



Ram Lamb Sales

SALE OF MR. W. F. BENNETT'S RAM LAMBS

On Tuesday last the sale and letting of about 100 ram lambs, the property of Mr. W.F. Bennett, of Chilmark, took place on a piece of land by the side of Church Field, and close to the South-Western Railway Station. Messrs. Ewer and Winstanley were the auctioneers, and the former gentleman in opening the business of the sale, drew attention to the fact that Mr. Bennett was well known in Wilts and in almost every county in England as a most successful breeder for nearly 20 years of the improved Hampshire Down sheep. During that time he had devoted his time and money to produce a class of stock which for size, quality, and growth of wool few flocks in the county could equal. Mr. Ewer then directed attention to the fact that the sheep had been without food all day, having had nothing to eat since the morning. The conditions of sale having been explained, the business commenced with the letting of 12 very superior Hampshire Down ram lambs. These realised 16 gs., 12 ½ gs., 11 ½ gs., 11 gs., 9 ½ gs., 8 ½ gs., 8 gs., 7 ½ gs., 7 gs., and 6 ½ gs. A two-tooth ram was let for 14 gs. another for 9 gs., and a third for 7 gs. The ram lambs were sold in singles and pairs. The prices for singles were 10 gs., 9 ½ gs., 9 gs., 8 gs., 7 gs., 6 gs., and 5 gs. Pairs realised 14 gs., 13 gs., 12 gs., 11 gs., 10 gs., 9 gs., and 7 gs. One of the two-tooth rams sold for 9 ½ gs., and the rest at from 5 to 6 gs. On the whole it was a good clearing sale. Among the purchasers were Mr. Moore, of Littlecot; Mr. Budd, of Hatchwarren; Mr. Bugg, of Teffont; Mr. J. Futch, of Fovant; Mr. Giles, of Langford; Mr. T. Hayter, of Woodyates; Mr. E. Olding, Ratfin; Mr. Rawlence, Bulbridge; Mr. Wills, Knook, Heytesbury; Mr. Wilce, Heytesbury; Mr. T. Compton, Fisherton Delamere; Mr. Blundell, Hants; Mr. Fidler, Mr. Uriah Parsons, Mr. Barnes, Winterborne; Mr. Pain, Popham, Mitcheldever; Mr. Masters, Mr. J. Read, New Court Farm; Mr. A. Whitlock, Mr. G. Flower, Netton; Mr. Golding, near Marlborough; Mr. Selfe, Woodford; Mr. Wm. Taunton, Mr. Wigg, Hants; Mr. Miles, Mr. Fry, Mr. King, Winterslow; and Mr. Davey, Donhead.

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SALE OF MR. W. B. CANNING'S RAMS AND RAM LAMBS.

The name of Mr. W. B. Canning has so long been before the public, as a breeder of some of the finest Hampshire downs that have ever been produced in England, that had the sale of his rams and ram lambs, which was announced to take place at Elston on Friday last, happened at any other time than the present—when flockmasters are put to their wits end to save their flocks from well-nigh starvation—it would have produced a result in comparison with which present prices are almost insignificant. At *such* a season, with sheep worth something like a £1 a head less than they were last year, and with keep more scarce than it has been for the last 40 years, there is little inducement to increase the number of mouths upon a farm; except, on rare occasions—like this— where the opportunity of securing the foundation for a particular breed of sheep, may not, if omitted to pass by, occur again. We are not therefore surprised that Mr. Canning's sale should have been tolerably satisfactory— although of course small in its results to what it would have been in ordinary seasons. The sale, as most of our readers are aware, took place in consequence of Mr. Canning having resolved to retire as an exhibitor of stock; and the instructions which Mr. Waters of Salisbury—the auctioneer to whom the disposal of the flock—both of that portion which was brought under the hammer on Friday last, and also of that which will take place on the 19th inst— received, was to submit the whole for *unreserved* sale. There was consequently no holding back, or what is called “running “ a single lot ; and the prices obtained wen the genuine result of legitimate competition.

Previous however to business, a handsome luncheon was served in a monster barn on Elston Hill Farm, which had been fitted and arrayed for the occasion, and to which a large company of agriculturists from various parts of the country sat down.

Mr. George Brown, of Avebury, presided, Mr. James Rawlence, of Burbridge, occupied the vice-chair, and the following gentlemen were amongst the company :—The Rev. Prebendary Bennett, the Rev. J. Wardale, the Rev. F. P. Parker, Major Heathcote, Messrs. Linton (Orcheston), Edmund Cusse (Winterbourne), John Cusse (Chisenbury), Ingram, Moore (Littlecott), Smith (Durnford), Brown (Cholderton), W. F. Bennett, Parham (2), T. Raxworthy, W. Melsome (Maddington), George Melsome (Haxon), Humphrey (Shrewton), Mills (Orcheston), Higgins (Wishford), E. Olding (Ratfin), Young (Bishoptone), Wm. Taunton (Redlynch), John Taunton (Charford), Taunton (Downton), Wansbrough, Newton (Dogdean), Woodcock (Fugglestone), J. Rowden (Upton), Brown, Baden, Bennett (Stapleford), William Long (Amesbury), F. S. Long (Bulford), Kilmister (Enford), Stratton (Lavington), Sainsbury (Lavington), Colman (Tilshead), C. Edney, sen., (Whitechurh), C. Edney, jun., Large (Wilsford), Coles, Notley (Codford), E. Waters (Stratford), T. E. Simpkins (Ablington), C. L Rumboll (Gimstead), Edwards, Melsome (Norton Bavant), E. Rawlence (Bulbridge), Thomas Ferris (Manninford), John Ferris (Wishford), Lywood, Targett (Porton), Wentworth (Beckhampton), Young (Chalke), Kemm (Avebury), Marsh (Maddington), Hitchcock (Chitterne), Blake (Chitterne), Gibbs (Chitterne), Mayo (Swallowcliffe), Marsh (Swallowcliffe), M. Rooke (Amesbury), Homer (Collingbourne), Russ (Collingbourne), Schwann (Houghton), Compton (Fisherton Delamere), Flower (Knook,), Coles (Coombe), Tucker, Coleman (Clarendon), Jenner (2), Sargent, Brown (Stoke), Giles (Langford), Foliott, Loader, Gulliver, Cordery (Hazely), Wm. Cole (Wellow, Somerset), Callcott, Cooper (Erlestoke), Edwards (Tilshead), Fricker (Imber), Gotch (Chilcombe Farm), Hortin (Sherbourne, Warwick), Hulbert (Tilshead), Lawrence (agent of Mr. Lewis Lloyd, of Moucks Orchard, Croydon),

Palmer (Garston, Hungerford), Plummer, Redman (Abbotstone), Stagg (Netheravon), Baden (Longstreet), Stratton (Gore), Vincent, (Wraxhall), Whittaker (Bratton), &c.

After drinking the usual loyal toasts and the health of the Bishop and Clergy, on whose behalf the Rev. J. Wardale and the Rev. Prebendary Bennett responded, the Chairman called upon the company to drink in a bumper the health of Mr. Canning (*loud applause*). They were assembled there (Mr. Brown said) to see, and to buy, he had no doubt, descendants from one of the best flocks, not only in this, but any other county (*hear, hear*). He felt, therefore, very great pleasure in coming to take the chair there that day, for Mr. Canning had been a friend of his from his (Mr. Canning's) youth. Both that day and at the second sale which would take place a week or two hence, Mr. Canning would show them animals which could not be excelled by any that he (the Chairman) was at all acquainted with. They might, perhaps, be equalled, but they could not be excelled (*hear, hear*). He had walked through Mr. Canning's flock that morning, and he thought he could safely say that he knew no man who could show 1400 or 1500 ewes like those which were to be seen in a field adjoining (*hear, hear*). If they wanted size, symmetry, or flesh, they had those qualities combined in that flock (*hear, hear*). That was his opinion, and it was confirmed by excellent judges who had passed through the flock. Before he came to Elston, Mr. Canning was an exhibitor of stock, and to his (the Chairman's) knowledge he never went to any agricultural society in any part of the world without receiving a compliment or prize. He had since he came here exhibited his stock against the world, and he had been more successful than any other man in the county. He repeated, therefore, that he had very great pleasure in asking them to drink the health of Mr Canning—(*applause*)—and also of Mrs. Canning and family. He could only say that the display they saw around them at the table testified in itself to Mrs. Canning's anxiety for the comfort of all who attended. Mr. Canning had gone to very great expense and trouble with his flock all his lifetime, and now he was going to give them an opportunity of purchasing that for which he had been toiling all his life, exercising his judgment and discretion, and dipping too, as they might imagine, deeply into his pocket (*hear, hear*). In fact, as they could all see for themselves, he had done everything that a man could do— (*hear, hear, and applause*) not only for his own benefit and profit, but also for the benefit of others, because he was now going to part with the whole of the flock. He (the Chairman) hoped that those who purchased that day, and at the forthcoming sale, would endeavor to keep up the credit of the Elston flock (*hear, hear*). He (the Chairman) could not for a moment conceive however that, a man like Mr. Canning, who had made the thing his study all his life,, could sit down quietly and put up with an ordinary flock (*hear, hear*). It was impossible that he could do so (*hear, hear*). He would go on improving some stock or other from some quarter of the world or other, and continue for the remainder of his days to occupy the position in which he had so long pre-eminently stood (*cheers*).

Mr. CANNING, in responding, said he felt deeply indebted to the company, and he was especially proud of the compliment which they had paid to his wife and family. He could only say that it always afforded them the greatest possible pleasure to meet his friends, not only then, but at alltimes (*hear, hear*). As regarded the sheep, he could only say that he hoped the flock would meet with their approbation (*hear, hear*). He could assure them that this had been for him a very extraordinary summer, for they had had, as of course they were all too well aware, a great deal of very dry and very hot weather, which did not suit him as well as when he lived at the bottom of the hill. However, the sheep they saw had all been wintered in the open field—not a single one had been wintered in the house. They were, perhaps, not quite in such high condition as under other circumstances they might have been, but though that would be a loss to him, he believed to the public it would be a gain (*hear, hear*). He had paid

attention to sheep all his life, and it was now more than 20 years since he first took to letting rams, and he was happy to say that during the whole of that time the stock had always given satisfaction—(*hear, hear*)—and he hoped and trusted that those gentlemen who might purchase that day would, on some future occasion when he met them be able to say that they were perfectly satisfied. As regarded the sale, he wished it to be understood that it was an open sale; he had no reserve on any lamb (*hear, hear and applause*). He did not mean to say for a moment that he had not many favourites amongst them, but he assured them he had no reserve (*applause*). He had made up his mind to discontinue the exhibition of stock; he did not mean to say that he should not breed another lamb, but he had quite done with the exhibition of stock (*applause*). He was sure the stock which they might purchase there would answer their purpose. Many of his friends had told him that this was a very bad time to sell, but when he looked around him and saw that very numerous assembly, he hoped the good time had come (*hear, hear and applause*). In conclusion he begged to drink all their healths, and to wish them many years of health and happiness (*applause*).

The health of Mr. Rawlence of Bulbridge, was then drank, as an eminent sheep breeder.—Mr. Rawlence, in reply, said that taking Mr. Canning's stock through from beginning to end, he believed it to be the best lot of Hampshire Downs in England (*hear, hear*).

After this the Chairman's health was drank; and the CHAIRMAN then proposed the health of Mr. John Waters, the auctioneer. He had known Mr. Waters (he said) for a great number of years, and knew that his name stood as high as that of any auctioneer in England (*hear, hear*). It did not fall to his lot to meet him frequently, but he saw Mr. Waters's name in the paper weekly, and he was pleased to see the success which that gentleman had met with—a success which had only been earned by steadily following the course which Mr. Rawlence had indicated—(*hear, hear*) - a course of uprightness and honesty of purpose (*hear, hear*). He would call upon them to drink Mr. Waters' health, and could only say that he hoped that gentleman would be able to tell them at the close of the sale that he was perfectly satisfied with the result (*hear, hear, and applause*).

Mr. Water said he could sincerely say they had complimented him much more than he had deserved ("No.") He did not say so for the sake of saying it, but because he really felt it. He sincerely thanked Mr. Rawlence for the kind way in which he had been good enough to speak of him. It fell to the lot of auctioneers, of course, to serve many masters, and the latter varied a good deal, as human nature varied, but he must say that on this occasion he should proceed with more than his usual zeal and good intentions, for he never sat under a master more to his mind (*hear, hear, and applause*). He was quite sure that if Mr. Canning's flock was of the same genuine merit and stamp as he himself was, there would be no trouble in disposing of it (*hear, hear*). As the time for the sale would be short, the biddings must necessarily be quick, so that if they would be good enough to listen to be argument advanced by Mr. Rawlence on that point, they would do him (Mr. Water) a favour.

The company then withdrew to an adjacent field, where the sale was at once proceeded with, the auctioneer deeming it quite unnecessary to make any observations upon the character of the stock, which was too well known to require comment, having during the last few years taken no less than 23 prizes at the exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society and the Smithfield Club alone. Mr. Waters repeated what had been said at the luncheon, that the stock was for genuine and unreserved sale, Mr. Canning having decided to withdraw entirely from all future exhibition of stock. This, we may say, was carried out to the letter, as far as the sale went, for though no fewer than

216 lots were offered, not a single one was passed unsold. The prices realised, as we have already indicated, were on the whole considered exceedingly good.

The sale commenced with the ram lambs, which were sold singly and in pairs, there being altogether 181 lots of these. The highest price realised was 30 guineas, which was given by Mr. Compton for a splendid lamb; Mr. Mills gave 20 guineas for one and 13 guineas for another; Mr. Simpkins paid 19 guineas for one; Mr. Brown 17 guineas; Mr. Woolley bought three, one at 16, one at 15 ½, and the other at 14 guineas; Mr. James Rawlence bought a pair at £27 6s. The other prices realised varied from about 13 guineas down to about four guineas each. The two-teeth rams were next sold. Of these there were 32 lots, and for one of them Mr. Rawlence gave 40 guineas. Others were sold at 13 guineas, 12gs., 9gs., 8gs., 7gs., 6gs., 5gs., &c. Two four-teeth and one six-teeth ram completed the lots offered for sale.

We hope that the late rain has in a measure restored the confidence of buyers, for the biddings throughout were remarkably quick and animated, the time occupied in the disposal of the 216 lots being exactly 4 ½ hours.

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