



## Knook

### YARNBOROUGH CASTLE SHEEP AND HORSE FAIR

FISHERTON DELAMERE.

This fair was held on Tuesday. There was about an average supply of ewes and lambs, and early in the morning trade was brisk. As the day advanced, however, there was a lull, and many lots were driven away unsold. Lambs ranged from 16s. to 34s.; and ewes from 26s. to 34s. a head. Prime lots fetched considerably more money, but we did not hear of more than 40s. being given for one lot of ewes, and those were in a fair condition for the butcher. Mr. Edward Gibbs, of Chitterne, sold a remarkably fine lot of 300 lambs at 44s. a head to Mr. Groves, and Mr. William Brown immediately offered 50s. each for the best hundred, but the offer was declined. These lambs were the finest in the fair. For another good lot belonging to Mr. Blake, an offer of 41s. was not accepted. Mr. Brittan, of Heytesbury, received a like offer, but declined to sell. These were also a fine matching lot of lambs. Mr. Hitchcock refused 33s. Mr. Dean, of Imber, sold one lot at 34s. and another at 32s. Mr. Hooper realised 34s. Mr. Wills, of Knook obtained a similar price. In contrast with these prices may be placed an offer of 12s. a head for a lot of poor culls. The owner held out for 13s. and did not sell. Mr. Sainsbury, of Lavington, who some years ago generally "topped the fair" had 200 good Sussex wether lambs on offer, and sold at 31s. The breed, however, does not now seem to be much sought after in the district. Generally speaking lambs may be quoted at 1s. to 2s. below Wilton figures, but the increased size of the animals must be taken into consideration. In ewes, there is no material difference in value. The effects of the continued drought were everywhere apparent in the condition of the animals. Of horses, there was as usual, a large supply, principally hacks and cart colts. Some of them were very good, and fetched long prices. Messrs. Carson and Toone of Warminster, were present with specimens of horse gear, chaff cutters, oil cake crushers, corn mills, and patent lamb creeps. Mr. Andrews, of Melksham, also exhibited one of his new chaff cutters, adapted for use by steam power. An improvement has been introduced since the machine was shown at Wilton whereby any long pieces of chaff are returned into the machine and again pass through the cutters. A five horse engine was driving two machines and the work was capitally done.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Saturday 8 October, 1870)*

## YARNBOROUGH CASTLE FAIR

Yarnborough Castle Fair was held on Friday last, and sufficient rain fell early in the morning to maintain the character of a "wet fair." The rest of the day, however, was beautifully fine. There was a somewhat smaller supply of sheep than usual, and the attendance was not large, many dealers holding back in the hope of better "bargains" at Appleshaw and Weyhill, which latter, we understand, is likely to be a very large fair. The better class pens of ewes at Yarnborough realised about one shilling a head less than at late fairs. Inferior lots, however, especially lambs, were not worth so much by two to three shillings a head as at Wilton. There were only a few lots of cull ewes on offer, and we heard of no higher figure than 55s., which was obtained by Mr. Melsome, of Maddington. The general run was from 43s. to 50s.— Of lambs some splendid lots were shown by Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Blake, of Chitterne. The former refused an offer of 60s. for a lot of 400 (corn fed), and sent them home. Mr. Blake sold his 300 (not corn or cake fed) at 52s.; Mr. Notley and Mr. W. Melsome refused 53s.; Mr. J. K. Harding, Rodmead, sold at 52s., and Mr. Carpenter, Lake, and Mr. W. Turner, Tisbury, at the same price - the last mentioned lot being purchased by Mr. Lee, agent for Mr. Disraeli, MP., of Hughenden Manor, Bucks. They were pronounced the best 100 wether lambs ever produced from a flock numbering no more than 240 ewes. Mr. Parham, Deverill, made 50s.; as did also Mr. Jeffries, Knook (200), Mr. Hitchcock, Chitterne (200), Mr. Dean, Imber (200). Mr. Burbidge, Chitterne, sold at 49s.; the Executors of Mrs. Lush, Lavington, at 47s. (200); and Mr. T. Stone, Longford, at 45s.—There were not many horses on offer, and cart colts realised very high prices. Mr. Sainsbury purchased a black two-year-old at £66 10s.; and pairs went as high as £100.— Mr. Marsh, of Devizes, sold a dozen horses by auction, and soon effected a clearance at 37, 24, and 23, down to 15 guineas. There were only a few beasts,—prices hardly quotable, yearlings, &c., varying a good deal in size and quality.— The show of implements was also smaller than usual. Messrs. Carson and Toone, Warminster, exhibited chaff cutters of various sizes, oil cake crushers and ploughs; Messrs. Reeves, Bratton, several of their champion ploughs, with patent seed sower attached (which ploughs, by the way, took several prizes at Melksham last week); and Mr. Hayter, Wishford, ploughs, harrows, &c.—Mr. Small, of the Wheatsheaf, Wilton, and others catered well for "man and beast" at moderate prices.—In the course of the fair a horse in a gig belonging to Mr. Pearce, of Upton, slipped its bridle and started off at a rapid pace, in dangerous contiguity to droves of sheep and show vans. It was, however, fortunately brought to a standstill without any injury being done.

*(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 10 October, 1872)*

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