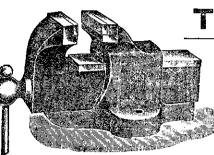
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THE FARM.

(By "Furrow").

MORE SENSATIONAL PRICES.

Taranaki breeders have been speaking again in hundreds of pounds for individual animals, and even calves are in the three-figure class now. These high prices were realised at a pedigree sale held at New Plymouth last month. Six cows and two-year-old heifers submitted on behalf of Mr Stonex averaged 158gs, the top price being realised by Bay View's Lass, which was secured by Mr J. C. Nicholson, of Hawera, at 199gs. Mr J. B. Groom purchased the twoyear-old heifer Bessie's Passion Flower at 186gs. Six calves averaged 67fgs, the top price being realised by the six weeks old heifer calf from the top-priced cow. namely, 92gs. A yearling heifer also realised 100gs. In all, 14 submitted on behalf of Mr Stonex realised 1111½gs. The top price for the sale was realised by Mr C. W. Reube's two-year-old heifer Avoca's Daisy, which was purchased by Mr C. H. Sharpe, Te Roti, for 312gs. Her four months' old heifer calf by Oakland's Squire Mahone realised

MANURING FOR WINTER CROPS.

If manure for winter crops are not already in hand they should be ordered without delay. As a rule wheat and rye will not require artificials in the following cases: (1) Where farmyard manure has been applied; (2) where they follow a root crop which has been well manured; (3) if they follow clover, beans or rich pasture; or (4) if the land has been bare-fallowed.

Where land is poor, heavy bare fallows should receive about 6cwt of slag or 5cwt of superphosphate to the acre. a straw crop or where the soil is impoverished, \$\frac{3}{2}\text{ to \$1\frac{1}{2}\text{cwt} of sulphate of ammonia, or its equivalent, in addition to 2 or 3cwt of superphosphate should be given. The superphosphate should be applied at sowing time, but the bulk of the sulphate of ammonia may be reserved for a top dressing in the spring. These manures may be used for winter oats and barley, but it should be remembered that the two crops named require less sulphate of ammonia than wheat.

Of the leguminous crops beans will do well on land that has received a light dressing of farmyard manure, say 8 to 10 tons per acre ploughed in to a depth of five or six inches. Beans do well with an additional dressing of about 4cwt superphosphate or 6 to 8cwt of basic slag. In the absence of farmyard manure, 4cwt kainit or its equivalent should be added to the phosphatic manures, and these manures in like proportion may be used for vetches and vetch mixtures.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST OX.

A NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTION.

Although we are but a young ctuntry we have records in many lines of endeavour which have startled the people of the Old World. During the past two years, the live stock world here and in Australia has been mildly interested in the size and weight of bullocks. Quality and the distribution of the meat to the best cuts was not the consideration, the aim being purely that of bulk.

At the Grand National market at Addington last August, £204 was paid for a Shorthorn bullock whose weight was given as 3056lb. This bullock has been claimed as the Australasian cham-

England's heaviest bullock is held to be "Pat the Giant," an Irish bred roan Shorthorn, which scaled 254 stone, or 3556lb. This animal created a sensation when exhibited at Birmingham Fat Stock Show in 1912. His height at the shoulder was 5ft 7in, length from ears to rump 9ft, and girth at shoulder 10ft 1in. His weight and measurements prevailed over those of the famous Durham Ox and other giants of a few years ago. It is as well perhaps to note that the above weights have been disputed, but they are the maximum weights claimed. Yet despite this, a heavy bullock was produced at the recent Wanganui Show. This was a six-year-old bullock exhibited by the well-known Hereford breeder, Mr Frank Moore, of Bushy Park, Kai This was a Hereford-Shorthorn cross, and when put on the scales at Wanganui he weighed 3640lb, which is equal to 1 ton 12cwt 2qrs. He is therefore 94lb heavier than Pat the Giant, and 594lb heavier than the Grand National bullock. Mr Moore's bullock which was bred by Messrs Bayly Bros., of Wanganui, will carry a lot of beef yet, as he came off the grass. He may be fed on concentrates and taken across to the Sydney Royal. Given treatment of that nature, the bullock, which is of a very docile disposition, should easily

reach the 4000lb mark, and thus a record would be established by New Zealand that might stand for a century

The Poultry-Yard

(By "S.Q.M.").

WHY HENS DIE. If poultrykeepers were aware of the

nature of a hen's digestive intricate system, they would be more careful in feeding. We are quite sure that most of the ails and deaths in adult stock (and young chickens for that matter) are due to faulty feeding. There are three important organs that I must mention, viz., the crop, stomach, and gizzard respectively, and the "in between" apertures connecting them up are very small. So much so that I have often known a large whole maize to block up the entrance. And if such happens the digestive organs stop, the food in the organs goes sour, and the bird is inwardly poisoned by the gases from the stale food-Poultrykeepers are therefore stuffs. warned not to feed on large pieces of bacon rind, cheese rind, cabbage, potato peeling and the like, as these may easily cause a stoppage and the loss of many birds from crop compaction. Therefore, one should be most careful to mince up such dangerous scraps very finely before adding them to the mash. When such scraps are boiled it is a good plan to mince them first and after boiling they can be strained and added to the mash. The same applies equally, or perhaps to an even greater extent, to young chicks, as the digestive organs are built on more slender lines and the apertures are so very small. Invariably it is the use of coarse or indigestive foodstuffs which causes heavy mortality among chicks. Many owners think that it must necessarily be an epidemic or scourge that is responsible for losing seven or eight chicks daily out of a brood and never suspect injudicious feeding.

THE BUSY CALIFORNIAN HEN.

One Californian town—Petaluma—with less than 10,000 inhabitants, shipped to market last year more than 125,000,000 eggs and 88,824 dozen poultry, according to the report of the California Development Board. In addition to actual ship. ments of eggs to market, over 1,681,166 dozen eggs are used for hatching and for home consumption. These added to the above bring the total production of the Petaluma district up to about 145,750,920 eggs. Three million baby chicks are estimated to have been shipped away.

The daily food requirements for poultry in the Petaluma district for the year aggregate over 1,200,000 pounds, of which wheat, corn, barley, bran and middlings form the largest part.

The average chicken ranch near Petaluma consists of about five acres, upon which are placed from 500 to 3000 hens. There are, of course, quite a number of larger ranches which maintain 5000 to 30,000 chickens. A person should have from £600 to £1000 to equip a chicken farm and get ready for a profitable business. In case of renting, however, about £300 is needed to start the prospective poultryman. The average profit on each hen is about 4s 2d per year.

A farm which has recently been started in Inyo County with 400 acres and 12,-000 laying hens selected from Petalum and from Monroe, New York, is an enterprise that is bidding for patronage, and with its 200,000 incubator capacity and favourable climatic conditions, will do a large part in supplying the demand, especially for eggs and baby chicks. There are many places throughout Casifornia where like enterprises could be undertaken with a fair promise of success and a good market near at hand,

Notwithstanding the remarkable development of the poultry business at Petaluma and other places, the increase is not sufficient to meet the demands of the immediate market. The rapidly expanding population of the State requires the importation in season of some 425 railway truck loads of live and 75 such loads of dressed poultry to San Francisco and Los Angeles, besides several million dozen eggs each year from eastern points, and there is no immediate prospect of the home supply overtaking the market. This fact insures the success of all practical poultrymen who engage in the industry in California.

Florida is the great orange-growing State in the American Union.

Diamonds have increased 160 per cent. in value, and emeralds 300 per cent. during the last few years, while rubies have decreased.

Winter Bros.,

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