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THE MEAT TRADES' JOURNAL

AND
CATTLE SALESMAN'S GAZETTE.

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THE ORGAN OF THE TRADE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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TRADE TOPICS.

PARLIAMENT re-assembled on Monday.

HAPPINESS consists largely in forgetting the things you can't have.

PUBLIC sales of wool will be held at Antwerp on 29th and 30th inst.

THE hide of the hippopotamus, in certain parts, attains a thickness of two inches.

EVERY man knows a good use to which some other man might put his money.

NOTHING pleases a man so much as to be coaxed to do a thing he wants to do.

LEATHER money circulated in Russia so recently as the time of Peter the Great.

FREIGHT on American cattle has advanced 10s. per head, the current rate being now 45s.

A DUTCHMAN once calmly explained that a pig had no marks on his ears, except a short tail.

THE Derbyshire Hide, Skin, and Fat Company have declared the usual dividend of 15 per cent.

IT was a Scottish woman who said that the butcher of her town only killed half a beast at a time.

THE poorest people are not those who have to get much out of little, but those who get little out of much.

THE erection of a public abattoir is under consideration by the Bury St. Edmunds Town Council.

THE great danger in trying to get something for nothing is that you may get what you deserve.

WHEN some people do wrong, they waste a lot of time in trying to convince themselves that it isn't wrong.

IN some of the farming districts of China pigs are harnessed to small wagons and made to draw them.

THE Budget will be opened on Thursday. More relief for the distressed agriculturist is looked for in some shape or form.

THE dry searing winds have checked the growth of pastures and thereby delayed the commencement of the grazing season.

A DUMFRIESHIRE farmer has been arrested for sheep-stealing, and considerable consternation has been caused in the district.

RADCLIFFE (LANCS.) U.D.C. have received the sanction of the Local Government Board to purchase and extend the local markets.

A SPECIAL meeting of the National Federation of Meat Traders will be held on Wednesday, 12th proxo., in the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria-street, S.W.

THE smallest newspaper in the world is *El Telegrama*, bearing the motto, "Much meat, but little froth," published at Guadaluja, Mexico. It is not much larger than 8in. by 4in.

"READER" (N. Wales).—The Agricultural Produce (Marks) Bill was committed to a Select Committee, but the names of the gentlemen comprising same have not yet been published.

AT a restaurant the following quotation from "Macbeth" is painted over the beefsteak grid-iron:—

If it were done when 'tis done,
Then 'twere done quickly.

OUR special Canadian cattle cablegram service will probably be resumed next week. A large number of steamers are now en route for the St. Lawrence, and the first direct shipment of stock is expected to be made about the 6th May.

THE imports of fresh meat for week ended 17th inst., and corresponding week 1896, are shown below:—

	1897.	1896.
Beef, cwt.s.	43,774	47,912
Mutton "	41,267	21,819
Pork "	6,735	3,825

THE imports of foreign live stock for week ended 17th inst., and corresponding week 1896, were as under:—

	1897.	1896.
Cattle	10,144	9,032
Sheep	7,805	20,971

LONDON CENTRAL MEAT MARKET.

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SCOTCH BEEF AND MUTTON.

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THE imports of fresh meat for week ended 24th inst., and corresponding week 1896, are shown below:—

	1897	1896
Beef, cwt.s.	53,497	39,844
Mutton "	76,864	105,756
Pork "	6,049	3,793

THE imports of foreign live stock for week ended 24th inst., and corresponding week 1896, were as under:—

	1897	1896
Cattle	12,303	9,569
Sheep	20,783	18,178

MR. WILLIAM RAMSDEN (of Messrs. Poole, Brewster, Ramsden & Duckham) returned on Saturday from a brief business tour in the United States and Canada. We are glad to say Mr. Ramsden is looking remarkably well, although still a bit shaky after his recent illness.

A COMMISSION appointed by the French Minister of Agriculture to select a new site for the Paris agricultural show and the horse show next spring has decided almost unanimously to recommend the grounds of the Tuileries. The details are being settled by a sub-committee.

THE Departmental Committee on Sheep-stealing in Scotland held another meeting in Edinburgh on Saturday. The following witnesses were examined:—Messrs. George Malcolm, Inverary; James Swan, live stock auctioneer, Edinburgh; and William Gordon, chief-constable, Dumfriesshire.

THE subjects to be discussed at the council meeting of the Chambers of Agriculture on May 4th include the Food Products Adulteration Bill, the Land Tenure (Wales and Monmouthshire) Bill, the Locomotives on Highways Bill, and any proposals in the Budget affecting agriculture.

"IRISH SUBSCRIBER."—Mr. Field has for many years advocated the establishment of a Board of Agriculture for Ireland. The Bill now before the House of Commons is introduced by Mr. Gerald Balfour and the Attorney-General for Ireland. A copy can be had from Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, E.C., for twopenny.

DURING the bull-fighting season, from April 5th to October 20th, 1896, there were 478 fights in Spain, and 1,218 bulls valued at £60,000, and 5730 horses valued at £10,000 were killed. The number of matadors, the principal fighters who killed the bulls, was 23, and they were paid for their services in all about £4,500.

THE rector of Caister (Norfolk), who ascended the tower of his church, took a fine Scotch collie with him, and on reaching the summit the animal bounded over the ramparts, taking an involuntary jump of over eighty feet. It was found unconscious at the foot of the tower, but has since recovered and is none the worse, not a bone being broken.

THE *Live Stock Journal* thinks that the Meat Marking Bill needs "several improvements," and suggests the registration of butchers as one. Why not register bakers, grocers, fruiterers, and every other dealer in provisions? If it is absolutely necessary as regards meat, it must be equally desirable for all sellers of imported produce or provisions.

THE Midland Railway Company have just issued, in pocket-book size, a list of horse and cattle fairs, racing fixtures, horse sales, dog and poultry and agricultural shows throughout the United Kingdom. It contains information as to the names of secretaries, the dates on which entries close, and a table of fares to various towns in which the shows will be held.

SHEEP have been ravenous after food, for the keen air and the chilling winds have sharpened their appetites, and extensive breadths of rye, winter barley, and rape are disappearing behind the hedges with a rapidity that is causing flock-masters some uneasiness, as there may be an awkward interval to bridge over before tritillium, vetches, and other summer forage are ready for folding.

AT Dumfries Sheriff Court, on Tuesday, Ebenezer Dinwiddie, farmer, of Easter Earshaig, Beattock, was charged with sheep stealing from the flocks of Mr. William Young, M.P., of Auchin Castle, and others. He accused, it was stated, had stolen on the 4th April 18 sheep, which he dispatched next day to Lowrie & Symington's auction mart, Lanark, for sale. Prisoner was sent to gaol for six months.

MESSRS. FRADELLE & YOUNG, the well-known photographers of Regent-street, were in evidence at the dinner on Tuesday of the Market Clerks' Provident Association, and took a couple of excellent pictures showing the company and the beautiful Venetian Chamber to best possible advantage. Those desirous of securing *souvenirs* of the occasion should apply at once as the copies printed are strictly limited to subscribers.

ACCORDING to the *Live Stock Report* of Messrs. Clay, Robinson & Co., of Chicago:—

"At the [Illinois] London cattle market on Monday, March 22nd, there showed some fine heifers from the Argentine Republic—the best that had yet reached England from that country. The cows made 10s. 2d. per cwt."

AS this item is very misleading, we trust our Chicago contemporary will make it clear to its readers that no live cattle from Argentina or anywhere else have been shown at Islington since 1892.

AT a conference held in Paris to discuss the feeding of farm animals it was stated that, in the rearing of calves, meat-meal used in conjunction with skim milk might be advantageously employed. For calves for the butcher, however, where white veal is desired, it is recommended to substitute potato-starch for meat-meal. The cooked starch is added to the milk, and calves fed with this mixture have commanded the highest price when sold to the butcher.

THE Cattle Plague Committee of the East Riding County Council reported at their meeting on Monday that they had requested the North and West Riding Authorities to appoint representatives to confer with a sub-committee of this committee—consisting of Lord Middleton, Mr. Dunhill, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Staveley—as to the adoption of measures for the prevention of sheepscab. They had also appointed Mr. Hicks, the Veterinary Inspector, to deal with all outbreaks of anthrax in the Riding and all disinfection should be carried out by the police under his superintendence. The estimate of expenses for the year, under the Diseases of Animals Act was £500.

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"SWIFTNES," Newcastle

"RICHNESS," Birmingham

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ALLEGED FRAUDS AT THE MEAT MARKET.

SENSATIONAL CASE.

FULL REPORT.

At the Guildhall Justice Room, on Friday last, John Dawson, aged 40, and Alfred James Butcher, 39, surrendered to their bail in answer to a charge of stealing and receiving a piece of meat from a firm in Smithfield Meat Market.

The case is of peculiar interest to the trade, and many well-known salesmen and meat traders were present in court.

The case for the prosecution was conducted by Mr. Ricketts.

For the defence were Mr. Warde and Mr. Wetherfield, the former representing Dawson, and the latter appearing on behalf of Butcher. Mr. Mears, Chief of the Smithfield Market Police, was present throughout the proceedings.

In opening the case, Mr. Ricketts said that the prosecutors were Messrs. Jiggins, who carried on an extensive business at Nos. 51 & 52 D Avenue of the Meat Market. The prisoner Butcher was engaged by a meat salesman named Young in the market, and Dawson was in the employ of Messrs. Lambert & Co., a firm of meat salesmen. Up to two months ago Dawson was in the service of the prosecutors. Both were charged with being concerned together in selling on the 27th March last, 12 lbs. of beef valued at £3 10s., and he would add, suspicion pointed to other persons being implicated in the affair. The meat was a piece of beef known in the trade as a top piece of rump—a hind quarter with the flank and round cut off. For some time past Messrs. Jiggins had been raising a quantity of their meat. Quarters of meat at a time disappeared notwithstanding the precautions that were taken by the firm, and despite the greatest vigilance no trace could at first be found as to what became of the missing meat. These quarters of meat were not entered in the books of the firm and neither was the meat sold. It appeared that on Saturday, March 17th, Mr. Walter Jiggins left the shop as usual, between 10 and 11 in the morning, trade having finished. There were then at the back of the shop several hind-quarters of beef and one top piece of rump. This meat, therefore, should have been on the premises on the following Monday morning, when Mr. Jiggins entered the shop on that day he discovered that some of it was missing. When he left on Saturday several of his men were in the shop, among the number being an old salesman, their duties being to dispatch the old meat that had been sold. The meat missing consisted of a top piece of rump, and when Mr. Jiggins inquired what had become of it no one could say. The result of it all was that Mr. Jiggins concluded that it was time to communicate with the market police and he accordingly placed the matter in the hands of Mr. Mears, the chief constable. Owing to that official's tact and skill this fraud—which was only one of a series—had been unearthed. When all the evidence had been heard he thought there could be no doubt as to the guilt of the prisoners, and it would transpire that this occasion was not the first time such a thing had happened. Proceeding to describe what led to the arrests, Counsel mentioned that on the Saturday, shortly after Mr. Jiggins had left his shop, the prisoner Butcher went to a meat carrier, named Cornell, and said he had a top piece of rump at Jiggins's and he wanted removed during the day. Mr. Cornell thereupon consented to carry this, and at twenty minutes past one Butcher returned and said he would have the meat removed then. Mr.

Cornell then sent one of his porters, a man named Coghlan, with Butcher to fetch the meat. They walked to the shop together and Butcher told Coghlan to remain in the shop whilst he went in the next door premises. As Coghlan was waiting in Mr. Jiggins's shop a person came downstairs and asked him what he wanted. He replied that he had come to fetch some meat for Butcher. They then went into the next shop and saw Butcher and the salesman with the meat on the ground. They seemed surprised at the intrusion and said it was a mistake, and that the beef was not to be removed. The carrier therefore left the shop. Soon afterwards Dawson went to another carrier, a man named Westell, and told him he wanted some meat removed from Messrs. Jiggins's shop, and asked that a man should be sent down to remove it. Mr. Mears was accordingly deputed to accompany Dawson for the purpose of getting this piece of meat. They went together to the premises in D Avenue, and Dawson pointed to the piece of rump which was then on the scale. Dawson said, "This is the piece of meat," and the man carried it out to the cart outside. The address to which it was to be delivered—58, Milkwood-road, Britton—was given by Dawson, who also paid the man for the carriage of the meat to go to the place. The porter was then invited by both prisoners to have some refreshment, after which the porter (named Tyler) took the meat to Britton in accordance with instructions. As he was leaving the meat, Butcher cried and remarked, "Oh! you are here first." Shortly afterwards the prisoner Butcher was endeavouring to dispose of a part of this meat. He went to a Mr. Ridler and asked him to buy a rump of meat. Ridler knew that it could not be an honest transaction, and it was highly creditable to him that he refused to purchase the meat. Butcher then went to a printer and offered the meat for 19s. Mr. Mears went to the address at Britton on April 15th, but Butcher was not then at home. Upon paying a second visit, he saw Butcher, who denied everything in connection with the affair. Subsequently the head constable saw Dawson, who also gave an emphatic denial of the charge.

Counsel then called witnesses for the prosecution.

P.C. Rice was first put in the box, and confirmed his evidence given at the former hearing as to the story of the arrest.

Mr. Walter Robert Jiggins was then sworn, and examined by Mr. Ricketts. He said he was a member of the firm of W. & H. Jiggins, carrying on business at 51 and 52, Central Meat Markets. Their premises were situated in D Avenue. Formerly the business was carried on by Firman & Wood. Butcher was employed as journeyman butcher by Mr. Young, a market salesman. Witness knew the prisoner Butcher. Dawson was also a journeyman butcher, and was employed by Messrs. Lambert & Co. in the meat market. He was in his (witness's) employ until two months ago. For some time past the firm should take place under any circumstances. The business had finished when he left. The place was not closed immediately he left because there was some sold meat to be delivered.

Continuing his evidence, the Witness stated that on Monday he reached business at about 4 a.m. An hour later he missed a top-piece of rump, which was on the premises when he left on Saturday and should still have been there. It had not been sold. The weight of it was 12 lbs. and its value was £3 10s.

Mr. Ricketts: It was not entered in your books?

Witness: No. I made inquiries amongst the men but no trace of it could be found. On the same day I placed the matter in the hands of Mr. Mears. Barnard, the scalesman, came to work on Tuesday usual.

Mr. Ricketts: And then Mr. Mears sent for him?

Witness: Yes; and Barnard went to his office.

Mr. Ricketts: And have you seen Barnard since?

Witness: No. I have made inquiries everywhere but have heard nothing more of him.

Mr. Ricketts: Had he given you notice to leave?

Witness: No.

Mr. Ricketts: Where have you inquired for him?

Witness: His wife and others have been questioning, but his whereabouts cannot be ascertained. His wife has not seen him since that Tuesday.

Mr. Warde: How long is it since Firman & Wood gave up the business?

Witness: Nine or ten months.

Mr. Warde: How long have you known Dawson?

Witness: For some considerable time.

Mr. Warde: He has been engaged in the market for some years?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Warde: He has been in your service twice?

Witness: He has been in the employ of the firm twice.

Mr. Warde: When he left two months ago, was it to better himself?

Witness: I do not think so.

Mr. Warde: You did not dismiss him?

Witness: No.

Mr. Warde: He has always borne a good character?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Warde: So far as Barnard is concerned, he was in sole charge when you left?

Witness: No. Mr. Burges would have sold it.

Mr. Warde: He was your trusted servant?

Witness: Only in the ordinary way.

Mr. Warde: He had been in your service for 30 years?

Witness: With the firm, yes.

Mr. Warde: If anybody went to your shop after you had left for meat, it would have been sold.

Witness: I do not know.

Mr. Warde: What is the matter with you?

The next witness was George Coghlan, a meat carrier at the market, employed by Mr. Cornell, and residing at Bolney-street, Clapham. He deposed that between one and two on March 27th last he was standing with Mr. Cornell waiting for orders, when Butcher came up and said, "Top bit of rump, Firman & Wood, in the name of Butcher." Witness was at once told by Mr. Cornell to fetch the meat and went with Butcher to Jiggins's to do so. Butcher said the meat was to go to Battersea. They walked into the shop together, and witness waited there whilst the prisoner went into the next shop. Whilst waiting a man asked him what he wanted, and he replied that he wanted to fetch some meat for Butcher. They both walked into the other shop, where they saw Butcher and the salesman handling a top piece of rump. The man who had questioned the witness said, "What is the matter? Who is this for?" and the salesman replied, "It's all right, give us a lift up; they brought this out wrong." The meat was then lifted on to the hook again. Butcher then said to witness, "Go back to the shop, and get the meat, and don't go." Witness then left and told Mr. Cornell the message.

Mr. Metherfield: You did not carry the meat at all then?

Witness: No.

Charles Westall, another market meat carrier, gave evidence as to Dawson going to him at two on the Saturday afternoon and asking him to take a top piece to Britton. Witness's man Tyler was standing close by, and was directed to fetch the meat. Dawson and Tyler went away together for the meat, and Dawson afterwards paid witness 6d. for cartage. Dawson and Tyler went to a public-house, where they were joined by another man, and had refreshment.

By Mr. Warde: It was not unusual for a man to come up and ask him to fetch meat.

He then referred to Tyler, of 14, Cambria-road, Longborough Junction, the porter referred to by the last witness, next gave evidence, and confirmed his employer's statements. The witness went with Dawson and took the meat off the

scales, and subsequently took it to Briston. He was not sure which of the prisoners gave him the address, which was "Butcher, 58, Milkwood-road, Briston." Before witness left he was asked to have a drink.

Mr. Ricketts: And you did not refuse?

Witness: Certainly not. (Laughter.)

Continuing, Tyler said that whilst in the New-market Hotel, Butcher asked what time he would deliver the meat? Witness said about three o'clock, and prisoner said, "Don't be any later." Prisoner added that it was not a shop but a private house. Witness arrived at the house at about 3.15. He went down the area steps. The door was opened by a lady, and the meat was left in a room above. As witness was about to drive away, Butcher came up and said, "Then you are here first." Butcher then went down the area steps and entered the house. By Mr. Warde: So far as witness could see there was no disguise of any sort. When he got into the shop the meat was on the scales.

By Mr. Wetherfield: He had known Butcher for six or eight months, but only by sight.

The case was adjourned until 10 o'clock on Thursday, and, failing to produce two sureties at five each, both prisoners were removed to the cells.

It was pointed out that previously the bail was only £10, but the Alderman stated that the prosecution was applying for a case which was only a part of a system, and, therefore, he was unable to accept a lower bail.

Mr. Warde: The sureties are prohibitive.

HIDE AND SKIN REPORT.

LONDON, APRIL 22ND.

The London Butchers' Hide and Skin Co., Ltd. quote:—

Herefords and Rants, 95lb and upwards, 34d per lb.; ditto, 85lb to 94lb, 33d per lb.; ditto, 75lb to 84lb, 3d per lb. Ox Hides, first, 95lb and upwards, 4d per lb.; ditto, 85lb to 94lb, 3d per lb.; ditto, 75lb to 84lb, 3d per lb. Cows, first, 95lb and upwards, 3d per lb.; ditto, 85lb to 94lb, 3d per lb.; ditto, 75lb to 84lb, 3d per lb. Heifer, 85lb to 94lb, 3d per lb.; ditto, 75lb to 84lb, 3d per lb. Ditto, 65lb to 74lb, 3d per lb. Ditto, 55lb and upwards, 3d per lb. Ditto, 45lb and upwards, 3d per lb. Light Cows, 27lb and under, 2d per lb. Heifers, cuts all weights, 2d per lb. Cows, cuts all weights, 2d per lb. Casualty, 2d per lb. Kips, 1st, 2d per lb. Ditto, 2nd, 2d per lb. Calf, 17lb and upwards, 3d per lb.; ditto, 9lb to 16lb (without heads) 3d per lb.; ditto, 9lb to 16lb (with heads) 4d per lb.; ditto, light (without heads) 6d per lb.; ditto, light (with heads, 8d per lb.; ditto, cut (without heads) 3d per lb.; ditto, cut (with heads), 4d per lb.; ditto, 10lb and under, 3d per lb. Horse Hides, 1st, 15s 6d; and, 12s 6d; 3rd, 13s 6d; 4th, 10s 6d; 5th, 3s 6d to 8s 6d; 6th, 3s 6d to 4s 6d; Lambs, 1s 6d to 2s 6d. Pelts, 1s 3d to 1s 6d.

MANCHESTER, APRIL 22ND.

Messrs. Richard Markendale & Co., Ltd. quote:—

Hides—95lb and upwards, 4d to 3d per lb.; 85lb to 94lb, 4d to 3d per lb.; 75lb to 84lb, 4d to 3d per lb.; 65lb to 74lb, 3d to 3d per lb.; 55lb to 64lb, 3d to 2d per lb.; 45lb and under, 3d to 2d per lb.; Cows, 60lb and above, 3d to 3d per lb.; do., 50lb to 60lb, 3d to 3d per lb.; 40lb and under, 3d to 2d per lb.; Bulls, 3d to 2d per lb.; Irregular, 2d to 1d per lb.; Salted Irish Hides, 2d to 1d per lb.; do., Kips, 1st, 2d to 1d per lb.; 2d, 1d to 1d per lb.; 3d, 1d to 1d per lb.; 4th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 5th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 6th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 7th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 8th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 9th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 10th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 11th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 12th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 13th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 14th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 15th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 16th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 17th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 18th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 19th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 20th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 21st, 1d to 1d per lb.; 22nd, 1d to 1d per lb.; 23rd, 1d to 1d per lb.; 24th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 25th, 1d to 1d per lb.; 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Telegraphic Address:
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A. T. TOWERS & CO.,

Direct from
Smithfield Market.

**PORK SALESMEN AND SAUSAGE SKIN IMPORTERS,
201 & 244, Central Meat Market,
LONDON.**

MARKET INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday, 22nd April.

London, Metropolitan.—Today's supply of beasts compared with Thursday last showed a slight increase, and consisted chiefly of rough and fat bulls, for which trade was very dull; prices were low. A few fat Norfolk found buyers at from 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d. per 8lb. There was a decrease of 280 in the number of sheep and lambs penned, and the latter being very scarce, consequently, firmer and steadier at rates from 2d. to 4d. per 8lb. higher. The sheep trade was slow at Monday's rates, leading pens making per 8lb. as follows:—71st. to 8st. downs, 5s. 6d.; 1st. 5s. 4d.; 10st. 5s. 2d.; 1st. cost half-breds, 5s. to 5s. 2d.; 1st. Hampshire, 5s.; 1st. half-breds, 4s. 10d.; 10st. Down ewes, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.; 5st. fat down lambs, 7s. 6d. to 7s. 8d.; 6st. half-bred, 7s. to 7s. 2d. There was a short supply of calves, with a very dull trade, the best on offer making from 5s. 4d. to 5s. 6d. per 8lb. At market—Beasts, 40; sheep and lambs, 1,990; calves, 40; pigs, 10.

London, Deptford.—Today's supply of beasts (2,000), compared with Thursday last, showed an increase of 1,100, and included again all arrivals, about 1,020 more being withheld. It consisted of 1,147 from States, and 853 from South America. Trade was slow, but fairly steady. Monday's rates governing all transactions. Beasts numbered 1,350, 38. 6d. to 3s. 10d.; per 8lb.; second quality, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 7d.; Argentines, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. per 8lb. The supply of sheep (4,150) stated entirely absent. Shipments from Argentina, trade for which was steady at late rates. Best pens made fully 4s. per 8lb. The following were the numbers on offer on the corresponding day last year, with the current top rates:—Beasts, 1,350, 38. 6d. to 3s. 8d. per 8lb.; sheep, 6,877, 3s. 4d. per 8lb.

Bristol.—There was only a moderate supply of beef, but enough for the demand. Best qualities made 60s. to 62s. per cwt.; others, 52s. to 56s., and these were difficult to sell. Sheep were more plentiful than met a slow trade. Choice light shorn wethers realized 7½d. per lb.; heavy sheep, 7½d.; ewes, 5½d.; lambs, 9½d. to 10½d. per lb. About 600 pigs were on the market, lambing making 9s. 3d. per score and porkers 10s. to 10s. 3d.

Dublin.—The intervention of the Easter holidays has somewhat disturbed the normal conditions of the trade and delayed the usual returns of the exports. At market there was a considerable falling off in the supplies, and in the absence of many leading shippers business was slow and unsatisfactory. Beasts numbered 900, sheep 5,634. Best beef sold at 57s. 6d. to 63s.; second quality, 50s. to 56s.; wether mutton, 8d. to 8½d.; ewe, 7d. to 8d.; grass lambs, 28s. to 42s.; veal, 9s. 4d. per 8lb.

Lockerbie.—There were good supplies with a large attendance of buyers. The normal conditions of the trade, best beef making up to 30s. 1d. per live cwt. Fat sheep dearer. Store sheep met a good demand and well cleared out. Calving cattle of the best class good to sell, while secondary sorts made late rates. Calves and pigs very dear, with a total clearance. Horned bullocks, 111 5s. to 123 7s. 6d.; do. heifers, 170 2s. 6d. to 174 17s. 11d.; polled bullocks, 170 15s. to 172 10s. do. heifers, 111 5s. to 117; fat cows, 120 2s. 6d. to 123 15s.; do. heifers, 177 10s. to 173 17s.; store cattle, 145 5s. to 147 15s.; calves, 60 13s. to 14s.; half-bred hogs, 35s. to 47s.; cross, 31s. 3d. to 42s.; Cheviot hogs, 31s. 3d. to 35s. 9d.; do. hogs, 17s. 6d. to 24s. 9d.; black-faced wethers, 24s. 6d. to 28s. 9d.; odd sheep, 26s. 6d. to 47s.; tup, 35s. to 50s. 9d.; fat pigs, 35s. to 70s.

Saturday, 24th April.

Carlisle.—Small supplies of Irish store stock, the number being between 700 and 800 head of useful heifers and stripping cows. With the weather still cold and pastures not much improved, a weak demand was experienced at 16 15s. for the smaller

kinds, and up to 17s. and 17½ for the best lot. A busy trade has been done this week in English store cattle, upwards of 4,000 head of Shorthorns, Galloways, and bluegrays having been disposed of. The occasion was that of the first of the spring series of big sales. Generally the stock were presented in fair condition, considering the unfavourable nature of the weather for some time, and with a numerous attendance from all parts of the country a steady demand was experienced at fairly good prices, the quotations for animals with big frames and combining condition with hair showing a slight improvement on values at the corresponding sale last year.

Leicester.—The consignments of horned bullocks 10-day were of large extent, and the bulk seems to have increased very considerably. There was a fair attendance, but trade ruled rather slow. Choice Irish bullocks made 17 to 18 10s. per head; secondary, 14 to 16; Herefords, 15 to 18; heifers, 17 to 17½; young stock, 16 to 18; calves, 2s. to 3s. 5s. per head; sheep sold freely at 30s. to 42s. per head for hogs; ewes and lambs, 4s. to 5s. per couple.

Norwich.—There was a smaller show of store cattle, and for these a better demand was made. The fat sheep trade was again at a low level, but trade showed an improvement. In the sheep market there was about an average show of sheep; trade generally was slow.

Monday, 26th April.

London, Metropolitan.—Today's supply of beasts exceeded that of Monday last by 370 head, owing to heavier consignments of Scotch and Norfolk, trade for which was rather slow, but the week's rates being with difficulty maintained. To effect a clearance salesmen gave away a little, so that practically all beasts found buyers. Fat butchering cows were in good demand by country buyers, and made fully 2d. per 8lb. more money. Fat bulls and rough cattle difficult to vend. The following were the top rates obtained per 8lb.:—8st. to 9st. polled, 5s. 6d.; 1st. 5s. 4d.; 10st. 5s. 2d.; 1st. cost half-bred, 5s. 4d.; 1st. Hampshire, 5s.; 1st. half-bred, 4s. 10d.; 10st. Down ewes, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.; 5st. fat down lambs, 7s. 6d. to 7s. 8d.; 6st. half-bred, 7s. 6d. The pig trade was slow, but rates were firmer; best small breeds made from 4s. 6d. to 4s. 8d. per 8lb. There were about 125 milch cows on offer, the demand for which was quiet, prices ranging from 17 6d. to 21 per head. At market: Beasts, 1,320; sheep and lambs, 12,010; pigs, 55.

London, Deptford.—Today's supply of beasts (2,807) compared with Monday last, showed a decrease of 414, and consisted of 1,858 from States, and 949 from South America, and 100 from time. Trade steady at a slight advance on Thursday's quotations. Best States, 3s. 10d. to 3s. 11d.; Argentines, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d. Sheep totalled 4,200, and consisted of 3,668 Argentines and 595 United States, the latter being nearly all lambs. Trade was slow but steady. Best pens of Argentine sheep made from 4s. 2d. to 4s. 4d. per 8lb. States lambs were quoted at 5s. per 8lb. The following were the numbers on offer on the corresponding day last year, with the current top rates:—Beasts, 1,320, 38. 6d. to 3s. 8d. per 8lb.; sheep, 6,031, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. per 8lb.

Liverpool, Stanley.—Supply of cattle was smaller than last week. An improved demand for all classes at recent full quotations. Sheep

lower in consequence of increased supply. Lambs were shown in smaller numbers and realised more money; best, 9½d. to 9d. per 8lb. Scotch down, 9d. to 7d. 11d. to 11s. 4d. to 6d.; lambs, 4s. to 3s. 4s. each. At market 659 cattle and 4,988 sheep and lambs.

Glasgow, Yorkhill.—At the usual weekly sale of States cattle there were in the lairage 291 animals and 38 ex *Hestia* from Baltimore, which lost one in transit, ex *Hestia* from Boston, held over from last week, and 300 ex *Indiant* from Boston, which lost one beast during the passage—a total of 638. Compared with last week that number showed a decrease of 501, and 1,300 less than in the corresponding week of last year. There was a large and representative attendance of both town and country buyers. The greater proportion of the cattle consisted of bullocks, bulls being a smaller offering than usual, only about 70 being stabled. The cattle as regards quality were of an exceedingly good class, being almost entirely animals in a really well-finished condition, and suitable for all requirements of the trade. The supply, notwithstanding the sale of Canadian cattle, was scarcely sufficient for the necessities of buyers, and values consequently advanced considerably over last week's figures, in consequence of demand. The best sorts of animals were keenly competed for and realised high prices, while the plainer beasts were also well disposed of at reduced prices. The prices—Mr. Thomas C. Nelson presented 600 cattle, passed through the ring 563 bullocks at from 18 15s. to 25 10s., the highest price obtained during the entire sale, and down to 16 10s. for three heifers, 15 10s. to 17 15s.; one cow at 17 10s.; and 33 bulls from 17 10s. to 15 5s., and in one instance 15 15s.—Swan & Sons had 38 animals on offer, consisting entirely of Scotch, 25 of which were sold at 23 5s., and down in an exceptional case to 21 5s. The approximate deadweight quotations may be given as follows:—Bullocks, best quality medium weight, 2s. to 2s. 6d. per cwt.; heavy firms, 60s. to 62s.; and plainer animals, 58s. to 60s. per cwt. Bulls realised from 50s. to 2s. per cwt., according to quality and finish. The prices of the Scotch sheep were 25s. when there were penned in the sheds 98 sheep, ex *Indiant*, from Baltimore, which also landed a carcass and lost 3 during the passage, and 141 Canadian sheep, ex *Consolidated*, from St. John, N.B., a total of 1,130. Compared with last week this shows a decrease of 1,085, and was 55 less than in the corresponding week last year. There was a large attendance of buyers, both town and country. Swan & Sons conducted the entire auction. All classes were in request, and a sharp trade resulted, prices being up all round for the heavy classes, and a few consistent animals, including merinos, about the price of 10s. being yearlings, which were cashed at from 27s. 6d. to 42s. 6d., while the remainder were wedders, which made from 26s. 6d. to 4s. each. The Canadian sheep were an exceptionally fine lot, and were presented in good condition. Down hogs realised from 27s. 6d. to 44s. 6d.; Down tup, 48s. 6d.; and Leicester tup, 53s. each. The prices of the realising were approximately given as follows:—States sheep, 7½d. to 8d. per lb., and Canadian hoggets, 8d. to 8½d. per lb. A total clearance was effected.

Gateshead.—In connection with their weekly sale to 24th Messrs. Maughan held a prize show and sale for heifers and cows. The judges were Mr. Horn, Wakefield; Mr. Burnett, Middleborough; and Mr. T. H. Whitcham, for the best cow of the property of a local dairyman, the first prize was awarded to Mr. Marks, Newcastle, which cow was afterwards sold at the auction for 154 15s.; second, to Mr. Henry, Whitcham, sold for 120 10s.; and third, to Mr. Wilson, Gateshead, sold for 119. In this class there was a large entry and capital competition. Over twenty of the cows, either prize winners, making a total of 108, 120 to 125. The supplies to day consisted of 238 cattle, 928 sheep, and 14 calves. Cattle on the whole were a superior show as regards quality. Best 100 cows, 120 to 125. For the best cow, 125, cows to 124 5s. bullocks to 122 10s. All classes of cattle met a sharp good selling trade at rather more money, between 70 and 80 being bought for the inland markets. Sheep were generally well disposed of, consisting mostly of choice north country hogs. Demand moderately good, yet upon the whole slightly over last week's prices.

Tuesday, 27th April.

Manchester.—Trade in cattle has improved somewhat, and full prices are obtained for good lots. The stock of beasts shows a decrease on the week, but the total number of sheep is considerably larger than last week. At market—Beasts, 2146, 38 10d. to 37 10d.; sheep, 6d. to 8d. At market—Beasts, 2146, sheep, 10,221, calves, 285; pigs, 20.

Newcastle.—There was a fairly good market for all classes of supplies, and prices generally tending in buyers favour. For Jubilee Week it has been resolved to hold this market on the Monday. Beef was generally 3d. down, only the best maintained. Best pens of Argentine sheep, 4s. 2d. to 4s. 4d., and lambs sold well at from 2s. to 4s. 2s. each. Numbers—Cattle, 2,308; sheep and lambs, 6,840; pigs, 453; calves, 315. Of these there were from 100 to 150 of the best Scotch cattle, 300 to 350 of the best Irish cattle, 150; pigs, 300. Prices (sinking the oil)—Beef, 5s. 7½d. to 7s.; pork, 4s. 6d. to 7s. per stone; sheep, 3½d. to 8½d. per lb.

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Central Meat Market, Smithfield, London.

DESCRIPTION.	Thursday, April 22nd.		Friday, April 23rd.		Saturday, April 24th.		Monday, April 26th.		Tuesday, April 27th.		Wednesday, April 28th.		REMARKS.		
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.			
BEEF —															
Scotch, short sides	4	2	10	4	6	4	2	10	4	6	4	0	4	4	<p>THURSDAY.—Rather a slow trade. The supplies, although not excessive, being more than could be got through.</p> <p>FRIDAY.—Trade opened fairly active, and for choicer descriptions of beef and mutton prices were rather firmer. The demand, however, was not sustained, and at the close sellers were obliged to give way in order to effect something like a clearance.</p> <p>SATURDAY.—Usual nominal business all round; some good lamb and mutton in the morning made yesterday's top rates.</p> <p>MONDAY.—The demand during the early hours was fairly active, but the market went against sellers at the finish. Mutton in fuller supply and prices weaker. Lamb and veal dull, pork steady.</p> <p>TUESDAY.—The close sultry weather had a most depressing effect upon trade. Sales difficult to effect.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY.—The continued wet and close weather caused trade to rule very slow at lower prices. Bad finish.</p>
" long sides	3	10	4	2	3	10	4	2	3	10	4	2			
English	3	11	4	4	4	0	4	2	4	0	4	2			
Cows and Bulls	2	6	3	0	2	6	3	0	2	6	3	0			
American, Birkenhead-killed ..	3	7	3	0	3	6	3	0	3	6	3	0			
" Depford-killed ..	3	6	3	8	3	6	3	8	3	6	3	8			
Argentine ..	2	10	3	3	2	10	3	3	2	10	3	3			
American Refrig. Hind-qrs.	3	8	3	11	3	8	3	11	3	6	3	8			
" Fore-qrs.	2	6	2	8	2	7	2	10	2	4	2	8			
Australian Frozen Hind-qrs.	2	6	2	9	2	6	2	9	2	6	2	9			
" Fore-qrs.	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2			
MUTTON —															
Scotch Prime	4	4	4	10	4	4	4	10	4	4	4	8			
English ..	4	2	4	6	4	2	4	6	4	2	4	6			
Ewes ..	3	6	4	0	3	6	4	0	3	6	4	0			
Dutch ..	3	10	4	2	3	10	4	2	3	10	4	2			
German ..	3	10	4	2	3	10	4	2	3	10	4	2			
River Plate, Town-killed ..	3	8	3	10	3	8	3	10	3	8	3	10			
New Zealand (Frozen) ..	2	0	2	4	2	0	2	4	2	0	2	4			
Australian ..	1	11	2	0	1	11	2	0	1	11	2	0			
" River Plate ..	1	11	1	11	1	11	1	11	1	11	1	11			
LAMB —English ..	6	0	7	0	6	0	7	0	6	0	7	0			
New Zealand ..	3	0	3	6	3	0	3	6	3	0	3	6			
Australian ..	3	10	4	6	3	10	4	6	3	10	4	6			
VEAL ..	3	10	4	6	3	10	4	6	3	10	4	6			
PORK —															
English, best ..	4	4	4	8	4	4	4	8	4	4	4	8			
" secondary & foreign ..	3	8	4	2	3	8	4	2	3	8	4	2			

Birkenhead, Woodside and Wallasey Lairages.

DESCRIPTION.	Thursday, April 22nd.		Friday, April 23rd.		Saturday, April 24th.		Monday, April 26th.		Tuesday, April 27th.		Wednesday, April 28th.		REMARKS.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
States Cattle, Best	3	5	3	6	3	5	3	6	3	5	3	6	<p>All cattle landed of about the average quality. Trade has been slow with a fair demand from local and country buyers, but there is very little wanted by London. Sheep met a fair trade at prices quoted.</p>
" Secondary ..	3	0	3	4	3	0	3	4	3	0	3	4	
Canadian Cattle, Best ..	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.		
" Secondary ..	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.	None here.		
South American Cattle ..	2	11	3	3	2	11	3	3	2	11	3	3	
Best ..	3	5	3	6	3	5	3	6	3	5	3	6	
Medium ..	3	0	3	4	3	0	3	4	3	0	3	4	
Cow and Bull Best ..	2	8	3	2	2	8	3	2	2	8	3	2	
Sheep, American ..	3	8	4	6	3	8	4	6	3	8	4	6	
" Canadian ..	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	4	
" Argentine ..	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	4	

WEDNESDAY (by Wire).—Trade slow, and prices about same. Market will not clear.

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THE LAW RESPECTING THE CARRIAGE OF CATTLE, SHEEP AND PIGS BY RAILWAY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[Written Specially for "The Meat Trades' Journal."]

PART I.

Although a great number of decisions have been pronounced by our High and Appeal Courts on the above subject, many of which are conflicting, no systematic notification of the judgments and the statutes relating to the question presents in an appreciable form appears to have been published, either for the perusal of companies and persons specially interested in the conveyance of live stock by rail, or for the general public. This being so, and recognising the great advantage of this deficiency, the writer will endeavour in the following statements to supply it according to reasonable requirements.

While railway companies are not bound to be common carriers of animals, and may refuse to convey them except under special contract, yet as these companies are compelled under section 2 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1854, to afford proper facilities for the carriage of live stock, they can only limit their liability in this respect by reasonable conditions within the meaning of the section. This enacts that every railway company shall be liable for the loss of any animals in the receiving, forwarding, or delivery of which, is caused by the neglect or default of the company or its servants, notwithstanding any notice, condition, or declaration to the contrary given by such company, or its servants, in any way limiting such liability, and every such notice, condition, or declaration is invalid. A railway company may, however, make a special contract with the consignors respecting the carriage, forwarding, and delivery of any of the animals referred to, provided it is in writing and is signed by the consignor or the person delivering the live stock for conveyance, and that its conditions are just and reasonable. But a company is not to be liable for the loss of or injury done to any of the following animals, beyond the under-mentioned sums, namely:—one neat (per head), £15; sheep (per head), £2; and pigs (per head), £2; unless the consignor or delivering such live stock to the Company declare them to be respectively of higher value, when the Company may legally demand and receive by way of compensation for the increased risk and care thereby caused, a reasonable percentage upon the excess of the value thus declared beyond the respective sums thus limited as before mentioned, and which must be paid in addition to the ordinary rate of charge. The amount of the value of the animals and the amount of the injury done to them in all cases rests upon the individual claiming compensation for this loss or injury.

It is further provided by section 7 of the 1854 Act, that before stated increased rate of charge is to be notified in the manner mentioned in the Carriers Act, 1830, section 2, and is to be binding on the Railway Company in the manner therein declared. At common law Railway Companies and other carriers were always able, by special contracts, to limit their liability as insurers of the animals delivered to them for carriage; and the 6th section of the Carriers Act expressly saved the right to make such agreements, whereby they were enabled to and often did altogether exempt themselves from their own negligence in the carriage of cattle, sheep, and pigs.

After much difference of opinion and several conflicting decisions as to what conditions in special contracts for and incident to the conveyance of live stock by railway were just and reasonable, the House of Lords in the lately held by the North Staffordshire Railway Company (10 H. L. C. 473) in 1865, in a carriage of goods case and applicable to animals, all the parts of section 7 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act of 1854 must be read together, and con-

sequently the conditions there spoken of as capable of being imposed by railway companies in limitation of their liability as common carriers must not only be in the opinion of a court of judge just and reasonable, but must also be embodied in a special contract in writing, signed by the owner or sender of the goods.

It is now intended to mention the noteworthy instances in which special contracts have been adjudicated upon as to their alleged unreasonableness according to the meaning of this last stated section. In the case of *Alford v. The Great Western Railway Co.* (5 B. & S. 902) the defendants received certain cattle to be carried for the plaintiff to B. Station. The master induced him to sign a ticket containing certain special conditions for "any consequences arising from over carriage, detention, or delay in, or in relation to, the conveying or delivering of the said animals, however caused." The cattle were sent to the station which was more distant than the B. station, and there remained for several hours, until they were found by the plaintiff. Owing to this delay and from want of food and water, the cattle were injured. There was no consideration for the special contract for charging the plaintiff a higher rate or anything of the kind. The Court of Queen's Bench decided that the cattle were injured within the meaning of section 7 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1854, and that the condition in the ticket was unreasonable according to the interpretation of that section.

In another case of the like kind, which is that of *Kirby v. The Great Western Railway Company* (18 L. T. 658). The plaintiff was employed by Evans, an agent of the company, who was employed by them for obtaining custom, that he could have trucks to send them off by the 4.30 train; the plaintiff consenting to this, the station-master when he arrived at the station, and this official promised to do his best to procure such vehicles for that train, and added that the plaintiff should be sure to have them. The plaintiff then gave the plaintiff a pass to go with his beasts by the 6.30 train. When that arrived, which was a passenger train, no trucks were available and the cattle were left at the station without providing for them, and the next morning left by the plaintiff from the same station after looking at them and warned the company's servants that such cattle would die if not fed; these employees had previously given notice of their destination on the following Wednesday morning, when one was found to be dead and which the plaintiff refused to receive, and the remainder were in an exhausted condition, and much damaged. Among the conditions in the contract the comment note was one that the company should not be answerable for any consequences arising from over-carriage detention or delay in the conveying or delivering of cattle in time for a particular train, however caused. The Court of Exchequer held this condition to be unreasonable on the authority of the previous mentioned case, when the same condition was held unreasonable.

In the case of *Roth v. the North-Eastern Railway Company* (2 L.R. E. 173) a contract for the carriage of cattle by railway, signed by the plaintiff sending them, contained the two following among other conditions: "The owner undertakes to be responsible for loading, unloading, and carriage, whether arising from the negligence or default of the company or their servants, or from defect or imperfection in the station platform, or other places of loading or unloading, or of the carriage, if the cattle may be loaded or conveyed, or from any other cause whatsoever." "The company will grant free passes to persons having the care of live stock, as an inducement to owners to transport their persons with and to their goods." The same court held that the first of these conditions was unreasonable, and that its unreasonable character was not removed by the fact that the company under the second condition, and the owner agreed to be bound to pass for a person who travelled with the cattle to be carried. Chief Baron Kelly observed that he

was by no means "ready to hold it unreasonable that the company should provide that any owner who was willing to do so should undertake the risk of loading and unloading; if they think fit to commit this duty to the owner, it is chosen by him, and it does not seem unreasonable that there should be a stipulation relieving the company from liability for damage incurred during the process of loading or unloading; but it is impossible to contend that a stipulation in binding which severs the company against damage arising from all risks of loading, unloading, and carriage, however caused, whether from the negligence of their servants, the imperfection of their station platform, or of their carriages. Such a stipulation cannot limit their common law duty to take reasonable care of their stations and to see that those places over which the cattle have to go on their way to or from the company's carriages are in a condition to ensure that those cattle a safe means of transit. If, therefore, all that the defendants contract for is established, I do not think it could be said that they were not bound to supply a safe and proper place for the carriage of their animals, to be unloaded, and in this case they did not do so."

Again, the same tribunal held in the case of *Gregory v. The West Midland Railway Company* (53 L. T. E. 153) that the conditions in the standard "cattle tickets" that "the company are to be free from all risk and responsibility with respect to any loss or damage arising in the loading or unloading or injury in the transit from any cause whatsoever, whether arising from the animals are to be carried at the owner's risk" and that "the owner of the cattle is to see to the efficiency of the wagon before his stock is placed therein, complaint to be made in writing to the company's office, before the wagon leaves the station," are neither just nor reasonable.

In the case of *Rain v. The Glasgow & South Western Railway Company* (7 Macph. 439) the pursuer bespoken that conditions in the ticket specifying the dimensions for the carriage of certain cattle, which were put into the vehicle in his presence, after being warned by the station-master that the truck was too small for this purpose, and that the truck was not the pursuer's own risk. Owing to the overcrowded condition of the vehicle some of the cattle died on their journey. There was a special contract between the parties by which the pursuer undertook that conditions in the ticket for damage, delays and other contingencies in loading, unloading, conveyance or otherwise, except such as shall arise from the gross negligence or default of the Railway Company, should not be binding on the pursuer. The House of Lords held that this contract was just and reasonable, although it was observed that in the ordinary case a condition absolving the Company from liability for the negligence of their servants would not be just and reasonable. The Lord President Inglis, in delivering the judgment of the Court, said that "in considering the nature of the conditions imposed by the Company, we are not called upon to discuss the merits of the case, but only reasonable in the abstract, but whether they were just and reasonable in the circumstances of the case."

As regards cattle put into vehicles not used for the conveyance of animals, an important case was determined by the Court of Exchequer. In that of *Pardington v. The South Wales Railway Company* (1 H. & N. 392), the plaintiff delivered to the defendants three head of cattle to be carried by the railway, and the contract contained a special contract containing the following among other conditions: "A pass for a drover to ride with his stock will be given. The Company is to be held free from all loss or responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the loading or unloading, from suffocation, or from being trampled upon, bruised, or otherwise injured in transit, from fire, or from any other cause whatsoever." A drover received a pass to go with the cattle. The animals were not put into proper cattle trucks but into vans closing with lids, generally used for the conveyance of salt. The drover made no objection against the cattle being carried therein. The lids were open when the train left Newport and the drover rode in another carriage. On arriving at the end of the journey it was found that the lid of one of the vans had from some unascertained cause been closed, and on opening the lid the animals were found to be suffocated and others dying from suffocation. Those in the other van, where the lid remained open, arrived safely. It was decided that the stipulation was a just and reasonable condition and therefore the Company were not responsible for the loss.

GEORGE WALKER, butcher, of Skinnergate, Darlington, 7th year of age, drove a blind cart last Thursday in the River Skerne, near Darlington Park.

SHEEP PROSPECTS IN SCOTLAND.

A writer in the Glasgow Herald, in discussing the agricultural outlook, says—"The severe weather of the springtime has been more hurtful to sheep than to any other class of farm stock, and is likely to cause greater losses on hill farms than have been experienced for a good many years at this period. At the beginning of March ewe flocks were in fairly good condition. The winter had been perhaps rather too moist; but keep had always been plentiful, and with abundant food they showed evidence of having suffered severely from the wet state of the ground. But they seem to have been but poorly prepared to resist the effects of

THE CONSTANT STORMS AND WET of the past six weeks. At the end of March ewe stocks were found alike on hills and in the lowlands to have become very lean, except where they were being liberally fed with supplies of hay or roots or grain. In this state of poverty they were badly fitted to stand the exhaustion of lambing, even if the weather had been favourable, neither could they even with good keep have been able to yield a sufficient supply of milk. But the unfavourable weather has been aggravated by the recurrent storms and rains and the constant cold winds that have kept back the growth and pastures for nearly a month. With ewes carrying little flesh, with a total ABSENCE OF GROWTH IN THE PASTURES, and with and rough and trying weather still prevailing, the lambing season could not be otherwise than most disappointing. A heavy death-rate among ewes was generally expected, and has already in some measures been realized. The crop of lambs in these circumstances is bound to be a small one. When ewes are also so lean the milk supply to the lambs is always inadequate, and when the weather is so trying a high death-rate of lambs through starvation is unavoidable. Between severe weather and insufficient milk there is bound to be a great loss of young lambs. Shepherds are having, accordingly, an anxious and trying time. What can be done to save lambs they are no doubt everywhere doing, but they are too severely handicapped by the conditions now prevailing to be able to expect very gratifying results from their efforts.

If lambs be few in number, it seems every likelihood, judging from the present state of the sheep markets and the price of mutton, that they will maintain, if they do not rise above, last year's prices.

STORE SHEEP

are meeting at present with a dear trade. They have certainly paid well for their winter's keep, but there seems little room for them to pay for their summer's keep, unless the price of mutton makes a further advance. The profit which they have realized are certainly profitable to winter feeders. When secondary sheep are not quoted lower than 7½d. per lb., and the best are up to 8½d., there remains a sufficient margin to give a highly profitable return for the winter's keep of the flocks, and should the latter figure be maintained, even the summer feeding may pay.

East Lothian farmers may well be excused if this year they give way to

A LITTLE EXTRA GRUMBING.

for there is only about another week of April to run, and the weather conditions have been the reverse of spring-like. There is no growth, and vegetation is not advanced; to be sure, the sun is now asserting its power, but the nights are cold and stormy; high winds, with heavy rainfall. This interspersed with showers of sleet and hail. This condition of matters is not conducive to the health of hill flocks, which have suffered severely, and all this considered, things are far from promising for a successful year's outcome. Sheep in lots of fat stock as late as the present forward in good condition have commanded good prices, and will thus make up in some measure for the loss sustained from the backwardness in the season. Sheep have been in great evidence, and the prices offered here. Lambs were brought forward in fair order, and good prices were easily realized, but the cold, unpropitious season has kept them back, so it is the only of a few exceptional lots that it could really be said they were in the pink of condition.

THE HILL LAMBING SEASON

began generally on Sunday, 18th inst., in the Border district, and from different localities come the same story of the extent to which the condition of the ewes. Some shepherds say they have never seen them thinner. Where there are twins the mothers are very short of milk, and the grass is decidedly deficient in quantity, and the wearing a very brown appearance, owing to the keen and continued frosts which have prevailed recently. There were almost 20 degrees of frost in some parts, and the grass which had been

JOHN CRAMP, Commission Meat Salesman, 99 & 100, CENTRAL MEAT MARKET, LONDON, E.C.

(Formerly SANDERS & SON.)

SPECIALITIES! Birkenhead Dressed Beef. American Dressed Beef. Deftord Dressed Beef and Mutton. Continental Mutton, Pork & Veal. English & Scotch Consignments.

Telegraphic Address:—"CRAMPONER," London. Bankers:—HILL & SONS, 64, West Smithfield, London, E.C. Managing Salesman:—ISAAC M. HODGKINSON (formerly representative Swift Beef Co., Ltd., Central Markets, London.

CRAMP & HODGKINSON, (Formerly of SWIFT & Co.)

LIVE STOCK COMMISSION SALESMEN, (Assisted by THOMAS PEERS, of Toronto, in handling Canadian Stock), **LONDON, LIVERPOOL, & BRISTOL.**

In all cases Bankers' original account sales will be rendered.

Cable and Telegraphic Address:—"CRAMPONER," London. Chief Office:—99 & 100, CENTRAL MEAT MARKET, LONDON, E.C. Branches:—HILL & SONS, 66, West Smithfield, London, E.C. Canadian Representative:—ROBERT BICKERDIE, Board of Trade Buildings, Montreal.

HARRISON, BARBER & Co., Limited.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

The committee of shareholders appointed last February to inquire into the affairs of Harrison, Barber & Co., Limited, which is a horse slaughtering business, have presented their report, which is of a very disturbing character. The most serious charges made are, that "the weekly balance-sheets sent from each of the seven yards by the managers do not represent the actual profits made," that the directors "have not given sufficient personal supervision at the several places of business, one of them having been absent from November 27th, 1895, to April 12th, 1896"; that one business was purchased from the vendor without binding him not to start in opposition, and that each depot is worked independently, "with little guidance or control from the head office. The committee recommend that there should be three new directors, that there should be no dividend for the past year, that the board should have no fees, that all existing contracts should be overhauled, that future contracts should only be made by the directors, that the staff at the head office should be reduced, and, "if possible, the offices abolished entirely," and that the salaries of the managers should depend "somewhat upon the net profits of their yards." Shareholders are asked to attend a meeting to-day (Wednesday) in order that the recommendations of the committee may be immediately considered, as the condition of the company calls for prompt intervention.

SHADY DEALINGS OF WHITE & CO.

At Wednesday last week, Mary White, who traded as "White & Co.," corn merchants, Liverpool, was charged with obtaining money by false pretences from Mr. Amos, a butcher, of Dudley Port. The prisoner advertised pig-meal in many provincial newspapers, and was overwhelmed with orders, which were accompanied with cheques in payment. Scores of orders, however, were never cashed. Detective Inspector Street, of Liverpool, said hundreds of complaints had been received of the non-execution of orders after payment, and he had warned the prisoner respecting her mode of trading. The prisoner contended that she executed the orders as expeditiously as possible. She was acquitted on one charge and remanded on others.

FOR FORM'S SAKE—A PARLIAMENTARY JOKE.

At the commencement of every Session, on the first day the Clerk of Parliaments produces an ancient document which has been used for this purpose for at least a century, intitled *A Bill for Effectually Preventing Claudious Oathswearing*, and which is only read a first time. The House of Lords act in a similar manner, the object in both cases being to assert the right of each House to deliberate without reference to the immediate cause for which the Crown has summoned them. This is one of the survivals of the times when Parliament was ever on the look-out to prevent any encroachment by the Crown on its rights and privileges. The resolution with regard to the custom dates back as far as March 22nd, 1603, and is as follows:—"That the first day of every sitting in every Parliament some one Bill and no more receive a first reading for form sake."

making splendid progress, was suddenly blasted, and the aspect of the hills changed from green to brown. The continuous wet and cold weather during March was highly injurious to hill sheep, as they had damp beds for a very long time.

LAMBS WILL STAY MUCK.

As cold if the weather is dry, but damp weather soon tells its sad tale on newly born bleaters. The park lambing season is over, and has been fairly satisfactory. Of course park ewes suffer little or nothing from unfavourable weather, as they are well looked after in the matter of food, and this year, in sharp distinction to hill ewes, they are very generally in capital condition. The park lambs are big in size, and are doing fairly well. The crop of hill ewes will probably not equal that of the past two years.

LONDON WOOL TRADE.

There has been some business done on American account since the close of last series at prices fully up to those then ruling, but the home and Continental demand remains quiet. Arrivals to date for the third series are as follows:—New South Wales, 45,028 bales; Queensland, 20,828 bales; 51,420; South Australia, 5,152; West Australia, 5,205; Tasmania, 583; New Zealand, 55,487; Cape and Natal, 33,730—total, 217,433 bales, of which about 74,000 (52,000 Australian and 22,000 Capes) have been forwarded direct. Last week's exports total 28,019 bales, comprising 3,480 Sydney, 1,164 Queensland, 1,497 Melbourne, 337 Adelaide, 266 West Australia, 13,012 New Zealand, 4,793 Cape and Natal, 1,399 Falkland Islands, 141 East India, 748 Russia, 539 France, 771 Holland and Belgium, and 174 sundries. Messrs. Charles Balme & Co. in their circular say:—"With the exception of a few days' brisk demand from America, the London market has been confined to the usual treaty for lots withdrawn during the sales. The home and foreign trade shows no improvement and the continent especially is depressed. Considerably more than half the Australasian (together with the large United States purchases on the continent, will make the supply of Colonial wool light during the rest of the season."

There has been little or no business doing owing to the Easter holidays, and the home and continental trade shows no improvement from last week. The third series of sales is fixed to open May 4th, the list of goods arriving being limited as follows:—New South Wales, 42,109 bales; Queensland, 22,578; Victoria, 64,271; Tasmania, 2,037; South Australia, 16,664; West Australia, 4,804; New Zealand, 61,062; Cape and Natal, 37,644; total, 250,962 of which about 87,000 (63,000 Australasian and 24,000 Cape) have been forwarded direct. We quote from a leading wool broker's circular:—"The incidence of the Easter holidays has during the past week materially interfered with business, and no transactions of any moment have been recorded in the London market. There is no improvement in the tenour of advices from English and foreign centres of consumption, and the manufacturers, as well as the latter appear to be influenced by the depressing effect which the new American Tariff Bill is expected to have upon the European woollen trade should it be passed in its present form."

Do you want a Man? Advertise in THE MEAT TRADES' JOURNAL.

LOWTHER & PERFECT,
IMPORTERS of all kinds of
Chilled & Frozen Beef & Mutton,
320, SMITHFIELD MARKET, E.C.

Orders carefully and promptly executed.
All meat carefully selected and packed.
Particular attention paid to catching early trains.
Being direct importers we can afford unusual facilities
for forwarding meat from London Dock Stores.
Special quotations for whole or part carcasses.
Correspondence and orders invited.

Telegraphic Address:—"OPENWORKERS," London.
Telephone No. 678.

FOREIGN HOTEL.

HOTEL de FUYS, Dieppe, NOW OPEN—
Beautifully placed on the edge of César's
Camp, with spacious verandahs overlooking the sea;
magnificent saloons; no back bedrooms; English
sanitation and furniture; electric light and refrigerating
chamber; good bathing and cycling, lovely drives
and walks, delicious cooking, moderate charges, and
all the comforts of an English country house.—
J. PELLETIER, Manager.

NOTICES.

TO CONTRIBUTORS & CORRESPONDENTS.
All communications intended for the Editor must
be sent to the Office, 63, Long Lane, West Smithfield,
London, E.C., not later than THURSDAY MORNING,
but Market Reports or items of general importance
can be received by wire up to WEDNESDAY
MORNING.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Terms for advertising 5s. per line per insertion
single column, when a series of insertions is ordered
not less than 13. Leader page, 10s. per inch (limited
space only available). Special positions as per arrange-
ment. Government and Official Notices, 1s. per line.
Sales by Auction, Public Notices, 8s. 6d. per line.
Business Address, not exceeding half an inch space.
2s. 6d. per insertion prepaid. Advertisements of
Situations Wanted or Offered, Shops Wanted or To
Let, are inserted at a charge of 6d. per line. If re-
peated, 4d. per line. Advertising matter received half
noon on Wednesday, at Editorial Offices, 63, Long
Lane, West Smithfield, E.C., where all communica-
tions should be addressed.

Advertisements intended for the current week's issue
must reach us on or before 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON
WEDNESDAY.

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FIRST COST being a secondary consideration.
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CONGELADAS,
IMPORTERS OF
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20 & 21, Long Lane, West Smithfield,
LONDON, E.C.

BRANCHES:
LIVERPOOL - Central Buildings, North John St.
MANCHESTER - The Abattoirs, Water Street.
BIRMINGHAM - Lease Lane.
CARDIFF - Tresillian Terrace
NEWCASTLE - 13, Broad Chanc.
ON-TYNE
PARIS - 3, Rue Turbigo.
PANTIN - 26, Rue Davoust.
HAVRE - Bassin Bellot.

Telegraphic Addresses:
"SANSINENA" for London, Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff,
Newcastle, and French Branches.
"NAOKAS" for Liverpool.

THE
Meat Trades' Journal
AND
Cattle Salesman's Gazette.
REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY
63, LONG LANE, WEST SMITHFIELD, LONDON, E.C.
Telegraphic Address—"STALLFED, LONDON."

NO. 470. THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1897. VOL. IX.

The action of Mr. Roderick
Boycotting Scott, of Glasgow, in refusing
Co-operators, to sell cattle to any one con-
nected with Co-operative
Societies has naturally enough created a
considerable amount of interest in the West
of Scotland, and it is not at all surprising to
learn that the Co-operators have brought the
matter to a head by instituting proceedings
against Mr. Scott. Elsewhere we give the
whole of the correspondence on the subject
which passed between the Town Clerk of
Glasgow and Mr. Scott, and on a careful
perusal of same we are bound to say the
arguments used by the latter in defence of
his attitude appear to us irrefutable. Briefly
put it amounts to this, that the Local
Authority of Glasgow are endeavouring to
compel Mr. Scott to sell cattle to certain
customers he has an objection to serve.
They base their compulsory demands on the
score that Yorkhill is a public market, and,
therefore, Mr. Scott is bound to take the
bids of the Co-operators. We fail to see
how this can hold good at all. Even the
Market Committee of the London Corpora-
tion would shrink from the ordeal of asking
he salesmen of Smithfield to do business
with certain customers whether they liked
them or not. The decision in the case
will be looked forward to with great
interest not only by the meat salesmen

of Glasgow, but by our traders every-
where. It is the first direct encounter between
traders and co-operators on anything ap-
proaching equal lines, for, as we view it,
if co-operation means that certain people
band themselves together to sell only to one
another, ordinary traders have an equal right
to do the same. We have before now had
occasion to refer to the unfairness of co-
operative dealing where goods of one kind
are frequently sold at cost or below it, while
the profits earned on other sales are used to
pay back a dividend on the whole turn
over. Viewed as a commercial scheme, co-
operation has always appeared to us a
huge fraud, inasmuch as it means that the
customer finds all the capital to buy goods,
to pay rent and taxes, cost of working and
general management, and besides, binds him-
self to pay cash for what he buys, and to go
nowhere else; in return for this he is satisfied
with a dividend of five per cent., or sometimes
ten per cent., and this, in nine cases out of
ten, after paying from ten to fifteen per cent.
more for his purchases than he could get
them at another place. This, however, by
the way; the issue now raised is whether a
private salesman can be forced to serve Co-
operators in the face of a public advertise-
ment that he will have nothing to do with
them. If the advanced municipalism of the
great metropolis of Scotland is going to
dictate to the trading class in this fashion, the
Local Authority may as well put all the
shopkeepers on board wages at once and turn
their businesses into "Glasgow, Limited."

The outbreaks of swine fever
in Great Britain in the week
ended April 17th, numbered
60, as against 49 in the pre-
ceding week and 132 in the corresponding week
of 1896. Seven outbreaks occurred in North-
amptonshire, six in Staffordshire, five in
Cheshire, four in the West Riding of York,
three each in Derbyshire, Suffolk, and War-
wickshire, and lesser numbers in 20 other
counties. The swine slaughtered as diseased,
or having been exposed to infection, numbered
830, as compared with 1,053 in the preceding
week and 2,018 in the equivalent week of
last year. The slaughtered animals included
239 in Mid Lothian, 122 in Suffolk, 64 in
Cambridgeshire, 45 in Essex, 44 in Stafford-
shire, and 41 in Gloucestershire. A district
comprising the boroughs of Doncaster and
certain adjacent townships in the West
Riding of York has been removed from the
list of swine-fever suspected zones, whilst
certain districts in Essex, including the
boroughs of Colchester, Harwich, and Maldon,
have been transferred from the list
of infected areas to that of suspected zones.
A portion of Suffolk, around and including
Stowmarket, has been placed on the schedule
of infected areas.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION.
A SPECIAL meeting of the National Federation
of Meat Traders will be held on Wednesday,
12th proximo, in the Westminster Palace Hotel,
Victoria-street, S.W.

AMERICAN CATTLE NOTES.

A New York cablegram, dated 24th inst., says:—With moderate supplies business ruled fairly steady all the week. Prices for live cattle are unchanged at 40c. to 41c. Dressed beef is unaltered at 8c. to 8½c., and sheep also repeat last quotations at 41c. to 51c. The Western markets were dearer than last week; best Western rangers having risen 50c. to \$4.35c.; west natives 100. to \$3.50c., and best fed Texas 50. to \$4.30c. Cattle freight to London has advanced to 45s. Shipments are approximately placed as under:—

To	Cattle	Sheep	Beef Cows
London	2,620	—	6,300
Liverpool	3,230	5,740	16,700
Glasgow	1,950	2,400	—
Hull	150	—	—
Bristol	500	—	—
Total	8,460	7,940	23,000
Last week	8,180	5,840	27,400
Total to date	140,440	81,300	414,000
Corresponding week 1896	149,450	158,350	367,600
—Do. 1895	91,100	175,030	321,300

CATTLE-CARRYING STEAMERS AFOAT.

FOR LONDON.

The *Chicago* left Boston on 24th inst.
 The *Danara* left Halifax on 23rd inst.
 The *Europe* left New York on 21st inst.
 The *Parkmore* left Boston on 22nd inst.
 The *Manitoba* left New York on 24th inst.
 The *Roumont* left Las Palmas on 25th inst.
 The *Appomattox* left Newport News on 20th inst.

FOR LIVERPOOL.

The *Canada* left Boston on 24th inst.
 The *Cevic* left New York on 20th inst.
 The *Michigan* left Boston on 21st inst.
 The *Carinthia* left Boston on 22nd inst.
 The *Nomadie* left New York on 24th inst.
 The *Vadamer* left Baltimore on 20th inst.
 The *Philadelphian* left Boston on 21st inst.
 The *Highland Mary* left River Plate on 14th inst.

FOR GLASGOW.

The *Siberian* left Boston on 18th inst.
 The *Grecian* left Philadelphia on 16th inst.

FOR HULL.

The *Loreano* left New York on 20th inst.

PRICES OF MEAT IN PARIS.

Our correspondent in sending us the quotations current from 19th to 24th April, says:—No change in price of ordinary meat, but we notice an important advance on the best qualities of pork.

	1st quality	and quality	2d quality
Beef (oz.)	416	418	372
do. (100)	41	42	37
do. (bull.)	36	37	32
do. (100)	3	3	2
Mutton	510	510	485
do. (100)	51	51	48
Pork	519	519	514

(Reduced from 10c. to 10c. of 10c.)

"BAD FOR THE GOO."

On Tuesday week eleven bullocks were being driven over a level crossing just below Snettisham, on the Lynn and Hunstant Railway, when they strayed down the line. A train from Docking, to Lynn came round a bend, and the driver being too close to pull up, and having a powerful engine, put on steam. The result was that ten of the eleven bullocks were killed, without the train or engine had been drawing the train the result must have been disastrous. Many years ago on the same line an excursion train was wrecked by three bullocks, and seven persons killed.

A SPECIAL meeting of the National Federation of Meat Traders will be held on Wednesday, 21st prox., in the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria-street, S.W.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made or opinions offered by correspondents.

THE "WILLIAM FIELD" NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL FUND.

To the Editor Meat Trades' Journal.

MY DEAR EDITOR,—You were good enough to proffer the free use of your columns for the 1st list of subscribers &c. above found; it is my intention to avail myself of your kindness by asking you to publish this list in your issue May 6th. Through your columns I would impress upon all holders of books to make this list a thoroughly representative one.

I have issued a circular letter asking Secretaries to furnish our Hon. Treas., J. R. Smith, Esq., 12, Springfield-terrace, Nippel-lane, Leeds, with a list of subscribers on or before May 1st. I hope to send this to you on Monday, May 3rd. I should like to see this opportunity of urging upon every one interested this one point.—That nothing would be more acceptable to our esteemed friend and colleague than the fact that every member of the trade in the British Isles had cheerfully responded when approached on the matter.

As Mr. Field has worked for the common good, favouring neither party nor country, but tending always to the redress of grievances, the removal of anomalies, and the abolition of unnecessary restrictions, so we should be united in the common cause of doing him honour.—Yours faithfully,
 F. W. HERBERT,
 222, Strand, London, Hon. Sec.

THE "WILLIAM FIELD" TESTIMONIAL.

"MEAT TRADES' JOURNAL" LIST.

Intending subscribers are respectfully reminded that the first general list will be published in our issue of 6th May. As it is quite impossible for us to make a personal canvass, we trust those of our readers who appreciate Mr. Field's personal and Parliamentary work in the interests of the trade, will kindly send us their contributions at once. Some large or small will be equally acceptable and gratefully acknowledged.

Middlebrough Association—per J. Henderson, Esq., Treasurer	£	s	d
T. P. Evers, Esq.	2	0	0
W. & R. Fletcher, Ltd., London	3	0	0
A. G. Ormerod, Esq., Birmingham	1	0	0
Wm. Douglas & Sons, London	1	0	0
James Colquhoun, Esq., LL.D., Glasgow	1	0	0
H. H. Brechin, Esq., Glasgow	1	0	0
John Leishman, Esq., Glasgow	1	0	0
Geo. Herbert, Esq., West-Cliff, Field	1	0	0

HANDSOME CONTRIBUTION FROM MIDDLEBROUGH BUTCHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Mr. J. Henderson, treasurer of this Association, writes us under date 23rd inst.:—"I beg to enclose cheque value ten pounds ten shillings as a contribution towards the testimonial to Mr. Field, M.P., from the above Association. Kindly acknowledge receipt of same and oblige."

THE TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.

Several members of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, including Sir Herbert Maxwell, M.P. (chairman), Mr. Harcourt E. Clare, Mr. John Spier, and Mr. T. M. Legge (secretary), accompanied by Professor McFadyen, left Victoria Station at 11 o'clock on Thursday for Brussels, Cologne, Berlin, and Leipzig, in order to investigate the methods adopted on the Continent for dealing with tuberculous meat. The Belgian and German Governments have made arrangements to aid the Commissioners in their investigations. The Commissioners expect to return about the end of the second week in May.

The fourth International Shoe and Leather Fair opened on Monday at the Agricultural Hall. The promoters say that the fair hitherto held have proved of considerable service to the leather industry in consequence of their international character, and it has been their endeavour to foster this character in the present undertaking. Firms having their headquarters in North and South America, in Australasia, in Africa, India, and in the Continental countries nearer home have stands in the fair and offer for sale their everyday wares. The British exhibitors and manufacturers are, of course, most numerous among the exhibitors, but the Americans seem to hold first place in the exhibition of machinery and mechanical appliances. In all there are 140 exhibitors, occupying nearly 500 different stands. The fair remains open till Saturday next.

THE LATE MR. JAMES WILLIAMSON, CENTRAL MEAT MARKET, LONDON.

A very wide circle of friends in Aberdeen, and agriculturists in the North of Scotland, will hear with regret of the death of Mr. James Williamson, Central Meat Market, London. For a couple of years past Mr. Williamson had been far from well, and for the last few weeks his condition had been exceedingly feeble. While there was no hope of recovery, the friends in Aberdeen were grieved to be apprised of his death, which occurred on the 18th inst. at his residence, Tollington House, Tollington Park, N., and the news was to the more sad and melancholy in respect that little more than a month ago the brother, Mr. John Williamson, passed away at his residence in the prime of life. The deceased gentleman was a son of the late Mr. Williamson, Cornhill, and trained as he was to the butchery business, he carried on for some time an extensive trade as a cattle dealer in Aberdeen. About a quarter of a century ago he removed to London, and became connected with the Central Meat Market. While no name was better known among agriculturists and cattle dealers in the North of Scotland, Mr. Williamson was equally well known as a business relations with all parts of the country. He was noted for his skill as a judge of stock, and had attained quite a leading place in the great Metropolitan market. Mr. Williamson's "splendid" reputation as a dealer in the service some years ago. Four sons and three daughters survive—the eldest and third sons having been for some time associated with their father in business. Mr. Williamson was 52 years of age.

REDUCED FARES AND INCREASED FACILITIES TO AND FROM IRELAND.

Thanks to the insistent application of Mr. Wm. Field, M.P., we are now officially informed that from May 1st, the London & North-Western Company's express services to and from Ireland, via Holyhead and Dublin (North Wall), will be greatly improved. Passengers leaving Euston by the down day express train at 9.30 a.m. (Birmingham at 11.35 a.m.) will be due to arrive at Dublin (North Wall) at 8.30 p.m., instead of at 9.30 p.m., as heretofore. In the reverse direction the London & North-Western Company's day express steamer, which now leaves Dublin (North Wall) at 9.30 a.m. in a future, sails at 9.15 a.m., and passengers travelling by this service will be due to arrive at Euston at 8.45 p.m., instead of at 10.15 p.m., and Birmingham at 7.5 p.m., instead of 7.55 p.m.

THE BUTCHERS PAID.

On the 10th inst. Judge Dugas, of Montreal, gave instructions to Mr. Phaneuf, bailiff of the Superior Court, to sell Messrs. Goddard, Granger, Bonsecours market; Henri Beaudoin, Seaton-street; Alphonse Legarde, 463, Papineau-road, and Albert Beaudoin, 30, Durban-street, all butchers, and execute warrants of commitment for thirty days, in default of the immediate payment of \$20 and \$100 costs each, for having maintained private slaughterhouses. They all paid up.

WHERE AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION BEGINS.

According to Mr. Arthur Hickmott, author of "Socialism and Agriculture," the annual rent taken by the landlords to-day is £5,700,000. That means that every landlord to-day, while he does nothing, is getting twenty-one shillings for every one shilling and threepence the tenant-farmer gets. The result is that the tenant-farmer wonders why "Times are bad," and goes to the annual rent dinner and listens to the wily agent's platitudes about the need for Protection!

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN SCOTCH CATTLE DEALER.

On Friday last the death took place at his residence in Glamis-road, Forfar, of Mr. Alex. Deuchar, who does "The work, and who, for a considerable period Mr. Deuchar, still able to attend to his business, was suffering from general debility, and about two years ago his sight became so impaired as to render the aid of spectacles necessary. He was a native of Forfar, 45 years of age, succeeded his father in the business, and was best known at the Dundee and other markets as a dealer in calving cows. Deceased was unmarried.

Our Annual Subscription is 6s. 6d. Post Free.

GLASGOW FLESHERS AND CO-OPERATORS.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED.

A case of importance to co-operators came before Sheriff Fyfe at the Glasgow Small Debt Court on Thursday, 22nd inst., when the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society (Limited), 119, Paisley-road, sued Roderick Scott, live stock auctioneer and dead meat salesman, 19, Moore-street, for £12 damages in the following circumstances:—On Monday, 29th March (as stated by pursuers in their summons), defender advertised a sale by auction of the contents of the place called the Yorkhill Wharf, which is a public market. William Duncan, cattle buyer, in the employment of the pursuers, attended this sale on their behalf, and bade the sum of £20 for one of the bullocks exposed by the defender for sale. The defender asked Duncan whether he represented the pursuers, and on his replying that he did, he refused to accept his bid, although Duncan stated he had cash ready to pay for the animal. The defender then knocked Duncan down to another bidder at a lower price. This was done in pursuance of an avowed intention to boycott the pursuers and other co-operative societies and prevent them from buying in any of the Glasgow markets. It was further proved that an illegal conspiracy among the meat salesmen of Glasgow and others to prevent the pursuers and others obtaining a supply of meat. The defender was bound to have accepted the bullock down to him if there was no higher offer. The public markets in Glasgow were provided by the Corporation under statutory powers for the use of the public, and were found and maintained by the Corporation out of the public rates. These rates were paid largely by the pursuers and other co-operators. No one had any right to attempt to exclude any member of the public from the use of these markets. Pursuers claim damages on account of the defender wantonly refusing Duncan's bid and for the loss of the bullock and loss of business in consequence. The further hearing of the case was postponed for a fortnight.

The fullest particulars of this most interesting case will be found in the correspondence which follows. We are indebted for same to a Glasgow subscriber:—

"Sir,—Referring to Sir J. D. Marwick's letter in your issue of 22nd inst., with copy of his letter to me of date 6th April, I beg to enclose the full correspondence, and request you to identify publish same in your issue. I am, &c.,

Glasgow, 24th April. "RODERICK SCOTT,"

"Sir J. D. Marwick, Town Clerk."

"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and am much surprised at the terms thereof, and particularly at the position adopted by your committee. I am not aware that your committee or any one else has the right to dictate to me to whom I should sell my stock. Your committee say that I am acting illegally. I shall be obliged if you will inform me as to the basis upon which they found their opinion of illegality.—Faithfully yours,

"RODERICK SCOTT."

"City Chambers, Glasgow, 8th April.
"Roderick Scott, Esq., Chairman of the Glasgow Fleishers' Trade Protection Committee."

"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and am much surprised at the terms thereof, and particularly at the position adopted by your committee. I am not aware that your committee or any one else has the right to dictate to me to whom I should sell my stock. Your committee say that I am acting illegally. I shall be obliged if you will inform me as to the basis upon which they found their opinion of illegality.—Faithfully yours,

"J. D. MARWICK."

"Glasgow, 9th April."

"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of 8th inst., and regret you do not seem to wish to comply with my request for information as to the ground of your committee's opinion of the illegality of my action. It seemed to me that in equity I was entitled to have this, more particularly in view of the fact that your committee had considered the matter and matured an opinion without asking any representation from me. I am left to conclude that the committee

formed their opinion solely from information and representations made by the parties who made the complaint referred to in yours of 6th inst. That letter was not submitted to the meeting you refer to, as it formed no part of the business of the meeting. I think it right you should inform me from whom the circular-letter referred to in your letter of 6th inst. was obtained. You would be obliged to the editor as the letter was marked Confidential, and I think you will agree with me that not only should the letter not have been used, but that it was unfair and outwith the power and duty of your committee to deal with matters before the meeting, with "Roderick Scott."—Faithfully yours,

"City Chambers, Glasgow, 12th April.
"Roderick Scott, Esq., Chairman of the Glasgow Fleishers' Trade Protection Committee."

"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. The ground of the Executive Committee's decision is explicitly stated in my letter to you of 6th inst., to which I must refer you. You declined, while acting as salesman in a public place provided by the authorities for the benefit of the public, to receive the bid of an offeror on the ground that he was connected with a co-operative society, and it was reported you accepted the lowest bid from another offeror and sold the animal to him. To such action the committee must, in the public interest, offer strenuous opposition, and they hope that you will see the desirability of at once informing members in future you will sell to all responsible offerors without distinction. This is the only course which will relieve you from serious consequences. If you inform me that the circular-letter to which you allude was sent out in the manner and time in taking the instructions of the Executive Committee on the subject. If, however, the circular was issued by you, and was designed and fitted to lead to a further invasion of public rights, you may rather congratulate yourself on that it was dealt with at once, and a necessary caution given you and the other gentlemen who have been called by you to the meeting. I regret very much to hear that my letter of the 6th was not submitted to the meeting, as the Executive Committee requested. You cannot have failed to observe that it was addressed to you as Chairman of the meeting.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

"J. D. MARWICK."
"Glasgow, 15th April,
"Sir J. D. Marwick, Town Clerk."

"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of 12th inst., and am much surprised at the attention, when to my surprise there appeared in Wednesday's Mail your letter to the editor, and on a copy of the letter which you addressed to me on the 6th inst. I have no wish to create unnecessary irritation, nor to make more of the matter than the facts and circumstances warrant, but I am bound to say that it was not only at my own request but a manifestly unfair action on your part to publish your letter, and to send me something my replies, and that, too, without any previous notice to me. I wrote you on 7th inst., asking you to inform me of the basis upon which your committee founded their opinion of the illegality of my action, and to that request, down to the present moment, I have had no other reply than a repetition of what was contained in your first letter. Surely you will concede that I am entitled to conduct my business in the manner which seems to me the fittest and best, and to secure no beneficial and advantageous results? If that proposition be granted, and I cannot conceive how it can be denied, surely I am equally entitled to know what authority or powers your committee have, or consider they have, for interfering with me. All I can gather from your letter is that Yorkhill Foreign Animals Wharf is a public market provided by the Local Authority under the Diseases of Animals Acts. I quite appreciate that, and I at once and willingly allow that co-operators and anyone else are as much entitled to use that market as I am. I am not seeking to prevent co-operators importing cattle and selling them at Yorkhill as they have a right to do, and if your committee's serious efforts are in this direction, I am content with them, but for you or them to seek to interfere between buyer and seller, I respectfully submit, is not only against all principles of equity and every tradition of business, but against common sense. In order that there may be no misunderstanding between us, I think it right here to state distinctly that it is my intention to continue my business at Yorkhill until I am satisfied regarding the powers which you say your committee possesses to prevent me. I cannot conclude without pointing out what seems, in my humble opinion, egregiously unjust and unfair, to me, in your letter to your committee, that the complaint of the Co-Operative Society should have been accepted as a sufficient reason for the demand made upon

me without any request made to me for or any opportunity given me to make a reply or explanation. I am sorry you should have thought it right to publish the letter referred to, but, having done so, I am compelled in justification to publish this letter, and also my letters to you of 7th and 9th inst.—Faithfully yours,

"RODERICK SCOTT."

The following letter signed "Surprised" appears in the Glasgow Herald of Friday last:—"The correspondence published between Sir James Marwick, town-clerk, and Mr. Roderick Scott, auctioneer, in regard to the right on the basis of the Local Authority under the Diseases of Sir James, and opens up a wide vista concerning municipal aspiration and municipal possibilities in Glasgow. The lairages at Yorkhill exist for the reception and slaughter of cattle and sheep from several foreign countries. The management of the place, under the supervision of the Board of Agriculture, is in the hands of the Local Authority. Cattle arriving there are as a rule consigned to one or other of the salesmen doing business in Glasgow, no one of whom has a monopoly of that particular branch of the trade. Most of those cattle are sold alive, and, according to use and wont, the majority of the sales are made by public advertisement. I have lately three or four firms had cattle to dispose of. One of the number, by public advertisement and otherwise, made it plain to all whom it might concern, that he intended to sell a number of cattle by auction, but that the bids of co-operators or those acting for them would not be accepted by him. The buyer for the Scottish Wholesale Co-operative Society was well aware of the fact, but, notwithstanding, he attended the public sale, that gentleman rather ostentatiously made an unnecessarily big offer for a bullock, with the result, of course, that the bid was declined by the auctioneer. The co-operators were wroth, and threatened to bring proceedings against the seller for loss sustained—although inasmuch as the injured ones had no difficulty in supplying all their wants at two other auctions held about the same time on the same day, unless it may be accounted a moral and intellectual damage." That has overtaken them, it is a little difficult to see where the loss comes in. Not satisfied, however, with the prospect of any very speedy solution from that direction, they thought fit to complain to the Local Authority, to which, I trust, I dare say, that instant relief might be afforded them in their affliction. The Local Authority had the will but not the power to lend much assistance in the matter, and I am sorry to say. The complaint in question revealed to the Local Authority the existence of a very dreadful state of affairs at Yorkhill—a state of affairs that no self-respecting, high-principled body of gentlemen could be expected to tolerate for many days. Sir James Marwick, without loss of time, addressed the erring auctioneer by letter, pointed out the enormity of the offence that had been committed, and warned him and all those who might follow, that if he persisted to similarly transgress and outrage a law which presumably is not yet written that a repetition or continuation of such conduct would of a certainty bring down upon him and their devoted heads, at the instance of a highly incensed Local Authority or other mysterious body, retribution of a kind quite too awful to mention even with bated breath.

Now, it is a question whether an indulgence in the use of threatening language, should not that man make certain that he is sufficiently strong to put those threats into execution?

Sir James Marwick is learned in the law. I am not, and I am sure that a common-sense standpoint, I unobtrusively maintain that the question at issue between the Co-operators and Mr. Scott must be narrowed down to this point—Has Mr. Scott, as an auctioneer, in refusing to accept the bid of an individual who is admittedly a buyer, willing to pay cash for anything that he may buy, violated the law of the land as applied to sale by auction? If he has done so, then law is able to put him right. That law is not, however, the municipal law of Glasgow, which has been agreed to by the town-clerk and the Local Authority as such, have not, in my opinion, anything whatever to do.

The Local Authority are bound to see that the provisions of the Act that called Yorkhill into existence are given effect to in that place. Amongst other things, it is their duty to see that ample accommodation is provided for the live stock of the land, and that every animal landed is converted into beef or mutton as a food product. It is their right to see that a rate successfully levied to make the place financially successful is levied on all animals landed and slaughtered there, and I am prepared to vouch for that part of their duty to be performed faithfully and well—so well, indeed, that for some time the place has proved to the city a

perfect mine of wealth. A truly happy state of affairs in the eyes of some people no doubt, but a state of affairs looked upon with rather mixed feelings by at least some of the not too willing contributors to that portion of the Edinburgh Courier. Considering, indeed, that a grievance existed in that direction, parties interested were bold enough on one occasion not so very long ago to forward a petition praying for a reduction of the undoubtedly excessive charges that are made in more than one department at Yorkhill, but, like Oron Paul and his Bargainers, the Local Authority were unable to see their way, and in consequence the iniquitous imposts complained of are still allowed to obtain in their public sales. The Local Authority of Glasgow are no doubt an estimable and, in their own walk it may be, an able and well-meaning body of men; but when they begin to interfere between buyer and seller, then, I say, their wisdom is a doubtful quantity. In laying claim to the right to dictate to me as to the manner in which I shall conduct my own business they advance a proposition that is not only wild, but extremely dangerous. They enter into a realm that is not theirs, and would seek to endow themselves with powers which they do not, and I trust never will, possess. Sir James Marwick talks of Yorkhill being a public market, and says with no uncertainty that in consequence the refusal of any salesman doing business there to trade with any and every person who is prepared to pay cash for all that he or they may want to buy is a serious invasion of public rights. We live in a free country. Co-operators have the right, and nobody can prevent them using it, to import cattle into Yorkhill, and after that they are at liberty to dispose of them in the manner of their own heart. You cannot, however, compel them to sell to me if they are not inclined. As a buyer I am at liberty to do business with whom I please, always provided the seller is willing to sell to me; and I know of no law that deprives me of that liberty. As a seller why should I be denied a like privilege? The law may or may not allow auctioneers to exercise that privilege, and if it does not, neither can it compel any man to become or continue to be an auctioneer. I could if I would import cattle to Yorkhill next week or any other week without consulting the Local Authority, and instead of offering any one of them for sale alive, might, if I chose, instruct the butcher to kill them, to be slaughtered, and the carcasses sent back to America, for that part of it, without considering myself under any obligation to say to that august body "by your leave." In the same manner my sales may be long supplant auction sales at Yorkhill, and were the change to come soon it would afford satisfaction in many places; but that, again, is purely a matter for the consideration of those engaged in the business. Sir James Marwick and the Local Authority of Glasgow know much, but they do not know a great deal more, and were they able to see themselves as others see them, they might be inclined to evade more time and attention to their legitimate duties, and deem it prudent to leave private matters to be settled by those who are better able and more deeply interested than they.

English tradesmen detest Co-operative Stores as bitter as ever perhaps, but they have not (says the *Evening Standard*) taken any proceedings against them, so far as we recall, since the collapse of their attempt in the City. Civil Servants are hopeless indeed to check the movement, and the national common sense forbids them to kick against the pricks. Possibly already they have the loss in not so great a measure as has been expected, and the satisfaction of a good grumble contents them, since no better may be had. But Scotsmen are notoriously made of sterner stuff, and the spread of Co-operative stores has aroused that *perfidia ingenium* which is their historic attribute. A Traders' Defence Association has been formed lately, and it has a multitude of supporters; in fact, it proves so powerful that some of the committees have already voted large sums to counteract its influence. The first big battle is now raging in Glasgow. An auctioneer who belongs to the Association was holding a public sale at Yorkhill, and he was upon himself to refuse the bid of a person who was buying for a Co-operative Store. This action, of course, would be flagrantly illegal, under the ordinary conditions of a public sale; but the association had given due notice of the matter, and the representative of the hostile party would not be accepted. The matter was referred to the Town Council, which prudently declined to pronounce upon a question of law; but the Town Clerk asserts that Yorkhill is a public market, and auctioneers cannot make rules which exclude any member of the public from bidding. That is the common-sense view, but the Association will not allow it.

GLASGOW LIVE STOCK AGENT'S BANKRUPTCY.

Andrew Muir Wright, sole partner of A. M. Wright & Son, live stock agents, 271, Duke-street, Glasgow, was examined in bankruptcy on 13th inst. in the County Buildings, before Sheriff Eyles. On the motion of the trustee, the proceedings were conducted in private.

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

This society has issued its schedule of prizes for the annual show to be held at Chelmsford on the 10th and 11th next. The prize money amounts to £1,560. Although the Royal Counties Show at Reading does not close until the evening of June 8th, arrangements have been made by the two societies so that exhibits entered on the afternoon of June 8th and travel by special train direct to Chelmsford, arriving the evening before the show. Schedules can be obtained of the Essex Agricultural Society, at their offices, 17, Duke-street, Chelmsford.

THE CHAMPION ABERDEEN ANGUS HERD.

A new catalogue has been published of the Balliol College herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle, the property of Mr. Clement Stephenson, N.S., Sandford Villa, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The highest testimony to the rare excellence of this herd is afforded by the circumstance that on as many as five show has been won for it—in 1855 by *Luxury*, in 1857 by *Young Bellona*, and in 1894 by *Benton Bride*. The championship of the Birmingham Cattle Show has also been held by it. The catalogue, which is illustrated, enumerates 66 cows and heifers, three stock bulls, and 11 young bulls. The stock bulls are the nine-year-old *Albion*, the seven-year-old *Esmond* of Boldon, and the five-year-old *Best Man* of Benton, own brother to the champion *Benton Bride*, just referred to.

LINCOLN EASTER FAIR.

The usual great sale of horses, beasts, and sheep was commenced on 10th inst. The horse fair commands exclusive attention on the first three days of the week, and is followed by the long-wool sheep fair and the short-wool bull fair, and the best fair on Friday. The show of horses was not so large as is usual on the opening day, and there were complaints of slow trade in most of the hotel yards.

The Lincoln April Fair was brought to a close on Friday, when nearly 2,000 beasts were offered for sale. There was a good attendance. Fresh beasts almost ready for the butcher were readily disposed of at satisfactory prices. Except for this class, however, trade was slow, and in most cases buyers had the best of the deal. Half-a-dozen very fine bullocks, Mr. Herd, of Scotland, made £23 5s. each, and the best of the lot, a four-year-old, £19 to £22 10s.; smaller three-year-olds, £16 to £18; two to two-and-a-half-year-olds, £12 10s. to £15 10s.; and drapings, £9 to £11; and yearlings, £8 to £12.

SHORTAGE OF AMERICAN CATTLE.

One peculiarity of the past winter's cattle trade has been the disposition of feeders to sell their stock as soon as it was in any kind of shape for sale in the feed lot until they were fully finished. This was entirely unexpected in view of the abundance of feed and the difficulty of marketing it in any other way. It has, however, prevented the accumulation of cattle to flood the market during the latter part of the season, as was the case last year. There is not an over-supply of cattle in sight. Feed lots are there as full as they were a year ago, either east or west. Distillers hold comparatively few, many of these establishments having been shut down. There is, too, a shortage of butcher stuff on farms, which is pushing local slaughterers into markets for cattle, or the sale of dressed beef. Cows and heifers are unusually scarce at market points, affording an outlet for more butcher steers. On the whole there does not seem to be anything to interfere with a good market for heavy steers during the remainder of the year. Distillers have called their season, and for bandy and medium weights thereafter. If the advancing tendency in other live stock is continued it would not be surprising to see cattle selling higher within the next sixty days. There is nothing in sight to justify any boom, but an advance of 50 cts. per 100 lbs. is considered within the bounds of possibility by a good many cattle men. Time alone will tell whether their forecasts are correct. —*National Stockman*.

GOVENTRY MASTER BUTCHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The eight annual meeting was held on Wednesday, 21st inst., at the Craven Arms Hotel. Mr. W. W. Warden (president) occupied the chair. Mr. F. Snape (vice-president) was in the vice-chair, and the attendance comprised Messrs. Councillor Horton, J. R. Welton, jun., W. Dunn, J. Bausor, H. Dexter, F. Welton, W. C. Smith, F. Tutton, J. Kemp, J. A. Tew, B. C. Tuckey, W. H. Briarly, H. Worsley, A. Smid, W. Ducey, H. H. Corral, S. A. Corral, S. S. Fale, W. Fancott, D. Moore, A. E. Redding, and H. Welton, senr.

The annual report, read by the secretary (Mr. G. Lloyd), showed that the committee had no record with very much regard the deaths of Messrs. J. Whittindale, T. Oulney, senr., and T. C. Snape. After referring to the fifth annual outing to employees and the eight annual dinner, the report stated that the National Federation meetings, held at Shiffield and London, were attended by the president and vice-president, who also formed part of a deputation to the President of the Board of Agriculture, and from Mr. HORTON reports the committee gathered that the Federation was doing excellent work, not only on behalf of the trade, but in the cause of humane treatment. A balance-sheet gave the receipts as £94 10s. 4d., and the disbursements as £111 10s. 6d. The expenditure amounted to £28 9s. 11d., leaving £66 10s. 4d. in hand.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report, and in the course of his remarks urged that by keeping the slaughterhouses in a sanitary condition the members benefited themselves and satisfied the citizens. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MILLINGTON seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. FEV moved a vote of thanks to the committee.

Mr. HORTON seconded, and the vote was heartily carried; the PRESIDENT replied.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The past year's President and Vice-president were proposed for the office of president, but each gentleman expressed a desire that the other should occupy the post. Mr. Warden was, however, elected unanimously. Mr. Snape spoke as retiree.

Mr. WARREN returned thanks, and said his personal wish was that Mr. Snape should succeed him. He moved the re-election of Mr. Snape as vice-president.

Mr. W. DUNN seconded, and the vote was carried.

The VICE-PRESIDENT acknowledged the compliment.

Mr. A. DUNN was re-elected treasurer, Messrs. J. Bishop and H. Dexter auditors, and Mr. G. Lloyd secretary. The committee were elected by ballot as follows:—Messrs. J. R. Welton, J. Bausor, W. Dunn, D. Moore, A. Smith, W. C. Smith and A. Horton.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

Mr. F. TUTTON wrote suggesting that the association should inaugurate the proposed jubilee procession. His idea was that a vehicle should be well-stocked with English meat, and that the meat should on the following day be given to the aged poor. If the association did not take up the matter he would carry it out himself. (Laughter.)

Mr. Councillor HORTON, in proposing that the letter be referred to the committee, said the town's committee for the old people's treat intended to provide substantial fare for the blind. He had approached twelve butchers, who without exception were willing to assist in providing meat, but circumstances made it impracticable to have the treat on the celebration day. The town's committee would, however, be asked to do something for the blind on some other day.

Mr. J. BAUSOR seconded, and suggested that live cattle should be carried on the butchers' car, and after being slaughtered and distributed among the poor.

Several other members supported the proposal, and the letter was referred to the committee.

On the recommendation of the committee, the salary of the clerk was raised from £5 5s. to £8 8s. per annum.

WIGTON FARMERS' AUCTION COMPANY (Limited).

This company has been registered with a capital of £15,000, and shares to amount to certain portions in Station-road, Wigton, Cumberland, and to carry on the business of auctioneers, live stock salesmen, and licensed valuers and appraisers.

Have you a Business for Sale? Then Advertise in THE MEAT TRADES JOURNAL.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BEFORE HIS CONSTITUENTS.

NOT A WORD ABOUT CRUELITIES OF IRISH CATTLE TRAFFIC.

Addressing a meeting of the electors of the West Derby Division of Liverpool last week, Mr. Walter H. Long had a good deal to say about rabies and dog muzzling, but we regret to add he had not a single word for the Irish Cattle Transit question. This is to be deplored indeed, considering that Liverpool is the principal objective centre for Irish live stock; that the largest cattle-carrying companies have their headquarters there; and that the most active work of the R.S.P.C.A. in connection with cattle traffic is performed there. The fact also that the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association had within a few days previous to Mr. Long's visit publicly addressed him on the subject of Cattle Transit, might very appropriately have permitted the hon. gentleman to refer to the matter. His silence is significant, and were it not for the frequently expressed opinions we have on record from him, we should be disposed to believe he had voluntarily muzzled himself at the very time and the very place where his utterances could have done most good. By a strange coincidence the annual general meeting of the local branch of the R.S.P.C.A. was held the same day, and the cruelties of the Irish cattle traffic were, of course, fully dealt with, and the good work of the Society referred to in the usual laudatory terms. The "incompleteness" of such work was alluded to, as also the small number of its officers, but we hold the Society has done a vast amount of work, as compared with the work done by the army of inspectors attached to the Board of Agriculture. Why should such duties as looking after the treatment of cattle on board ship, and on rail be relegated to a Society dependent upon public charity, when we have Governmental Departments with highly paid officials "controlling" every movement of our live stock? It seems to us that the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Trade rely altogether too much upon the R.S.P.C.A. and are disposed to accept its service as a matter of course. We are glad to note in this connection that the recent virulent rejoinder of the Steamship Owners' Association is to come before our National Federation at their meeting in London on 12th inst. From the following report it will be seen that Mr. Long discreetly touched upon various other matters coming within the range of his special observation as Minister of Agriculture. Alluding to certain measures promoted by his Department, Mr. Long said:—

Take, for instance, the Act which it was his duty to pass for the protection of the breeding stocks of this country. It was stated freely that the result of the passing of that Act would be to interfere with the food of the people, that it would reduce the food supplies, and generally make the condition of the towns more irksome and less pleasant. He had looked through the figures which were at his disposal, and which he need hardly say were reliable, and could find no justification whatever for charges of that kind. (Applause.) It was stated that they interfered with the free import of cattle from abroad the result would be that

CATTLE WOULD FALL OFF,

the price of beef and mutton would rapidly go up, and that the poorer classes would be deprived of their necessary and cheap food supply. He believed there was no foundation whatever for that statement. He had taken the trouble to compare the figures for the first three months of this year with 1895, and he found that the imports of cattle from the United States in the first three months of 1895 amounted to 65,000, as against 100,000 in January, February, and March last. From Canada the imports of cattle had increased from 53,000 to 54,000 in the same period, while the increase from Argentina had been from 5,000 to 16,000. As to the imports of sheep, there had been a falling off from 143,000 to 53,000, but Canada, on the other hand, instead of sending none, as in 1895, exported to this country 3,000 in 1896, and 2,500 in 1897. In regard to sheep, Argentine had risen from 48,000 in 1895 to 82,000 in 1897. Looking at fresh dead meat, he found that

BEEF HAD PRACTICALLY HELD ITS OWN. In mutton there had been a very small decrease.

Beef stood now at £1 19s. 4d. per cwt., whereas in 1896 it was £1 17s. 7d. Mutton was £1 7s. 4d., as compared with £1 13s. 2d., and pork was £2 4s. 11d., instead of £2 5s. 7d.

IN THE PRICE OF LIVE CATTLE there had been the smallest possible increase of prices, comparing this year with last—namely, 2s. 5d., instead of 2s. 4d., while sheep had increased to 3s. 9d. from 3s. 4d. Taking the last three months, and comparing them with their previous years, he said that what their great benefit had been conferred upon the breeders of this country by the fact now for the first time in their possession—that there was no possibility of any sudden change being made as would expose them to the risk of a fall again, on the other hand, no injury whatever had been caused to the consumers, but rather meat of all kinds was as plentiful as it was before, and stood at a price which either was the same or very slightly in excess, or in some cases a little below, what it was before this legislation was passed. (Applause.) He claimed for that legislation that while it had achieved the purpose for which it was passed, on the interests of the agriculturists, it had none of those ill effects which its opponents foretold.

DISEASES OF LIVE STOCK.

He asked his critics to give a little credit to the Department to which he belonged. Nothing could have been more signally successful or of more permanent value to the country as a whole than the warfare carried on by the Privy Council, and subsequently by the Board of Agriculture, against those diseases which had hitherto decimated the animals of this country. Cattle plague they absolutely exterminated. The foot-and-mouth disease he hoped they had wholly stamped out. Pleuro-pneumonia, which many declared they had never been able to eradicate, had been practically reduced to the lowest possible point. Swine fever was another disease which had been reduced to a point probably this year as compared with last year, and they had every reason to believe that they had successfully grappled with the disease and that in a comparatively short time there would be as satisfactory an account to give of that as they had given of their success in dealing with the diseases. The policy which he had been adhered to in the past would be continued in the future, and he hoped and believed with equally satisfactory results.

THE METROPOLITAN MARKET CLERKS' PROVIDENT AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this Society was held on Tuesday, the 27th inst., in the Holborn Restaurant, under the chairmanship of Mr. Alderman Treloar, J.P., the vice chair being occupied by Mr. Wm. Malthouse, C.C., Central Meat Market. A large number of ladies and gentlemen sat down to an excellent and well-served dinner, amongst the guests being—Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Tindle, Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Newell, Mr. and Mrs. T. Rutgen, Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch, Miss Astley, Mr. and Mrs. Walker (Cook Tavern), Mr. C. Dean, Messrs. H. Arbour, A. B. Butt, S. Hitchings, George Vesley, J. H. Verini, H. Peck, H. Hayes, J. O'nyons, F. Watford, G. Swain, Mr. and Mrs. P. and Mrs. Montgomery, Miss J. L. Glassicks, Mr. J. W. Dace, Mr. J. R. Ross, Mr. J. Willis, Mr. J. J. Winford, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Spencer, Mr. and Miss Ada Redknapp, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lara, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoare, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoare, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Cornell, Mrs. Brookes, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hatton, Mr. and Mrs. P. and Mrs. H. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Weedon, Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty, Messrs. Henry Lordess, Henry Hoare, Watford, A. G. Spencer, Weedon, O. Reid, H. T. J. H. Forbes, and R. W. Reid, *Meat Trades Journal*.

The first toast on the list was that of the "Queen," proposed in his usual happy manner by the Chairman, who also referred in appropriate terms to the most interesting event in the household of the Duke of York.

The next toast was that of the "Markets Clerks' Provident Benevolent Society," which was so proposed by the CHAIRMAN, who, in the course of his speech, said that he had the pleasure in submitting it, and in pointing out the usefulness and the necessity of such an institution. However, as short speeches was to be the order of the day, he would not go into details or give any statistics. He had some other reasons for the impression that it was because he was Alderman of the Ward in which the Meat Market was situated that he had been asked to preside at the

dinner, but he had since ascertained from Mr. Spencer that it was because he was "the Alderman who made the shortest speeches," that he had been asked to take the chair. (Laughter.) Another thing that pleased him very much was that he had not been asked to announce that the collections would be made on behalf of the institution, for as they all knew the Chairman was invariably expected to head the list with a substantial sum. (Laughter.)

MR. SPENCER, the Secretary, in responding to the toast of the Society, gave a few particulars of the benefits to be derived from being a member of a society like this, and concluded by saying that it was largely due to the foresight of the founders that the Society had attained its present substantial position.

The toast of "The Ladies" was proposed by Mr. GARDNER and responded to by Mr. CARTER. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman was proposed by Mr. A. B. Spencer, who spoke in complimentary terms of the high esteem in which Mr. Treloar and Mr. Deputy Malthouse were held by all connected with the Market.

Mr. Alderman Treloar, very properly responded by saying that he was always pleased to be able to further the interests of those in his Ward, and hoped that everyone present had enjoyed themselves as much as he had done.

Mr. Deputy Mayor, T. Treloar, C.C., in the course of his reply, said that it gave him very great pleasure to be with them that evening, as he was the originator of the Society and the oldest member present. He also thought it would be interesting to those present to know how the Society had prospered. Well, it happened that 35 years ago a few clerks in the old Newgate Market, of which he was proud to say he himself was one, started a social evening when it was suggested that they should do so. He had an essay on any subject they chose. He chose as the subject for his essay, "The Formation of a Benevolent Society," and the Society as it now stood with an income of £7,000 was the practical result of that literary effort. (Applause.) He felt very strongly that it was the duty of the clerks employed in Smithfield Market to join the Society, for they never knew the day when they would stand in need of the benefits it offered. He concluded by saying that he had had a very trying day, having been in the market since 3.30 a.m. that morning, and had attended meetings in connection with the Corporation. However, he had not been in any way tired, there to support his friend Alderman Treloar, who he hoped some day they would have the pleasure of saluting as the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London. (Applause.)

A mixed musical and variety entertainment, chiefly contributed by the Venetian Part Singers, ably prolonged the proceedings, which terminated with "Auld Lang Syne." The benevolence of the Market Clerks might with advantage be extended to include some of the more courteous and a little of the hospitably offered to the press at functions of this kind.

OUR IRISH LIVE STOCK TRADE.

The imports of live stock from Ireland into Great Britain for the first quarter of the current year do not differ greatly from those in the first quarter of 1896. There are this year increases of 6,725 sheep and 3,522 pigs, and decreases of 485 horses and 19,785 head of cattle. The actual totals are tabulated in the following statement, to which it may be added that in the first three months of 1897 we have also imported from Ireland 133,000 and 174,000, the corresponding totals in 1896 having been 127 and 75 respectively:—

IMPORTS OF LIVE STOCK FROM IRELAND INTO GREAT BRITAIN, JANUARY TO MARCH.

	1897		1896	
	Increased.	Decreased.	No.	No.
Horses	4656	..	705	..
Cattle	115,386	..	124,371	..
Sheep	35,219	..	28,514	..
Pigs	212,391	..	208,859	..

As compared with March of 1896 we last month received from Ireland 17,400 fewer head of cattle and 4,220 less pigs, but 1,338 more sheep and 61 more horses. The following table shows our imports of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs from Ireland in each of the last six months:—

MONTHLY IMPORTS FROM IRELAND, OCTOBER, 1896, TO MARCH, 1897.

	Horses		Cattle		Sheep		Pigs	
	Increased.	Decreased.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
October	128,773	..	78,412	..	73,042	..
November	136,255	..	35,144	..	72,617	..
December	44,330	..	24,065	..	85,021	..
January	2,023	..	43,917	..	18,872	..
February	2,235	..	30,894	..	7,338	..
March	2,709	..	40,575	..	9,023	..

ARRIVALS OF LIVE STOCK & FRESH MEAT.

Undernoted are the arrivals of Live Stock and Fresh Meat for week ending Monday, April 20th, at—

LONDON.

Steamer.	From.	Cattle	Sheep	Qrs. Beef	Cars Mutton.
Alderside	Buenos Ayres	162	1000	—	—
Perthshire	Ancland	—	—	4856	728 3/4
Coringa	Buenos Ayres	237	672	—	—
Mobile	New York	420	—	—	—
Wanvoe	Buenos Ayres	367	1314	—	—
Gerona	Port'd (Me)	350	—	—	—
Garton	Buenos Ayres	308	1203	—	—
Urmas't Cr's	Buenos Ayres	279	1008	—	—
Springfield	Buenos Ayres	267	707	—	—
Haldon	River Plate.	112	867	—	—
Brit Empire	Boston	330	—	—	—
Scottish King	Boston	219	—	—	—
Virgil	River Plate.	230	1030	—	—
Plas.	Newp't News.	322	—	—	—
Columbia	Buenos Ayres	620	—	—	—
County Dry	Buenos Ayres	126	721	—	—
		4024	8607	4386	728 3/4

LIVERPOOL.

Steamer.	From.	Cattle	Sheep	Qrs. Beef	Cars Mutton.
Sylvania	Boston	930	1030	2876	—
Victorian	Boston	882	—	3066	—
Isleof Ram'sy	Buenos Ayres	142	671	—	—
Kansas	Boston	760	1325	1797	—
Lamb's Pat	Norfolk	175	—	—	—
Rhyland	Philadelphia.	—	—	1020	—
High'd Chief	River Plate.	110	630	1380	—
Germanic	New York	—	—	1680	—
Tauric.	New York	750	1316	—	—
Rossmore	Baltimore	731	—	—	—
Lake Ontario	St. John, N.B.	623	28	—	—
Etruria	New York	—	—	1914	—
Castrian	Boston	856	—	4520	—
Sachem	Boston	749	1416	2394	—
		6731	6137	21597	—

BRISTOL.

Steamer.	From.	Cattle	Sheep	Qrs. Beef	Cars Mutton.
Tenney City	Bristol	—	143	—	—
Boston City	New York	190	—	—	—
		342	—	—	—

Messrs. ROBERT RAMSEY & Co., Glasgow, in their report, dated 27th April, say:—"The wool market still continues depressed, and there has been no improvement during the past week. Any business doing is limited to the pressing demands of the moment, and the lightness of stocks maintains quotations at current rates. In hides the numbers were rather short of last week and of usual qualities. Demand steady without change on quotations. The supply of sheep skins has been quite up to the average and most of them good sorts. Competition is somewhat easier owing to the depressed condition of markets both for wool and pelts. The tallow trade continues slow and prices nominal."

POSTSCRIPT PARS.

"R.S.M."—"No, you are wrong; as a matter of fact there was less fresh mutton imported last quarter as compared with either 1896 or 1895, and more fresh beef. We are preparing a tabulated statement showing full particulars."

PATRICK REID, butcher, of Craiglea, Auchter-Elton, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, was last week summoned by the Holborn District Board of Works for depositing 493 Cowcross-street, St. Sepulchre, on 16th March, two sides of beef, which were un-sound and unfit for the food of man. The defendant pleaded guilty, and Mr. Horace Smith imposed a fine of £50.

BETWEEN ten and eleven o'clock last Sunday night a serious fire broke out on the premises of the Oxine Meat Company, Towa Mead-road, Fulham. Several hydrants and steamers were quickly got to work, but half-an-hour after the alarm was given a building of two floors, measuring 100ft by 30ft, used as manufactory, offices, and stores, was hopelessly involved. By twelve o'clock the fire was well in hand, and in a couple of hours afterwards was finally subdued.

In his usual fortnightly statement to the Commissioners of Sewers, Dr. Sedgwick Saunders reported the seizure and destruction of 20 tons 40lb, 19 1/2 lb, of "meat, &c.," unfit for human food. This represents 644 seizures, and of these 176 were cases where the salesmen drew the attention of the inspectors to the meat. Would it be asking too much of Dr. Saunders to say how many "seizures" were actually made in the Central Meat Markets, and what percentage of these were reported to his officers by the salesmen?

READ the special contribution on "The Law respecting Carriage of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs by Railway in the United Kingdom." This is the first of a series of similar articles bearing upon various legal questions affecting our trade, which we hope to publish subject to certain arrangements during the next few months. They are written by a professional man of considerable standing in the judicial world, and the cases cited are invariably those where points of special interest have been decided by judges of the Higher Courts.

The show of cattle at Settle Mid April Fair on Monday was rather small, and traded ruled slow. Lying off calves realised £13 to £16; gold cows, £11 to £13; gold heifers, £9 to £12; and bullock stirs, £6 to £8 each. There was a fairly good show of hoggets. Half-bred gimmers sold at 33s. to 37s.; half-bred wethers, 30s. to 35s.; half-bred ewes and followers, 25s. to 35s.; Scotch ewes and lambs, 27s. to 35s.; Scotch gimmer hoggets, 25s. to 27s.; and Scotch wether hoggets, 18s. to 21s. each. "Most of the lots were sold, but the prices generally were slightly lower than those current a year ago."

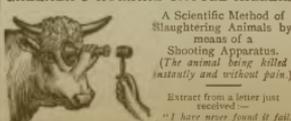
6s. 6d. Post Free is our Annual Subscription.

SPECIAL SALE OF STOCK AT PERTH.

Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Limited) on Friday last had a large and excellent show at their special sale of home-wintered and Irish cattle, black-face, Cheviot and cross hogs, grit ewes and milch cows; the numbers on sale being 8,022 sheep, 7,437 cattle, 127 cows and 23 calves. There was a very large attendance of buyers forward from a wide distance, and notwithstanding the barren nature of the weather, a better demand was experienced for both sheep and cattle than was expected, and the prices realised were quite equal to those of the previous week. Indeed, it was thought that cross and half bred ewes were a shade dearer in price. Black-face ewe and wether hogs also made good prices. Cross, Cheviot, and black-face ewes with lamb at foot were also in good demand. £ Cross hogs were making from 32s to 38s. 6d. and from 24s. to 31s. 3d.; half-bred hogs, 31s.; Cheviot wether hogs, 28s. 3d. to 31s. 3d., and from 18s. to 25s.; Cheviot dimonts, to 28s. 3d.; black-face wether hogs, to 22s. 6d., and from 15s. to 19s. 3d.; black-face ewe hoggets, 21s. 6d. to 28s., and from 16s. to 22s.; black-face wethers, to 30s. 3d.; black-face ewes and lambs, 26s. 6d. to 30s.; Cheviot ewes and lambs, to 36s. Cattle were a grand display, and comprised a large number of black-pollled ones and two-year olds. Home-wintered two-year olds made from £10 15s. to £20 10s., and from £11 to £15 17s. 6d.; stirs, £10 to £11 5s., and from £7 to £8 15s.; Irish two-year olds, £13 10s. to £15 15s., and from £10 to £13 2s. 6d.; stirs, £8 to £10 10s., and from £6 to £7 15s.; small Irish stirs, £3 10s. to £5 15s.

A MEETING of the Meat Trades' Section of the London Chamber of Commerce will be held this (Wednesday) evening at seven p.m., in the offices of the Chamber.

GREENER'S HUMANE CATTLE KILLER.



Extract from a letter just received—
"I have never found it fail. No my opinion is it preferable to the poleax in many ways, as I find that the animal suffers less before the carcass is brought to the table, and it kills to preserve the meat."
Price 36s.
Cartridges, 5s. per 100.
W. W. GREENER,
St. Mary's Square, BIRMINGHAM. (Signed) H. G. C. Clevedon.

WOOL RUGS & MATS.
SMITH, CULPECK & Co., Ltd.,
113, High Street, HOMERTON, N.E.

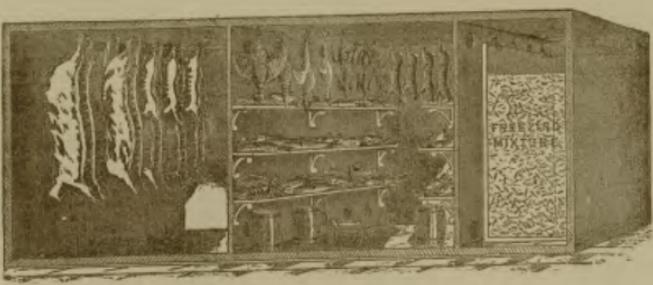
Special attention given to Dressing. J. H. SWIFT, Managing Director. S. J. Culpeck, Director.

THE BUTCHERS' PATENT REFRIGERATING CHAMBER

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Now in use by some of the Largest Retail Butchers in the World.

The Butchers' Refrigerating Chamber contains all the advantages of expensive Refrigerating Machinery at LESS COST than an ice safe, and is the most economical and efficient Cold Room ever put on the market. Any temperature may be maintained down to several degrees below freezing, keeping frozen or fresh meat any length of time in perfect condition.



These Patent Refrigerating Chambers are now being used by many of the largest wholesale and retail butchers, fish and game dealers in the country, to whom references can be given.

This Patent may be applied to existing Ice Safes at small cost.

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WEST NORWOOD, LONDON, S.E.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MEAT TRADERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

President.—WILLIAM FIELD, Esq., M.P., Dublin.

Vice-President.—T. J. FARRELL, Esq., M.P., London.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

A Special Meeting of the Executive and Delegates

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, 12th MAY, at TWO p.m.,

In the WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, VICTORIA STREET, S.W., to consider the Agricultural Produce (Marks) Bill, the recent statements of Steamship Owners' Associations with regard to the transit of Irish Cattle, and such other business as may be brought forward.

The Objects of the Federation are to watch, through its Executive, any proceedings affecting the vested rights, property, character, interests, and privileges of the trades concerned, viz.:

- 1.—Imperial matters, legislation, compensation for disturbance of existing trade facilities, which are not opposed to public utility; to promote Parliamentary and Municipal representation of the trade.
- 2.—Opposition to further, and relaxation of existing restrictions, on the importation of foreign live stock. To watch over any special legislation in regard to the sale of meat, and also the laws controlling meat inspection.
- 3.—Improved transit of cattle, sheep, and pigs by land and sea.
- 4.—Compensation for bruises and damages on stock bought alive in market, and particularly for tuberculous animals bought in *bona-fide*.
- 5.—Reduction of railway rates and charges on live stock and meat.
- 6.—Regulations re movements of cattle, representations on committees and trusts having markets and slaughterhouses under their charge.
- 7.—Regulations of local and other authorities in respect of private slaughterhouses.

Traders desirous of establishing Associations in their districts are invited to communicate with the Secretary, from whom particulars as to affiliation, &c., can be obtained.

97, St. James-street, Buryley, Lancs.

ALBERT HOLGATE, General Secretary.

THE 'TASMAN' PATENT COLD DRY AIR REFRIGERATING CHAMBER.



Economical and Absolutely Dry!

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75 PER CENT. OF ICE SAVED.

Perfect dryness of atmosphere is obtained.

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Butchers' Cabinets £12 to £16 each.

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SPECIAL QUOTATIONS ON APPLICATION.

Registered Telegraphic Address—"TARTIVY, LONDON."

THE "WILLIAM FIELD" TESTIMONIAL FUND.

THE FIRST SUBSCRIPTION LIST will be published in next issue of *Meat Trades' Journal* (Thursday, 6th May). Those holding collecting books are requested to send in all contributions to the Honorary Treasurer, JOHN R. SMITH, Esq., 12, Nippel-land, Springfield-terrace, Leeds,

NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, 3rd MAY.

IMPORTANT!

A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be held in the WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, Victoria-street, S.W.,

On WEDNESDAY, 12th MAY,

on the conclusion of the business of the National Federation.

WM. RAMSDEN, Chairman,
WM. COGGAN, Vice-Chairman.
LONDON, W.C. F. W. HERBERT, Hon. Secy.
27th April.

TENDERS FOR COT AND BLOOD.

OFFERS wanted for GUT of all Animals slaughtered in West-street Market, Aberdeen, from 1st June, 1897, to 31st May, 1898.

OFFERS wanted for BLOOD of all Animals slaughtered in West-street Market, Aberdeen, from 1st June, 1897, to 31st May, 1898.

Any information regarding the above subjects may be had from the Superintendent at the Slaughter Market; and offers for the same to be lodged with GEORGE M. CATTO, Boxmaster, 208, Gallowgate, Aberdeen, not later than MONDAY, 26th May.

R. E. THOMAS,

Meat Salesman, Commission Agent,
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Shippers and the Trade supplied on the Lowest terms. Contracts taken.

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MONDAYS—Fat Stock at 1.30 p.m.

Average (200 FAR CATTLE), Weekly supplies 800 FAR SHEEP, Weekly (Such Country Buyers invited).

FRIDAYS—Dairy Cows at 12.30.

50 to 80 Dairy Cows (mostly newly calved) Weekly.

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Faringdon Cattle Market, Deptford, London. The Asalets, Liverpool.

5 & 387, Central Meat Market, London. Woodside Lairage, Birkenhead.

Avonmouth and Bristol.

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"Brewster," London.
"Clarendon," Liverpool;
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