



## Devizes Wool Fair

There was an average supply at this fair on Tuesday, samples being pitched representing a bulk of between 80,000 and 90,000 fleeces. Trade, however, was by no means good, and prices shewed a falling off of from 2d. to 3d. as compared with last year. The top price of the fair was 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  d., as compared with 1 s. 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. last year, but the range of price was not so great as usual, the bulk of the fine down wools from the hill farms going at from 9  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. Practically, all the wool now comes under the hammers of the various local auctioneers, there being only two or three lots offered by private treaty. The samples of Mr T. Lavington and Mr W. J. Rowden, were, by arrangement, this year staged in the Corn Exchange, and those of Mr Frederick Sloper and Messrs Burbidge and Gaby in the Shambles. The arrangements for the fair were carried out, as usual, by Messrs Sainsbury Bros.

The auction sales were commenced by Mr Frederick Sloper punctually at noon. Before the business opened, Mr Mahoney complained, on the part of the dealers, that is some of the lots the fleeces were tied with string ("rope" he termed it), instead of with bands of wool. He said he was sure of the sellers were aware of the injury this did to the buyers, they would not persist in the practice. When such lots of wool were made into a piece of cloth, which had any colour in it, these fibres of hemp would not take the dye, and they had to be picked out. In many cases the manufacturers got the cloth returned in consequence of the presence of fibres. In lot 73 there was nine feet of "rope" around one fleece, and the weight of five of these binders, as weighed in the Post Office scales, was 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. The total for the 297 fleeces at that rate would be 16  $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.....

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The highest price, 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  d., was soon reached, lots 9 and 10 making that figure, which was realized in ten cases, viz., for 247 teg fleeces from Mr R. Beal (Warminster), 307 down teg and 11 Dorset ewe from Mr G. Cowing (Yatesbury), 420 ewe from Mr H, Howell (Whyr), 560 ewe and 200 teg from Mr T. Kemm (Avebury), 380 ewe and 130 teg from Mr J. Reeves (Collingbourne), 200 ewe from Mr F. Cave (Stowell), 520 ewe from Mr J. N. Coles (Warminster), 144 ewe from Mr W. Salter (Avebury), 620 ewe and 225 teg from Mr W. Strong (Pewsey), 429 ewe from the Exors. Of the late Mr J. Tanner (Yatesbury). 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was made in 18 instances, viz., for 183 and 17 ewe from Mr J. Fry (Lacock), 170 ewe from Mr Neate (Upton Lovell), 670 ewe and 260 teg from Mr W. Pullin (Warminster), 480 ewe from Mr B. W. Crees (Fifield), 825 ewe and 312 teg from Captain Wyndham (Wilsford).....

*(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 12 July, 1888)*

## DEVIZES WOOL FAIR

This annual fair was held on Tuesday last, when the number of fleeces pitched was about the average. There was a good attendance of buyers from the woolen manufacturing districts, chiefly Bradford. Prices on the whole were rather lower than those realized twelve months ago, the decrease being about a ½ d. per lb. Dealers attribute it to the great quantity of foreign wool, chiefly from Australia, with which the London market is now supplied. Bidding was pretty brisk notwithstanding, and fair average prices were realized. One shilling was given in a large number of instances, but only in three did the price advance beyond this figure. Mr Schofield (Rochdale) gave the best price, 1s. 0 ½ d. for three lots, the first consisting of 470 ewe, 31 teg and 4 cotswold fleeces, the property of Mr J. Harraway, Easton; the second, made up of 207 ewe fleeces belonging to Mrs E. Greenhill of Erlstoke; and the third, comprising 307 ewe and 4 ram, the property of Messrs J. Curnick and Son, Netherstreet. All other lots ranged in price from one shilling downward.

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The largest and most important sale of the day was that of Mr T. Lavington, which came next. Mr Lavington had about 40,000 fleeces to dispose of and all were sold except one or two lots, which, owing to the dilatoriness of the Great Western Railway Company and other circumstances had not been sent in. The only instances in which prices got above the even shilling were included in Mr Lavington's sale, as already mentioned. The other principle prices made were:- At one shilling: 100 teg from Mr Coleman, Great Cheverell; 104 ewe from Mr Pocock, Keevil.....

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At 11 ¼ d. :- 117 teg from Mr E. Woods, Steeple Ashton; 393 ewe, 164 teg and 7 ram from Mr J. Wentworth, Beckhampton; 200 ewe and 3 ram from Mr F. Cave, Stowell; 137 ewe and 60 teg from Mr S. Green, Donhead; 700 ewe, 315 teg and 10 ram from Captain Wyndham, Wilsford; 875 ewe, 285 teg and 9 ram from Mr R. Wadham, Market Lavington; 480 ewe and 6 ram from Mr A. Neate, West Lavington; 176 ewe and 4 ram from Mr E. Neate, Upton Lovell; 38 Hants Down ewe from Mr J. Hayward, Freshford; 59 ewe from Mr F. Turk, Spirt Hill;

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