



Wilts Agricultural Society

The annual meeting of this Society was yesterday held in Devizes. The exhibition was not so large as we have had for many years past; and there was but little competition in dairy stock. – The fat stock, on the other hand, was very superior. A 3-year old heifer belonging to Mr Wm. Fowle, and a red yearling bull, belonging to Mr Jonathan Grant, attracted much attention, and were spoken highly of. A pair of working oxen was exhibited by Mr John Spencer of West Lavington, and a competing pair by Mr Pearce Brown of Burderop, and their merits were so nicely balanced, that the Judges had some difficulty in determining to which pair the premium should be awarded. Mr Stratton, of Salthrop, and Mr Stratton, of Manningford, as usual, exhibited some splendid fat oxen; and each received a prize. The Messrs Clark of Devizes showed in the same class some remarkably fine beasts, for which a premium was awarded. – A fat steer belonging to Mr Johnson Hayward, a high-bred calf of the short-horned breed belonging to Mr W. Fowle, and the short-horned cows that carried off the prizes, were deservedly praised. The rams of Mr Hooper and Mr Moore, and the fat down wethers of Mr James Stratton and the Messrs Clark, were excellent specimens. Mr W. Brown, of Horton, obtained first prize, for a beautiful white pig. Mr Pocock showed an excellent breeding sow and pigs, which entitled him to a premium, but he was disqualified on account of being one of the Judges: - a bounty of a sovereign was however awarded.

A southdown six tooth sheep *that has never been shorn* attracted universal attention as a great curiosity. Some gentlemen estimated the weight of its wool at *twenty-five* pounds.

THE DINNER

Which took place at the Bear Hotel, was served up in Mr Davies's usual sumptuous style, and consisted of all the good things of the season (including some prime venison, presented by the Marquis of Ailesbury), accompanied by excellent wines, and followed by a rich dessert. We regret, however, that the company was not so large as might have been expected; but we believe all who were present will agree that a more pleasant and social meeting has not taken place since the formation of the Society. Mr Benett, M.P. (the excellent President of the Society) was in his usual place, supported on his right by the Mayor of Devizes, Mr Neeld, M.P., Mr John Neeld, M.P., and Mr S. Mills; and on his left by the Hon. F. Methuen, Mr Heneage, M.P., Col. Estcourt, M.P., and the Rev. Mr Ashe; and among the company there were also Mr G. Elgar Sloper, Mr Grant (of Manningford), Mr T. Brown, Mr W. Brown, Mr S. Neate, Mr Benjamin, Mr S. Mills, Jun., Mr Maton, Mr Jonathan Grant, Mr Pocock, Mr Melsome, Mr Chas. Harding, Mr J. Wentworth, Mr R. Stratton (Salthrop), Mr Jos. Stratton, jun. (Manningford), Mr Hull, Mr Clark, &c. &c. Mr Nicholson (the worthy Secretary of the Society) filled the vice-chair.

.....

(Premiums given to the following categories – Horned Cattle, Pigs, Sheep)

GREAT COATS were awarded to the following-

Robert Fowler, servant to Mr Ingram of Upton Lovell.

John Davis, servant to Mr John Spencer of Lavington.

George Drew, recommended by Mr Bramble of Devizes.

(*Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* – Thursday 20 July, 1848)