



Melksham Agricultural Society

This very useful Society held its annual meeting on Tuesday last, and it was, in every respect, one of the most successful meetings the society has held. The early portion of the day was, as usual, devoted to the distribution of prizes and premiums to labourers and others. This took place in the Town Hall, at 11 o'clock, under the presidency of the president of the society, Mr R. L. Lopes, supported by a considerable gathering of the principal families of the town and neighbourhood. After a few introductory remarks from the president, the presentation of the prizes took place, and Mr Merewether, Q.C., afterwards addressed the recipients.

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The recipients afterwards dined together in the lecture-room of the Mutual Improvement Society.

The exhibition of stock took place at the back of the Hall, and was a highly creditable show. It surpassed all previous exhibitions, not only in the number of entries, but in the quality of the cattle. Most of the animals were in pure stock condition, and as such a fair representation of the stock of the neighbourhood. There was nothing as a class which excelled the dairy cows and heifers, all of which were, without an exception, good. Amongst the fat stock were several animals which took honours at Chippenham. The show of was excellent, and of horses, there was, as usual, a lot of good animals, especially in the cart classes. Pigs always muster in great force at Melksham, and on this occasion there were no fewer than 23 pens of as fine animals as could be seen anywhere. In the various classes of cheese there were as many as 20 competitors, and the quality of most of it was declared by the judges to be very superior.

..... (Categories judged included Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Pigs, Extra Stock, Cheese)

At the close of the exhibition, a large number of the animals were offered by auction by Mr Joseph Collett, and good prices were made. The fat bull, for instance, with which Mr Newman took second prize in the bull, cow and offspring class, (and which Mr Newman purchased some time ago of Sir George Jenkinson), sold for 37 £ 10s, other cattle going at equally high rates; whilst a considerable trade was done by Mr Collett in the market; graziers making an average of 18 £ 10s. each, in-half cows an average of 18 £ each, and fat stock from 13s. to 13s. 6d. a score.

The dinner which was served by Mr Bown, of the Bear Hotel, took place in the Town Hall, which was highly decorated. Mr Merewether, Q.C., presided, having on his left, Sir George Jenkinson, M.P., and there were also present Mr G. P. Fuller, Mr Speke, Mr Hungerford, Ludlow Bruges, Rev. Mr Tanner, Mr Justly Awdry, Mr Palmer, Mr Jasper King, Mr Perry, Mr H. Matravers, Mr Sylvester, Mr A. Beaven, Mr E. A. Stiles, the Mayor of Calne (Mr W. Bleadon), Mr T. Newman, Mr Collings (Outmarsh), Mr Raxworthy (Upton Lovel), Mr A. Cochrane, Mr C., Mr G., Mr W., and Mr E. Burbidge, Mr Matravers (Semington), Mr Cooper (Erlestoke), Mr J. Hayward (Boyds), Mr Jefferies (Maiden Bradley), Mr Scott (Upton), Mr H. Flower (Codford), Mr Hitchcock (Chitterne), Mr Little, jun. (Lanhill), Mr J. Pocock, Mr J. Feaver, Mr Parfit, Mr Walter Hayward, Mr Joseph Collett, Mr W. F. Beaven, Mr Webb, (Colerne), Mr Pritchard, Mr A. Breach, Mr James Fry (Lacock), Mr T. Lavington (Poulshot), Mr H. Simpson, Mr A. M. Sloper (Compton Bassett), Mr R. Balch (Corsham), Mr Hopkins and Mr Humby (Devizes), Mr Collett (Bowerhill), Mr Andrews (Melksham Iron Works), Mr W. Crook, Mr Dancey, Mr Curnick, Mr B. Beaven, &c., &c., - every seat at the tables being filled. Mr Walter Spencer filled the vice-chair.

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