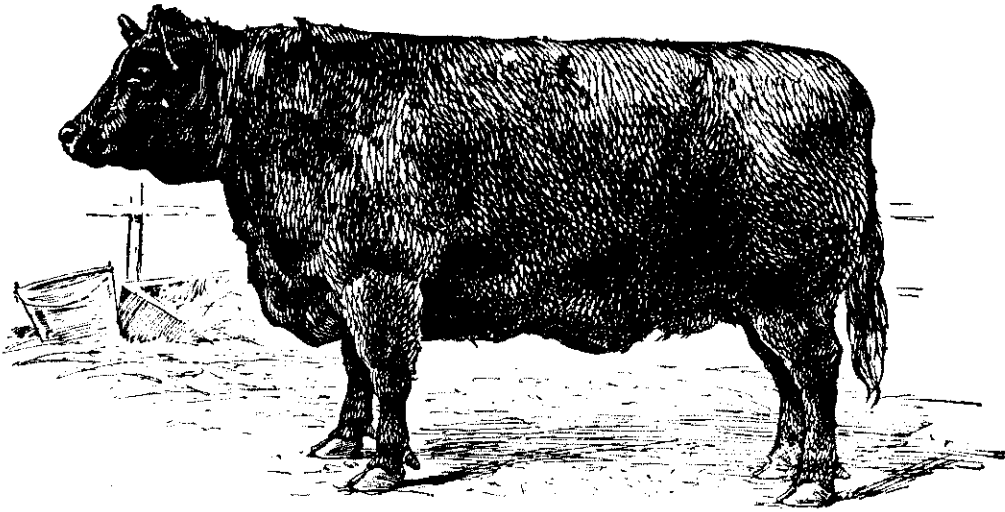




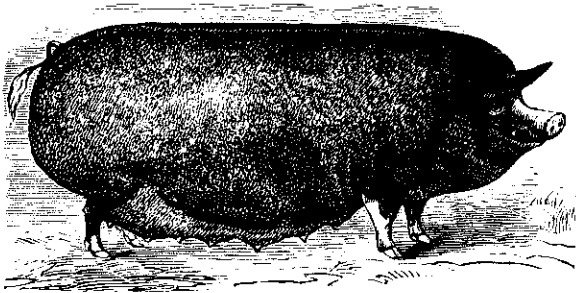
THE

DISAPPEARING

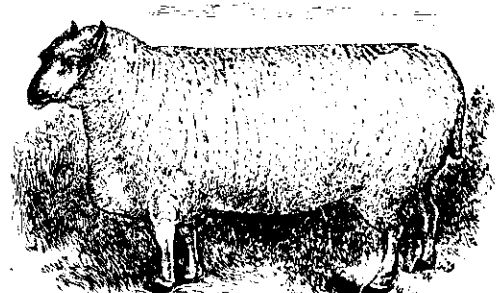
ROAST



THE  
CHOP  
DIMINISHING



*The Rise  
IN THE  
Price of  
Meat.*



The recent and welcome rains in Australia have unfortunately proved too light for the requirements of the country, and the outlook in the Commonwealth is very gloomy. Worse times, with great shortage of stock, are predicted on all hands. Meanwhile the movement in favour of the suspension of the duties on fodder continues to be pushed vigorously, notwithstanding that the Federal Government have refused to take any action. If the Government persist in this course, and the rains do not come, the result must mean a continued loss in the flocks and herds, or an enormous appreciation in the price of cattle and sheep that have to be fed on imported fodder. Whatever the Commonwealth authorities decide to do, the result must be highly beneficial to the New Zealand farmer. If the duties are remitted, a magnificent market will be opened for his fodder; if they are



THE FARMERS ARE LIGHT-HEARTED NOW.

not remitted, an equally magnificent market is opened for his sheep and cattle. We rejoice with our farmers in the good times that have come to them, even if these do mean that we have to pay dearer for our meat. That that must be the consequence is, of course, inevitable, and, indeed, the rise has already commenced. A few weeks ago mutton went up a half-penny a pound, and last week the careful housewives received with alarm the intimation that the butchers had put another penny on all round. And it is not going to stop there; yet another rise is contemplated. We understand that frugal households are already beginning to cut down their supplies, boarding-house keepers speak of raising their rates, and the restaurants are between the horns of a dilemma either they must put up the charge or give their patrons smaller helpings. The latter is likely to be the first tried expedient.



Housekeeper: "But you don't mean to say you're charging nine-pence for steaks now? It's as bad as the old country."  
 Butcher: "Well, mum, there's our list of prices. We don't make nothing the price beef now is. It's the farmers that makes the profit, and if we don't like to take it they can send it to Australia."



Irate Diner: "Waiter, do you call this thing a chop?"  
 Waiter (apologetically): "It is a bit on the small side, sir, but it's the best we can do for the money on account of the rise in meat, sir."