

EAST KNOYLE AGRICULTURAL SHOW 1851

The East Knoyle Agricultural Meeting for the Show of Cattle, Dairy Produce, &c., was held on Thursday last in a spacious field adjoining the pleasure grounds of the President, H D Seymour Esq MP.

The weather, upon the whole, was by no means unfavourable and many of the neighbouring clergy and gentry testified by their presence, their sympathy in the objects of the gathering. Besides the family at Knoyle, a party attended from Dinton, including Mrs Wyndham, and F and E Wyndham Esqrs, and from Ferne, J Grove Esq and Mrs Grove, J Grove jun Esq and Mrs J Grove, The Count de Rosmorduc, from Mingrelia, the Hon Robert Daly, the Rev C Morgell and other gentlemen were also present. Though the quantity of stock exhibited was not so large as might have been anticipated, considering that some premiums had been spiritedly thrown open to the country at large, the general results of the show were gratifying and the stock shown gave one a good idea of the excellent average condition, at which it arrives in the farm yards and pastures of the neighbouring agriculturists, without excessive feeding or artificial forcing.

Knoyle appears to be admirably placed for an annual show of this kind, as it marks the boundary between the pastoral downs of Wiltshire, and the fat valleys of Somerset, and therefore ought to combine the best specimens of our Southdown flocks, with good samples of the cattle and dairy produce of the Vale of Blackmoor. And perhaps with reference to the latter department of the Show, it would have been difficult to have produced finer animals than the three milk cows exhibited by Mr Card of Mere; nor must we overlook a couple of seven months old Devons shown by Mr Stodart, the indefatigable and active Treasurer of the Society. In the display of poultry, it was gratifying

To observe that the Misses Seymour were successful competitors, and no doubt the example set by ladies who, it is easily apparent, enjoy the respect and affectionate attachment of all their neighbours, will not be lost upon those who need any stimulus to exertion. Among the extra stock shown, three Suffolk punches, the property of r Seymour, attracted great admiration and one of them probably approaches as near perfection in regard to symmetry of form, as it is possible to do. A colt and filly, the product of an Arabian Dam by an English sire, and a gigantic Clydesdale mare, were also the "observed of all observers". The prizes were awarded as follows:

For the best pen of 10 Southdown 6 teeth ewes, Mr Applin
For the best pen of 10 Southdown 4 teeth ditto, Mr Applin
For the best pen of 10 Southdown 2 teeth ditto Mr Pratt
For the best pens of the three former, collectively, the Challenge Jug, Mr Applin

For the best dairy cow in milk, H D Seymour Esq MP
For the second best ditto, Mr Snook

For the best two years old heifer in milk, Rev C Morgell
For the best one year old heifer, bred by the exhibitor, Mr Hinton

For the best bull, one year old or upwards, Mr Snook
For the second best ditto, Mr Jeremiah Corbin

For the best two years old colt or filly, for agricultural purposes, Mr Snook
For the best one year old colt, or filly, for agricultural purposes, Mr Pratt

For the best boar, not less than 4 months old, Mr Staples
For the best breeding sow with young or in farrow, Mr Whitmore

For the best turkey cock and three hens, Mr Snook
For the best gander and three geese, Mr Hinton
For the best Dorking or other fowls (cock and three hens), Mr Snook
For the best drake and two ducks, Mr Snook
For the best lot of young fowls, stating age, Miss Louisa Seymour

For the best two pounds of butter, in half pound pints, Mrs Seymour
For the best full milk cheese, not less than 2cwt in quantity, Mr Snook

The Judges were Mr Phillips of Mere and Mr Purvis of Blandford

Premiums Open to the Country at Large

For the best ram, a prize of 5/. given by Mr H D Seymour Esq MP, Mr Rawlings
For the second best ditto, a prize of ?? given by the Rt Hon Sidney Herbert MP, Mr Rawlings

For the best boar pig, a prize of 2/. 2s, given by R Graves Esq of Charlton, Mr Rumsey
For the second best boar pig, a prize of 1/. given by J Benett Esq of Pythouse, Mr Staples

For the best bull of any age, a prize of 1/. given by P P Bouverie Esq, H D Seymour Esq MP

For the best pair of cows for dairy purposes, in milk, a prize of 2/. given by viscount Dungarvan and J Grove Esq, Mr Card

For the best draught mare for agricultural purposes, a prize of 1/. given by Mr Stodart of East Knoyle, H D Seymour Esq MP

At four o'clock a party of about fifty sat down to an entertainment in the school room, hospitably provided by Mrs Seymour; H D Seymour Esq MP occupying the chair and Alfred Seymour Esq officiating as Vice. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been loyally and patriotically responded to, the chairman proposed "prosperity to their society". This was their second meeting. At their first Show some excellent stock had been shown and he hoped they had gone on improving and that in future years, their continued endeavours to improve the character of their stock would be crowned with success.

They were living in the heart of a beautiful country, which was partly adapted for dairy produce and partly for pasteurising flocks and so rare a combination of wild downs and rich valleys, it would be difficult to parallel. In the charming Vale of Blackmoor, the annual meeting of the Sturminster Agricultural Society would shortly be held and would prove second to none in the kingdom. That being so, he had thought a similar society might be advantageously established at Knoyle. It has been so established, and he believed the happiest results would flow from annual meetings like the present, at which they were enabled to assemble, communicate the knowledge they possessed, and compare notes as to the progress they had made, thereby improving the cultivation of the soil and cementing those bonds of union which strengthened and adorned society.

In the presence of so many practical men he would not venture to discuss the merits of the show, but he could not help observing that, if the quantity was small, the quality was excellent and that the stock was such as might be shown with advantage in any part of the kingdom. Thus encouraged, they might, without presumption look forward to many happy meetings, avoiding those faults which were apparent, and retaining the excellences now observable. It gave him sincere pleasure to propose "prosperity to the East Knoyle Agricultural Show".

The chairman next proposed the health of the judges, observing as he did so that they had discharged their delicate and difficult duties to the satisfaction of all present.

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