendency—both in the home and in the schools—to place in the background that dignity which was attributed to honest labor by our ancestors—that labor which has given shape, beauty and symmetry to our nation's history.

Our youth—while in the home and in school—should be made to realize that work is honorable, that there is true dignity in honest

labor—whether exerted upon the farm or in the shop.

It has been said, "He who can produce two stalks of corn, in the full ear, where only one formerly grew, is a benefactor to mankind;" but the man who—by his own skill and ingenuity, in the same time, and with ease and comfort to himself—can readily accomplish what formerly required ten men to perform, has rendered himself an inestimable factor in the calculation of a nation's wealth; for man's power must be estimated by what he is enabled to accomplish, and his ability to conquer those material barriers which retard advancement, in any given enterprise, is no longer a question of mere physical energy and personal endurance, but it is one in which all the powers of the well trained mind are brought into requisition, in which thought is exercised, judgment displayed, and the relationship existing between the thing to be done and the means to be applied are duly considered and properly understood.

The steam-engine, the self-binder and the common sewing machine need only be mentioned in testimony of the superiority of man's perspicacity over the physical agencies applied by our ancestors in the accomplishment of similar results; and those who undertake to farm, as did their ancestors fifty years ago, will find that the means employed will only satisfy the demands of that time, while the present requires new tactics of which our ancestors never dreamed.

When the country is sparsely settled, with a rude state of civilization, depending almost entirely upon nature's bounties for sustenance, the individual looks for few comforts and is easily satisfied; but, as the people begin to congregate into communities, their wants increase; and the higher the civilization and the more dense the population, the greater becomes the responsibilities incident thereto, while the problem of life's duties must be met and solved by the individual citizen.

Missouri has the largest available, interest bearing school fund of any State in the Union, amounting to more than 10,000,000 dols.; she expends annually more than 4,000,000 dols. for "School Purposes;" she has employed in her public schools more than 13,000 men and women, who are at present instructing over 500,000 children, while the valuation of her school property amounts to more than 9,000,000 dols.; and all this is done in order to furnish her youth the advantages of a free education. But what is the result of our labors? Is it not to foster a spirit of indifference toward those who purpose to live and labor upon the farm and in the shop?

The sentiment is encouraged and freely expressed, that we must educate our youths for the varied professions—giving them a systematic education therefor—but when the boy decides that he intends to be a farmer, he had as well yield to the inevitable, throw aside his books and—in the future—depend alone upon his powers of physical endurance for his maintenance.

Now, this is all wrong; for there is no calling in the category of honorable vocations that furnishes more miserable failures than that of agriculture.

Neither is it because they are not industrious; for every one who is acquainted with the facts in the case, knows full well that, as a class, our farmers are the most industrious and energetic citizens that can be found in this great commonwealth.

Then to what must be attributed the cause of so many failures? The answer must be found in this as in other callings, i. e., in a want of thorough preparation for the work to be accomplished.

Our youth should arrive at manhood with the accumulated resources of twenty years experience, with a fixed and determined purpose for the future, and possessing sufficient skill and ingenuity in their chosen vocations to be enabled to carry into successful execution all the requirements and duties pertaining thereto.

As experienced farmers, there are many present—no doubt—who know ten times as much about farming, as does your speaker; for he left the farm in Warren county—on which he had grown from infancy to manhood—more than twenty-four years ago, since which time he has been continuously engaged in other pursuits; and it would be the sheerest folly for him to undertake to advise you relative to the various duties and responsibilities connected with the farmer's occupation. Yet every one of you is cognizant of the fact that many of the sad and bitter experiences so common to farm life are unnecessary, and might readily be averted, if the same care, forethought and preparation were considered as indispensable in your calling as is thought to be requisite to a proper initiation into any of the professions.

To be a successful agriculturist, there are many lessons that should be thoroughly understood before investment is made in this enterprise, viz.: the adaptability of the soil to the products desired; the benefit of shelter to stock, machinery and farm products; the best disposition to be made of what is produced; the advantage of rotation of crops, and in what order that the greatest annual yield may be secured.

How shall the grain be disposed of to advantage? To remove it from the farm impoverishes the land: to keep it and secure the fertilizing influences that may be derived therefrom necessitates a sufficient amount of stock to be sustained thereon; and this, in turn, requires that a proper preparation for, and disposition in the market be annually made, that the receipts therefrom may justify the expenditure incurred.

Wherever you turn, you find that the farmer should be fairly educated and well read. Men often look on and say: "Just look at Mr. A., he is always in luck." No luck about it, it is simply a display of system—the result of close application—working in harmony with the laws of cause and effect.

It is very common—when a man succeeds in his chosen vocation—to hear people say: "It is just his luck." Not so. The time has come when a man's success in any calling depends upon his power to think properly and act judiciously. There is no use of planting an orchard, if you do not intend to keep a close watch over each tree, and see that it is kept clear of borers and other injurious insects. A few hours during the spring and summer season spent in examining the trees of a large orchard, will repay tenfold for the time thus occupied.

The education of our youth should have direct reference to what is to be followed. Instead of our boys writing essays upon such subjects as love, hope, and joy, of which they know nothing, let them write upon gauging a plow, building a fence, breaking a colt, strawberry culture, or the proper time to cut hay, wheat or corn. These are subjects upon which the average boy will write an interesting article; it is the very channel in which his thoughts are accustomed to run, and upon which he will freely express himself. Much trouble might be averted, by our farmers, by select course of reading, bearing directly upon the matter in hand. But men say: "I have no time to read." But, suppose by a judicious course of reading, you can make three bushels more of wheat or an extra barrel of corn to the acre; that you can secure a better orchard with more fruit, and that of a better quality; that you are the better enabled to husband the resources of the farm—rearing finer stock of all kinds, and with as little trouble and expense as was heretofore incurred upon an inferior quality, which yielded much lower prices; and, that all this is accomplished by one hour's reading daily, are you not well paid for the time thus spent?

Any amount of energy uselessly expended, is time lost and money wasted.

There are forty per cent. of our population engaged in agricultural pursuits; not only so, but many of the truest, noblest, grandest men of this nation breathed the pure air of farm life and grew to manhood surrounded by just such influences as were calculated to develop manhood, by diligently applying themselves to home and farm duties. Not ashamed of their environments, they made their success in their first endeavors, the basis upon which, in after years, were they enabled to erect a noble structure, thereby demonstrating to mankind that the humblest child, by proper training, may some day rank higher in the scale of real wealth, than those who, in their youth, were more highly favored. It is of paramount importance that we place in our schools, as instructors of our youth, only those who understand child life, child thought, and child activity, if we would make of our youth the men and women this nation needs, that the state stands ready and waiting to honor.

If we would outride the storms that have wrecked the nations that now lie buried beneath the ruins of their own stately grandeur, we must educate our youth in those fundamental principles which constitute the basis, the substructure of our nation's wealth, prosperity and perpetuity.—*Colman's Rural World.*

Nature shows that stock-feeding and cultivation are links of one perfect chain; for the stock require the crops which the farmer raises, and the farmer wants the manure for his over-worked lands which the stock make.

The heavy pressing of the figs which is always so strong that it causes them to burst at the stalk end, is much objected to by the consumers, as it evidently defaces the figs. But nevertheless, this compression is absolutely necessary. It prevents insects from entering between the figs, and it prevents the air to enter and thus dry out the figs. Observation and practice has shown me this to be the case.

(To be Continued.)

Messrs. Horrell and Mendell, 10 William-street, Melbourne, report as follows:—The best news of the week is the announcement of a new loan for £5,500,000 by the New South Wales Government. Its issue partakes of the nature of a financial coup, which will shock the London Stock Exchange and investors in Australian public bonds. In anticipation of the operation, New South Wales three-and-a-half's fell £2 10s., and all other colonial debentures suffered in sympathy to the extent of 10s. That this was a mere market *ruse* is proved by the successful launching of a Tasmanian four per cent. loan of £1,000,000, which realised an average of £99 18s., or 18s. above minimum, and was subscribed twice over. The receipt of so much money on local account in London provides cover to take the place of gold shipments, and so must tend to relax the local money market. General business is dull. The usual fictitious excitement over the first shipment of teas has subsided, and merchants await the real opening of the season six weeks hence. Very little doing on 'Change. Bank shares steadier. In the live stock market we note a brisk demand for sheep, and an advance on prices at the weekly sale.

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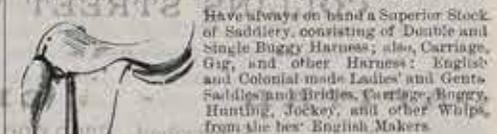
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Account Sales rendered, and proceeds paid immediately after Sales.

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THOMAS HUME,
House, Land, and Estate Agent,
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MONY LENT ON MORTGAGE AT LOWEST RATES.
SPECIAL ATTENTION.—All Classes of Labor supplied—No Fees charged to Employers.

H. & F. HARVEY,
Flour, Grain & Forage Merchants,
Salt for Cattle, making Fodder & Manure,
33 & 35 RYRIE STREET WEST,
GEELONG.

ESTABLISHED 1853.

GEELONG COOPERAGE.

Prizetakers Melbourne and Geelong Industrial Exhibitions.

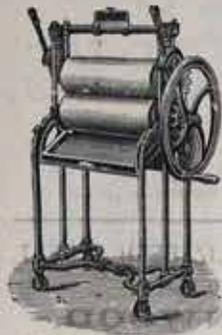
J. WEBBER & SON,
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Tallow Casks, Water Casks, Meat Casks, Churns, Cheese Vats, Tubs, and all descriptions of Dairy Utensils always on hand at reasonable prices.

Orders by Post promptly attended to and forwarded to any railway station in the Colony.

N.B.—Farmers, Storekeepers, and others wishing to obtain the highest price for their Butter, should use J. W. & S's celebrated Wattle Kegs, as they guarantee it will bring a higher price than packed in other kinds.

WASHING MADE EASY.



ENTWISLE & KENYON'S
PATENT
"SAFETY" Lever Mangle & Wringer.

The Best Mangling and Wringing Machine ever produced.

LEADING FEATURES -

1. Wrought Iron Frames, Unbreakable.
2. Pressure Instantly Applied or Released.
3. No Pressure on Rollers when Machine is not in use.
4. Ingenious Combination of Drip-board & Mangling Table.

A PERFECT MANGLE.

AGENTS WANTED.

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The "HALLER" Piano, 7s. 6d. per Week.

THE "VICTORIA" MANGLE & WRINGER.

The "ACME" Portable Seamless Coppers & Furnaces
Of Very Superior Manufacture.

CASH OR TIME-PAYMENT.

ALEXANDER & CO.,

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The Mercantile Bank of Australia,

LIMITED,

(Formerly the Australian Economic Bank Limited),

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CAPITAL - £1,000,000.

Subscribed. £300,000.

Paid-up and Reserves, £115,000.

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With which is Incorporated

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THE AUSTRALASIAN WOOL STORES, MELBOURNE.

Auction Sales of WOOL every Friday during the Season, and of SHEEPSKINS, HIDES, TALLOW, KANGAROO SKINS, &c., every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday throughout the year.

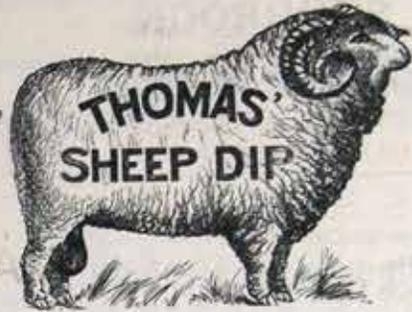
Auction Sales of WHEAT, FLOUR, BARLEY, OATS, &c., every Wednesday during the Season.

Consignments fully Displayed and Carefully Valued by Experts prior to Sale.

PROCEEDS REMITTED PROMPTLY ON DUE DATE.

The Australasian Wool Stores,
Collins Street West, Melbourne.

A Perfect SHEEP DIP Destroys all Parasites, Ticks, Lice, or Scab.



The CHEAPEST, Most RELIABLE, and Most LASTING.

The Wool consigned to Messrs. Helmuth, Schwartz & Co., London, by the Pastoral Society of New Zealand, was reported upon as "of Fine, Staple and Sound, of Good Lustre and Soft Feel, and with little or no smell."

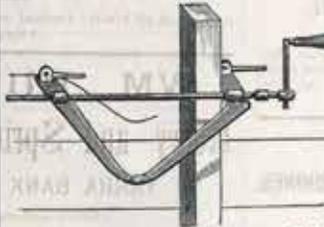
Messrs. Miles & Co., of Christchurch, report of last season's clips that those who had been previously dipped with

THOMAS' SPECIFIC

Realised fully One Penny per lb. extra, and some as much as 3d. per lb. extra, clearly due to the use of this Specific.

Flockowners! Consider what this means in your Account Sales.

DARK & BURY'S PATENT WIRE STRAINER.



This machine will do all work required by Fencers, as it will mend a broken wire, or strain a new one to the straining post equally well, no plugging or any fixing being required. The nuts on the levers, with the grips attached, work on a pivot, so if, when straining a new wire, the wire is not sufficiently tight when drawn up to the post, by reversing the grip on the lever against the post, it will hold the wire; while the other lever is let out the length of the screw, when by gripping it again with the straining lever, and releasing it from the other, the wire may again be drawn up to the post, and so on until the wire is tight. For mending a broken wire, the levers are opened out, and the ends of the wire placed in the grips, and then the levers are drawn together by the screw until the wire is sufficiently close to tie. Strain is self-supporting and weighs about 7lbs.

Agents { McLEAN BROS. & RIGG, Victoria.
J. C. GENDERS & CO., Adelaide.

Patent Sheep Labels. Ceiling or Floor Cramps. Horse, Cattle and Sheep Brands. Pliers for Sheep's Ears.
Stencil Plates in Zinc or Copper. Tattoos for Sheep. Docking Irons Carriage Jacks, and all other Squatters' requirements supplied.

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THOMAS CRAINE,
Australian Carriage Factory,

MANUFACTURER OF

DEXTER AND OTHER BUGGIES
OF LATEST STYLES.

☛ All Materials of Best American Quality. ☛

Workmanship Guaranteed.

REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

TELEPHONE NO. 1011.

PRINCES BRIDGE, SANDRIDGE ROAD,
SOUTH MELBOURNE.

R. SMITH'S

PATENT

Giant Complete Harvester.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS:

HUMBLE & NICHOLSON,

VULCAN FOUNDRY, GEELONG.



The Patentee having thoroughly tested the efficiency of this Machine in the field for himself, has every confidence in recommending it to farmers generally, or those needing the use of such a Machine, as it will greatly expedite their harvesting operations, and effect a very great saving, as the following Testimonials will substantiate.

The Patentee has made arrangements with the Makers to manufacture a limited number for the incoming Season, so parties requiring such a Machine should apply early.

Orders may be sent to the Patentee, MR. R. SMITH, Beaufort, or to the Makers direct at the FOUNDRY.

TESTIMONIALS.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Beaufort, February 3rd, 1885.

Sir—Having seen your Harvester at work on Mr. Sutherland's farm at Tatyoon, I must say that it far exceeded my expectations in the work it did in a crop so much broken down as it was, and you ought, in my opinion, to have got the prize; and no doubt would have done, if the owner of the other Machine from Adelaide had been there. Your Machine did its work in first-rate style, the sample being first-class. It will recommend itself.—Yours faithfully,

GEO. TOPPER, Farmer.

MR. R. SMITH.

Stock Yard Hill, June 24th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your letter as to my opinion of your Harvester, I saw it working at C. Sutherland's, Esq., Tatyoon, where the crop was very tangled and blown about with weather, and very damp, but it threshed very clean and made beautiful samples. Mr. Sutherland was very pleased with the work it done; it worked much better than Mr. Bowman's Adelaide Harvester, as worked along side. The farmers that saw it spoke very highly of it. I think it the best labour saving Harvester out.—I am, yours obediently,

GEORGE EXELL.

MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Stock Yard Hill, April 20th, 1885.

Sir—I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of your complete Harvester which I saw at work this season, and can say it did its work splendid, taking it clean off the ground and bagging it ready for market; and in my opinion far superior to the South Australian Machine.—I am, yours respectfully,

ROBERT KIRKPATRICK, Farmer,
Stock Yard Hill.

MR. RUPERT SMITH, Beaufort.

Mount Jeffcott, January 29th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your inquiry, how we are getting on with your Giant Complete Harvester, we beg to state that the Machine is doing its work quite to our satisfaction, it doing as much as two of our Strippers with four horses and two men, making a sample quite equal to our Winnowers. It is very light in draft, having no side drag, although it is so wide, 8 feet. We have taken off over 150 acres since its return from the Government trial, in a dirty low crop; it more than exceeds our expectations, separating large quantities of wild oats and other foreign matter. We can highly recommend it to any farmer who wants to get his crop off clean and quick.—Remaining, yours truly

TONKIN BROTHERS, Farmers, Mount Jeffcott.

Memo. to MR. RUPERT SMITH.

January 26th, 1885.

Sir—I have great pleasure in testifying to the general excellence of the work done by your improved Harvester, as worked up on the farm of Messrs. Tonkin Brothers (our neighbors). In my opinion the crop was taken off quite as clean as with the ordinary Stripper, and the sample as shown in the bags was superior to many turned out by the usual method. The lightness of draft is a noticeable feature in your Machine; four horses threshing and cleaning from so wide a comb is, I consider, greatly in its favor. I have no hesitation in saying that your Giant Complete Harvester will shortly supersede all the old style in this district.—Yours, &c.,

F. DUE, Farmer,
Jeffcott.

The Grange, Tatyoon, February 21st, 1885.

This is to certify that Mr. Rupert Smith worked his combined Harvester here to-day, in conjunction with Mr. W. Bowman's South Australian combined Harvester.

Mr. Smith's Machine made first-class work, was drawn by four horses; although it has a comb of 9 feet in width, and carried four bags to the end of the field, made an excellent sample of grain. Another feature of the Machine is that all unthreshed heads are returned to the drum or beaters, and were threshed out, a feature in the Machine not possessed by the Bowman Machine. Altogether I consider Mr. Smith's a perfect combined Harvester, and would be an acquisition on all large farms. I understand Mr. Smith is prepared to fit up any Stripper now in use with his improvements.

C. F. SUTHERLAND.

To MR. RUPERT SMITH.

Middle Creek, July 14th, 1885.

Sir—In answer to your enquiry asking my opinion of your Giant Complete Harvester, which I saw working at Tatyoon on Mr. Sutherland's farm last harvest, I may state that I was highly pleased with the work it did, making a splendid sample; and it did the stripping well considering the condition of the crop, being very much broken down. There can be no doubt that it is a great saving of labour, and must prove a great boon to the farmers in the up-country districts; your Machine, compared with Bowman's, is far in advance every way and I think there is a great future of success for your invention.

Remaining yours faithfully,
G. DAVIS.

A. C. STURROCK,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
SEEDSMAN AND PLANT MERCHANT,
153 ELIZABETH ST., MELBOURNE.
Samples and Prices on Application.

JAMES SPROULE,
COMMISSION AGENT,
Grain, Flour, and Produce
MERCHANT,
107 FLINDERS ST. WEST, MELBOURNE.

TATE'S
PARCELS POST EXPRESS

Delivery. Any Address in the World.
HEAD OFFICE: **FREDK. TATE, 11 Market St., Melbourne.**
OFFICES: **W. R. SUTTON & CO., Golden Lane, London, E.C.**
Full particulars of Rates, Agencies, and Instructions post free.

CURRIE & RICHARDS,
IMPORTERS OF
Plain & Corrugated Iron,
Manufacturers of Galvanized Iron Spouting,
305 & 307 ELIZABETH ST., MELBOURNE.

"Anchor" Galvanizing Works
SANDRIDGE ROAD
(NEAR PRINCE'S BRIDGE),
MELBOURNE.

WILLIAM HUNTER,
Galvanizer to the Trade.
Wholesale Ironworker and Galvanizer of
Cast and Wrought Ironwork of
Every Description.

D. WHITLEY & CO.
Grain & Flour Merchants,
COMMISSION AGENTS, &c.,
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AGENTS FOR
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GUANO.—First Class. For Sale. Regular Supplies.
MAWSON & CO. 37 King St., Melbourne.

JOSHUA BANNISTER & CO.,
Chaff, Hay, Butter and
General Produce Merchants,
GEELONG.

CAULFIELD CUP.
WHITE & ALLAMBY
Have replenished their Stock in view of ensuing
season. Best ENGLISH GOODS ONLY kept
in stock.
AMERICAN HARNESS,
Single and Double, Carriage, Brougham, Gig, and
Buggy, in ALL of which none but the best
English and American Leather is
used in making up.
50 BOURKE STREET WEST.

SCENEY & ANDREWS,
WHOLESALE
Fruit & Produce Merchants,
CORNER OF RYRIE & GHERINGHAP STS.,
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On Sale—Chaff, Pollard, Barley, Onions, Ham, Sugar, Oats,
Wheat, Malz, Butter, Bacon, Bran, Peas, Potatoes,
Eggs, Tea, &c., &c.
N.B.—All kinds of Game, Furs, and Dairy Produce Bought
and Sold.

JAMES L. BEST & CO.,
Dairy and General Produce Merchants,
STEAM CHAFF CUTTERS, AND
DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF FRUIT.
MOORABOOL ST., GEELONG.

By Special Appointment to the Marquis of Normandy, K.C.M.G. & under the Patronage of His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.

DANIEL WHITE'S
STEAM CARRIAGE WORKS,

244 AND 245 SWANSTON STREET,

And 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 & 21 STEWART STREET, MELBOURNE.

Awarded GOLD MEDAL for Special Merit at London Exhibition of 1873, and TWO GOLD
MEDALS for best Carriages at Melbourne Shows of 1883 and 1884, and THIRTY-TWO
MEDALS (1st Prizes), at Exhibitions and Shows of 1872, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77,
78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85. Also, THREE FIRST AWARDS
OF MERIT (1st Prizes), at International Exhibition of 1880.

NOTICE.—Referring to above, D. WHITE desires to inform his numerous Customers and the Public
generally that he has secured and completed EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS TO HIS COACH FACTORY,
and with the increased accommodation and Steam Plant, and the Largest Stock of Seasoned Timber in
Melbourne, is now prepared to meet the increasing demand for his well-known Carriages and Vehicles.
The new premises are in Stewart Street, immediately opposite the present Factory.
Patentee of the Improved Carriage and Buggy Hood Apparatus, for raising or lowering the Hood from the
inside. Every description of Vehicle built from the best imported Materials and Well-seasoned Timber.

STICKLAND & SONS
COACH BUILDERS,

Beg to inform Squatters, Farmers, and others that, having enlarged and improved their premises generally
they are enabled to keep a large and varied stock of Vehicles, which they invite all interested to inspect.

MAIL, VICTORIA, PONY AND OTHER PHÆTONS.

Also numerous TOP and NO-TOP BUGGIES, &c., NOW ON VIEW.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

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Bristol Poultry and Fancy Bird Stores.

CHARLES FOX,
IMPORTER, EXHIBITOR,
BREEDER AND DEALER
IN
High-class Poultry
1 & 2 EASTERN MARKET, MELBOURNE

LOWER QUADRANGLE (next Arcade.)
Champion Prize Taker at past Shows. Exchanges made
any way. Fowls Eggs for Sitting. Orders despatched to any
part of the colony on receipt of P.O.O.

DAL. CAMPBELL & CO.,
Stock and Station Agents,
49 BOURKE ST. WEST, MELBOURNE.

AGENT AT TERANG, MR. HENRY MAWBEY.

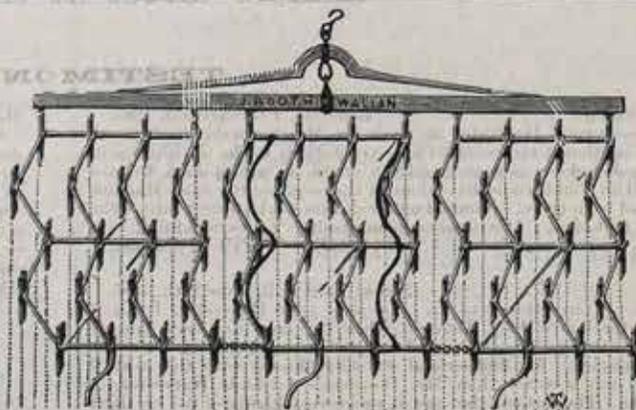
STEVENSON & ELLIOT,

By Special Appointment to
H.R.H. the DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.C.B., and
Carriage Builders
To His Excellency the Governor Sir HENRY LOCH, K.C.B.,
and all the late Governors for the past 25 years.
Have a large selection of CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, their
own build, constructed upon the most improved principles
and elegant modern designs, in which are used the best
workmanship and materials procurable, comprising Landaus,
Broughams, London Victorias, Mall Phætons, Waggonettes,
Bretts, Single and Double-seated Buggies, Dogcarts, &c.;
also Plain and Fancy Farmers' Waggon, built specially for
country use.
A variety of Second-hand Vehicles kept in stock.
Heraldry executed in correct style.
SHOWROOMS:
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Advanced Literature. Botanic Medicines.
In Great Variety.
Imported and on sale Wholesale and Retail by
W. H. TERRY, "Harbinger of Light" Office,
84 RUSSELL ST., MELBOURNE.

Unique Catalogue of Books, or List of Botanic Medicines sent
Free on Application.

1 GOLD MEDAL.



15 SILVER MEDALS.

J. BOOTH,
Harrow Maker,
RAILWAY STATION WALLAN.

HARROWS made to suit all kinds of soil, fitted with Iron or Steel Tynes.

These Implements are constructed on his well-known W pattern, which ensures every tyne
cutting its own ground, and also reduces the draught to a minimum. During the season 1884
and 1885 these Implements in competition with the leading Colonial-made and Imported Harrows,
secured 12 first and 2 second prizes out of 15 shows, thus proving their superiority.

J.B. having made a speciality of Harrow Making, the farming public may rely on securing
a satisfactory Implement at a Moderate Price, by applying to him or to any of his Agents
throughout the Colonies. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List free on application.

Note Address--RAILWAY STATION P.O., WALLAN.

PRICE WILLIAMS,

FRANKLIN STREET, WEST MELBOURNE,

MANUFACTURER OF THE

Well-known Williams' Rack and Pinion Wool Press,

Rack and Gear Steel Press for the use of large stations.

Lever and Chain Press, with Folding Top Box for the use of smaller stations.

Lever and Chain Farmer's and Selector's Press. Price, £22 10s.

As the season for this latter kind is now approaching, those requiring them should lose no time in sending their orders. Owing to the general satisfaction given by those supplied for last season, orders are now freely coming in, and a large demand is looked for. The following is a fair sample of a large number of Testimonials to hand for those supplied last season:—

BALLYROGAN, JAN. 23RD, 1885.

MR. PRICE WILLIAMS.—Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Farmer's Wool Press I purchased from you last October, gave me every satisfaction. We turned out very compact small bales, about 3½ cwt., but could have them heavier if we wished with once down. By what the Wool Brokers tell me, they would clear themselves in two seasons to anyone having twelve bales. Since done with the Wool, I have had it in constant use as a Cheese Press, and I reckon it is worth half its cost for that. We have weights on the levers. Any number of cheeses can be put in at once. It would make a good Press for Hay and Straw, and for Grapes or Apples it is just the thing. I can highly recommend it as a most useful, substantial, and cheap article.—Yours truly,
HUGH GORDON.



JOHN DANKS & SON,

Engineers & Brass Founders,

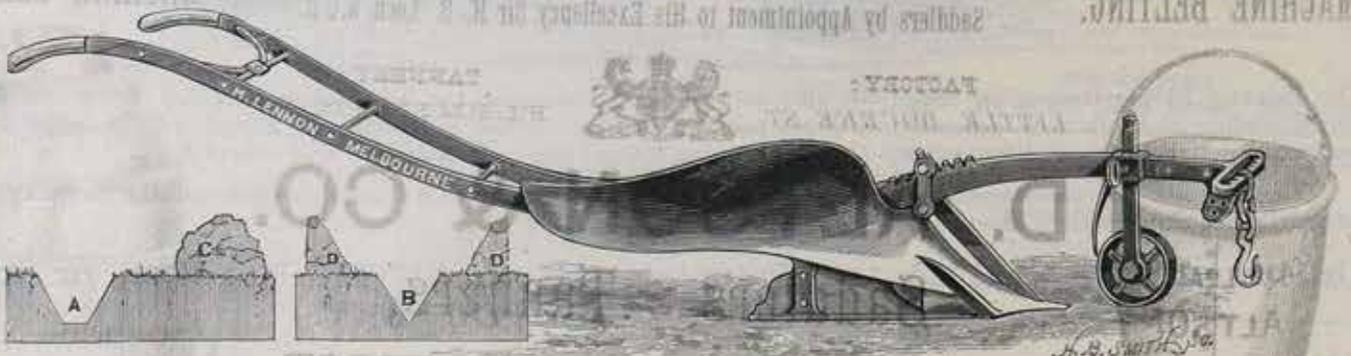
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PUMPS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

Fire Engines, Baths, Sanitary Ware, Gas Fittings,
Iron, Lead, and Compo. Pipes, Water Supply Goods.



42 BOURKE STREET WEST, MELBOURNE.



HUGH LENNON'S

World-famed Agricultural Field Implements and Harvesting Machinery

Have gained the HIGHEST AWARDS of MERIT ever given to Implements, after the most exhausting Field Trials.

There is no district in Victoria, according to public judgment in the hardest fought fields, that his celebrated Implements have not carried off First Honors for years and years in succession, from Gippsland to the South Australian border, and from the Murray to the South Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania for the past 20 years.

H. L. has always on hand samples of his

Single Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes
Three and Four Furrow Ploughs.
Squatters' Ploughs, for stations and dam sinking.

Double Furrow Ploughs, of all Sizes.
Roadmaking Ploughs, for contractors and excavators
Drain Ploughs, for irrigation purposes.
Vineyard Ploughs,

All fitted with H. L.'s Patent Wrought Iron Shares. A clear saving of 50 per cent.

ALL KINDS OF HARVESTING MACHINERY IN STOCK.

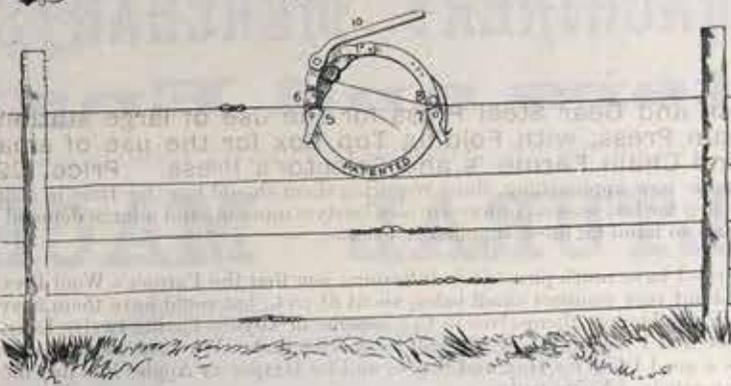
CATALOGUES FREE ON APPLICATION.

Factory and Show Rooms: Opposite North Melbourne Railway Station.

FULTON'S Improved Patent Portable Wire Strainer.

AWARDS, 1883-4.

Highly Commended—Canterbury, New Zealand, 1883.
 Silver Medal—Tairi Agricultural Society, Mosgiel, New Zealand, 1883.
 First-class Certificate of Merit—Brisbane, 1884.
 Special Prize—Mudgee, New South Wales, 1884.
 Commended—National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1884.
 Highly Recommended—Wangaratta, 1884.
 First Prize—Grand National Show, Echuca, 1884; Boort, 1884; Benalla, 1884; Nhill, 1884; Ingleswood, 1884; Warrnambool, 1884; Tatura, 1884.
 Special Prize—Geelong 1884; Rochester, 1884; Sandhurst, 1884; Ballarat, 1884;



Rutherglen, 1884; Stawell, 1884; Numurkah, 1884; Clunes, 1884; Kyneton, 1884.
 Certificate of Merit—Shepparton, 1884.

AWARDS, 1885.

First Prize—Deniliquin, July 23rd; Horsham, Aug. 5th and 6th; Dimboola, Aug. 12th; Kerang, Aug. 27th; Donald, Sept. 2nd and 3rd; Yarrawonga, 3rd.
 Honourable Mention—Charlton, Sept. 16th.
 First Prize—Echuca, Sept. 17th and 18th; Shepparton, Sept. 22nd and 23rd; St. Arnaud, Sept. 23rd.
 Special Prize—Rochester, Sept. 30th.
 First Prize—Talbot, Grand National, Oct. 8th and 9th; Ballarat Oct. 14th, 15th and 16th.

Diagram showing the Application of the Machine.

THIS MACHINE IS MADE ENTIRELY OF STEEL, AND WEIGHS UNDER 5lbs.

The Advantages claimed for this Machine are:—The ease with which a broken wire can be strained and rejoined at the break, thus saving the usual loss of time in having to go to the straining post to untie the wire; and that it can be used in the middle of a panel without any post to strain against.

DIRECTIONS FOR WORKING MACHINE.

Standing with your left side to the fence, the left foot about 18 inches in front of the right, with the left hand grasp the Strainer between the windlass and grip (5 and 6). Catch the left-hand end of the wire in grip (5 and 6), about 9 inches from the end; this done, place the machine against the left thigh so as to keep the jaw (5) from opening (still holding as directed with the left hand). Now take the right-hand end of the wire and pass it under (8) and into the hole in the windlass. With the handle in the right hand wind up the slack wire by turning the windlass (do not turn the handle right round, but every time it touches the body take a fresh grip. As each halfturn is complete, with the left hand press the grip (7) against the wire, so as to hold all the slack brought up by the windlass. When the wire is tight enough, unwind the windlass, cut off the surplus wire, leaving about 9 inches for knotting, by taking the two loose ends and rolling them together by means of two small keys; this done, remove the Strainer by striking the tail of the left-hand grip with the handle.

ALSO,

FULTON'S NEW IMPROVED WIRE - CUTTING SNIPS.

JAMES M'EWAN & Co., SOLE AGENTS,

General Importers of All Classes of Ironmongery & Station Supplies, Galvanized Iron, Fencing Wire, Machinery, &c.

79, 81, 83, AND 319 ELIZABETH ST., AND 4, 6, AND 10 LITTLE COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE.

MACHINE BELTING.

Saddlers by Appointment to His Excellency Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.

MACHINE BELTING.



BUCKETS.

FACTORY:
 LITTLE BOURKE ST.



TANNERY:
 FLEMINGTON.

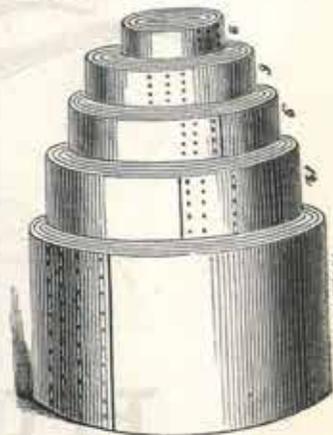
D. ALTSON & CO.

Saddlers & Tanners,

25 BOURKE STREET WEST.

Contractors for Machine Belting, Saddlery, &c., to the Government, War & Naval Departments of Victoria.

Prices and Samples posted free on application.



HOSE.

WELCH, PERRIN & CO.

Machinery supplied on Liberal Terms of Time-payment.



Send for Catalogues. POST FREE on application.

Importers of AGRICULTURAL, MILLING, MINING, SAWING, PUMPING, and WOOD-WORKING MACHINERY.

OFFICES AND WAREHOUSE: MORAY STREET, FALLS BRIDGE, MELBOURNE.

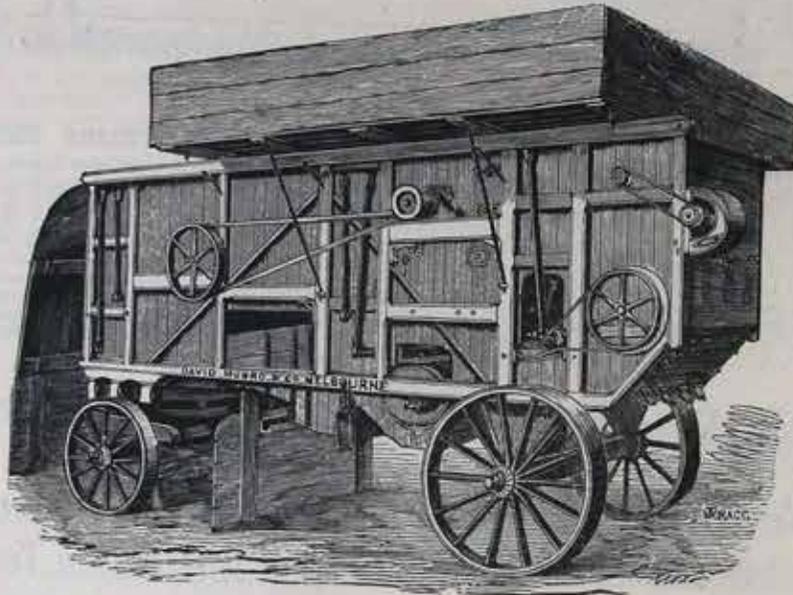
DAVID MUNRO & CO.,

MACHINERY MERCHANTS,

Importers and Engineers,

Respectfully direct the attention of the FARMING COMMUNITY to their Large and Varied Stock of

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.



RUSTON, PROCTOR & CO.'S COLONIAL PRIZE MEDAL STEAM THRESHING PLANTS,
EXPRESSLY ADAPTED FOR THIS MARKET.

OSBORNE Reapers and Twine Binders, Ploughs, Horseworks, Chaffcutters, &c.



DAVID MUNRO & Co.'s "Victory" Prize Medal Centrifugal Pumps, for Irrigation.

REFERENCES KINDLY PERMITTED BY PURCHASERS OF THESE CELEBRATED PUMPS.

"VICTORY" SELF-ADJUSTING METAL WINDMILLS.

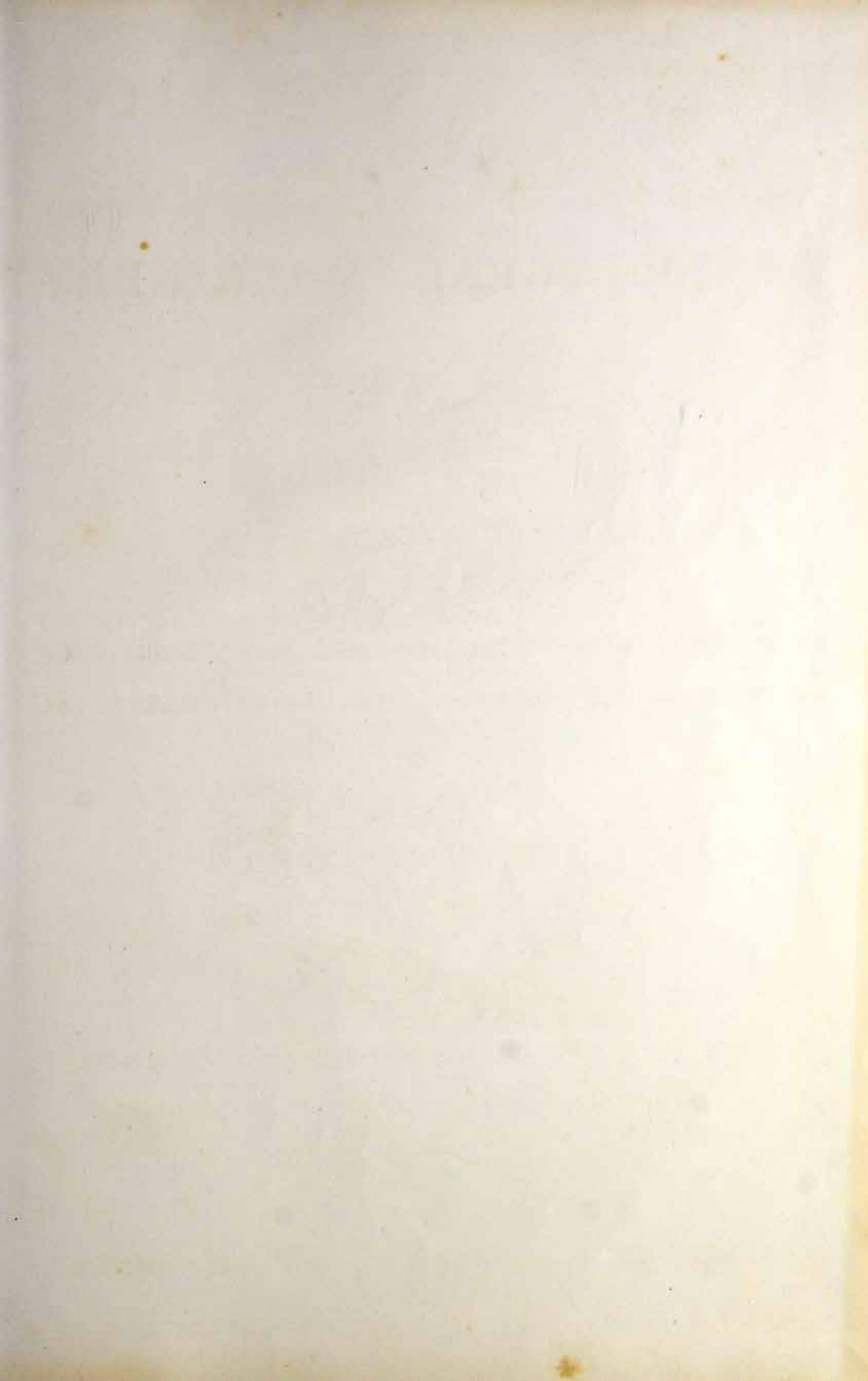
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF MINING, SAWING & OTHER MACHINERY.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE POSTED FREE ON APPLICATION.

N.B.—Machinery may be Hired with the Right to Purchase, the Deposit and Rents being reckoned as Part Payment.

DAVID MUNRO & CO.,

154 QUEEN STREET, MELBOURNE.



626