

## On the Land

The importation of mutton into the United Kingdom during the year ended December was 5,566,318 cwt, being an increase over the previous year of nearly 14 per cent. This importation has very rapidly developed within recent years. Fifteen years ago it was only half of what it was last year. In 1900 the importation amounted to 3,400,000 cwt, in 1905, 3,800,000 cwt.

The following figures regarding the number of stud sheep, and the price per head, exported from the United Kingdom last year, will be interesting, as it shows that New Zealand paid the highest rates, and, as a natural result, secured the best class of animals:—Of the 7339 head exported, 1577 went to the United States at £5 15s 4d per head, 3811 to Canada at £5 8s 1d, 675 to Germany at £8 10s 9d, 16 to Uruguay at £15 17s, 770 to the Argentine at £18 7s 4d, 92 to Australia at £9 8s 3d, 103 to New Zealand at £23 6s 2d, and the remainder to countries not separately enumerated at £9 6s 11d.

The annual ram and ewe fair was held at Burnside last week. The number of sheep brought forward was 1446, as against 866 last year. Border Leicester flock rams (938), and Romney Marsh flock rams (209), represented the major portion of the entry. It had been anticipated that rams would be selling pretty cheaply, and buyers appeared determined to fill their requirements at low limits. Prices for Border Leicesters were from 25 to 50 per cent. lower than last year. There was more life in the Romney section of the sale. About 2000 Romneys were shipped to the North Island from Otago and Southland earlier in the season, and a shortage was expected. Animals that were well bred and in good condition sold quite up to last year's rates, flock rams bringing up to 5½ guineas. Corriedales were in short supply, and there was a fair demand, especially for young, well-bred sheep. The highest prices realised at the sale were 15½ guineas for a Border Leicester prize ram, and 10 guineas for a Romney ram.

There was a big yarding of sheep of all descriptions as well as cattle and pigs at Addington last week. As a result of more favorable weather and the increased attention given to store stock, the general inquiry was more animated for good sorts. The store sheep entry consisted principally of ewes, the prices for the better sorts showing a slight increase. Fair-conditioned two-tooths realised 12s 6d to 13s 6d, and good sorts 14s to 15s 6d. Of the 7000 lambs yarded exporters took close on 6000, at prices ranging from 10s to 15s, whilst butchers' sorts fetched from 11s to 16s. At the corresponding sale last year the number offered was 14,292, the prices ranging from 12s 6d to 18s 10d. There was a full yarding of fat sheep, prime wethers bringing from 15s 6d to 19s, and prime ewes from 12s 3d to 17s 5d. Over 300 head of fat cattle were yarded. There was an improved demand for good sorts. Steers realised from £7 2s 6d to £13 2s 6d, and heifers from £5 5s to £9 2s 6d. Fat pigs were in good supply. Choppers fetched to 70s, heavy baconers 49s to 56s, being equal to 4d per lb.

Mr. J. F. Duncan, superintendent of the Clonakilty Agricultural Station, has been conducting some interesting experiments in pig-feeding, the results of which have been published in the Journal of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Mr. Duncan finds separated milk fed to pigs along with meal (a mixture of equal parts maize meal, barley, and pollard) gave a return of 2.76 pence, or practically 2½d per gallon when pork was sold at 58s 3d per cwt. To return one penny per gallon for milk pork must not fall below 45s 6d per cwt. An increase of 7s 2d per cwt over this price is equal to an additional penny per gallon for separated milk. In the Danish experiments 1lb of meal was found to be equivalent to 4lb potatoes. Taking everything into consideration, potatoes are only worth one-fourth the price of the meal mixture. At the price paid for pork for the past three or four years, feeding refuse potatoes to pigs has been profitable, more especially when given with milk, but where a market exists for saleable potatoes it is very questionable if they should be fed to pigs when they command more than one-quarter the price of meal.

A writer in a Home publication gives some good advice regarding the selection of a dairy cow. Concerning the udder, he says:—Undoubtedly the udder is a feature which attracts the attention of buyers more than any other bodily development. The possession of a 'big bag' is often made to compensate for more or less serious physical defects in the cow's conformation; but this is eminently foolish. The experienced farmer knows only too well that many a 'big bag' is fleshy and deceptive in more ways than one. He looks for an udder that is properly balanced forward and behind, is broad and fairly deep, yet not too close to the ground, covered with loose elastic skin that is like velvet to the touch, and not stretched like a drum. He also avoids coarse misplaced teats, which are sometimes accepted as no very serious fault; for it is obvious that in attempting to improve one's stock, malformations of this kind must be given a wide berth. The teats should be regularly placed on the bag, wide apart and equidistant from each other, equal in size, well shaped, and of moderate length. Another important point to be taken into consideration is the appearance of the milk veins; these should be large, prominent, and well branched.

'It is Easter Sunday,' he said. 'We have been reckoning on our own strength, and it is but weakness. Let us ring the bells and have service as usual. We will leave our troubles in the hands of the Higher Power.'

Soon from all the church spires of Feldkirch the bells rang out joyously. The streets became thronged with worshippers on their way to church. Louder and more triumphant pealed the bells as they rang out the glad message, and the hills, putting on their new green, echoed back: 'Christ is risen. He is risen from the dead.'

The French army heard the sound of rejoicing, and Massena concluded there could be but one reason for it. He was sure that the Austrian army had arrived in the night.

He ordered his men to break camp, and almost before the bells had ceased ringing—long before Easter services were over—the French army was in orderly retreat.

By noon not a tent, not a soldier, not a glittering bayonet was to be seen on the heights above Feldkirch.

### WANTED

Dentifrice to clean the 'teeth of the wind.'  
The apparatus used in 'coining new phrases.'  
The rule used in measuring 'broad daylight.'  
The timid man who wrote in 'nervous English.'  
Portrait of a horse that has 'eaten its head off.'

### TWO LITTLE FRIENDS

'Mother,' said Susie, 'if Rose had not been so naughty we would have had a very happy time this afternoon. She wanted everything her own way, and she said the very first thing that her doll was to be named Evelyn.'

'Why should she not call her doll Evelyn if she liked?' asked Susie's mother.

'Because I wanted that name for my doll,' answered Susie. 'Besides, I was company, and she ought to have let me play with the carriage all the time.'

'I am sorry to hear that Rose is such a naughty child,' said Susie's mother. 'Of course, you were very sweet and unselfish all the afternoon.'

'I'm talking about Rose,' said Susie. 'I think that I won't invite her to my birthday party.'

'But are you sure that you were polite?' asked Susie's mother. 'If a little girl is visiting another she must be pleased and satisfied with all the play. Let us see whether you were not as much to blame as Rose.'

Then Susie and her mother talked it over, and the next time that Susie plays with Rose she is not going to insist upon having her own way all the time.

### ENDING THE QUARREL

Two little girls were quarrelling, sad to say. They kept saying, 'You did!' and 'I didn't!' and growing more angry every minute. Suddenly Susie stopped speaking and shut her lips tight. She would not say another word for awhile.

'What makes you keep still, Susie?' said another girl near by, 'when Sophy keeps on teasing.'

'Somebody must stop first!' said Susie. 'I just remembered that mamma said so. So I'll stop first, and then the teasing will be over quicker.'

And so it was. For Sophy, too, because she was so surprised; and as Susie would not go on, the quarrel was very soon over.

### FAMILY FUN

Why is a cat up three pairs of stairs like a high hill?—Because she's a-mountin'.

What three letters give the name of a famous Roman general?—C-P-Q (Scipio).

Why is a nice but uncultured girl like brown sugar?—Because she's sweet but unrefined.

Why should you never confide a secret to your relatives?—Because blood will tell.

What is the best way to keep fish from smelling?—Cut off their noses.

Why has a chambermaid more lives than a cat?—Because each morning she returns to dust.

Why should a compliment from a turkey be an insult?—Because it would be fowl language.

When does a chair dislike you?—When it can't bear you.

Why is a duel quickly managed?—Because it takes only two seconds to arrange it.

How does light get through a prism?—It hews (hues) its way through.

What does a yawning policeman resemble?—An open face watch.

Nothing grieves the careful housewife more than to see her good furniture mishandled by careless carriers. If you have to shift, be wise and get a reliable firm like the NEW ZEALAND EXPRESS COMPANY to remove your things. They are very careful, and charge reasonably too. Their address is Bond street....