



Knook

MARLBOROUGH FAIR

This annual fair, held on Thursday on the Common, was largely supplied with sheep, and there was a numerous attendance of the dealers from all parts of the country. It was, in fact, the largest fair known for the past thirty years. It is estimated that the number penned was between 20 000 and 21 000. The rain was, off course, a considerable hindrance to the success of the fair, in that it very much deteriorated from the appearance of the sheep, and matters were not improved by the heavy showers which fell at intervals throughout the morning. The continued wet weather, and the serious delay which is taking place in the gathering of the harvest, also had a depressing effect upon agriculturalists, and made them indisposed to purchase. Notwithstanding this, there was a fair demand, and although lower prices had to be accepted a large amount of business was transacted. A considerable proportion of the sheep now pass under the hammers of the auctioneers, an immense auction sale being held by Mr Thomas Lavington, while Mr Mark Jeans, Messrs Dore, Radway, and Titmas and Messrs Waters and Rawlence also held sales. The private sales opened at an early hour, the demand at the outset being particularly brisk, large numbers of sheep changing hands as soon as they were brought on to the fair ground. Later on, however, when the auction sales opened, the attention of buyers was taken to a great extent from the various lots being offered privately, the sale of which was consequently somewhat dragging. The general run of prices in the fair was considered to be from 2s. to 3s. per head lower than at Britford or Weyhill, excepting the best ewes, some of which fetched high prices. Lambs, in many cases, were sold at a considerable reduction upon recent fairs. Ewes made from 53s. to 60s., and lambs from 38s. to 45s. 6d.

Mr Lavington's Sales

It fell to the lot of Mr T. Lavington to have the honour of selling what was probably the largest number of sheep which ever came into the ring under the hammer of an auctioneer during one day. His catalogue enumerated no fewer than 6500 ewes and lambs, in addition to 120 ram lambs. In the midst of miserable weather Mr Lavington commenced penning his large entry of sheep, there being much delay by five or six big lots running together. Shortly before eleven o'clock, however, he commenced his sale. Every sheep was brought into the ring, and when we say that not one was lost, the public will understand how complete were the arrangements made for the sale. Trade must be quoted slow, and prices lower, especially for good lambs. Messrs. Lyne's full mouth ewes, brought from Winchester, realized up to 70s., the purchaser at this figure being that lover of good sheep, Mr N. Young, of Ludgershall.

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Mr H. N. Alexander, Upavon, cross-bred lambs, 39s., 34s., and 30s. 6d. Mr J. C. Hussey, Clatford, lambs 39s.; 2-teeth ewes, 52s.; 4-teeth ditto, 53s.; full mouth ditto, 50s. 6d. Mr T. N. Redman, Knook, 6-teeth ewes, 55s. and 51s.; 2-teeth ditto, 53s. 6d.; full mouth ditto, 50s. Mr W. S. Price, Broad Town, mixed lambs, 28s. 6d. Messrs J. and C. C. Stidston, Netheravon, wether lambs, 40s. 6d.....

(*Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* – Thursday 29 August, 1889)