

THE SHOW SEASON.

The summer show season opened last week, and county and district fixtures will follow in quick succession until the premier exhibition at Norwich on the last five days of June. The calendar of shows from April till October is indicative of the place which live stock occupy in the agriculture of the United Kingdom. The show system and the breeding of pedigree live stock have advanced together, the one a necessary corollary of the other, and, although the showyard is sometimes blamed for having wrought havoc with the utility qualities of certain breeds, it has done more than anything else to raise this country to pre-eminence in the breeding of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs.

Norwich will this year have the distinction of having the principal show of the year. Crown Point, as picturesque a site as could be desired, will be the centre of attraction in the agricultural world from June 26 till June 30, and the third visit of the Society to Norwich will be made memorable by reason of its being held under the presidency of the King. Subject to the weather the success of the show is assured. An entry for the Implement Department exceeding that at Liverpool last year is a hopeful augury, and although the entries of live stock are not yet known, the applications for entry forms justify sanguine expectations. The local fund has been very well supported, and Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes announces that the promises amount to £5,933 19s. The show of the Bath and West Society is this year held in Wales, Cardiff, which has a splendid record as a supporter of agricultural meetings, being the centre visited. The Bath Society is exceedingly popular in the West, where its work in behalf of agriculture is greatly appreciated, and its show, which opens on May 31, promises to maintain the high standard of previous years. Next of the representative shows comes that of the Royal Counties Society at Weymouth, the Society paying on June 13-16 one of its rare visits into Dorsetshire. After an interval of some weeks, devoted mainly to county and local shows, the meeting of the Highland and Agricultural Society will be held at Inverness in the closing days of July, and the Horse and Sheep Show of the Royal Dublin Society will be the attraction at Balls Bridge in the fourth week of August. The Estate Shows, which have done so much to promote the breeding of better animals by tenants on the Welbeck, Clumber, Wynyard, Crewe, Madresfield, and other estates, are prominent among the early August fixtures.

The entries for the Weymouth show of the Royal Counties Agricultural Society on June 13 and three following days have closed with satisfactory results. The sheep section, which will include for the first time classes of Dorset Downs, will as usual be a prominent feature, and in a representative cattle department the Jersey classes will again be exceptionally strong. The prizes amount in value to £2,200, including two champion prizes given by the King—for the best hunter and the best herd of dairy cows respectively—and a donation from the Duchy of Cornwall.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

There is still time to take measures for restricting the warble fly pest in the later summer months. The Board of Agriculture and the Irish Department of Agriculture both impress upon stockowners the desirability of destroying as many warble maggots as possible before they have escaped from the backs of the animals in which they have been hatched. The maggots mature in April and May, and many may have already gained their liberty, but the pest may be appreciably reduced if systematic inspection is made this month. The experiments conducted in Ireland prove that the destruction of the maggots mitigates the evil, and justifies the belief that if the attack was general the pest would be entirely stamped out.

It is reported from Liverpool that Ireland is contemplating the development of her exports of meat to that seaport. This rumour is merely a variation of the old assertion that Ireland had resolved to fatten a larger proportion of her store cattle. It is doubtful how far the farmers are in favour of the predicted change, but we should say that the majority value too highly the monopoly of the British store market to embark upon a project which will lead them into competition with all sources of meat production. It is well known that in recent years store cattle have paid relatively better than fat, and it is difficult therefore to see what benefit could possibly be derived from such a change.

RHINOCEROS FOR THE KING'S COLLECTION.

ARRIVAL AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

A young African rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*) arrived at the Gardens on Friday evening and was transferred to the quarters arranged for it in the King's African Collection early on Saturday morning.

It is apparently in excellent health and appears to be about 18 months old. It was obtained some eight months ago by an English settler in British East Africa, and Mr. R. B. Woosnam, the Game Warden, who is a corresponding member of the Society, secured it for the King's Collection. It was brought by train from Nairobi and shipped at Mombasa in the Union-Castle Line's Carisbrook Castle in charge of Mr. A. D. Welstead, who has recently been acting as Assistant Game Warden. The young rhinoceros was accompanied by a native boy, with whom it is on the friendliest terms, and for whom it screams when separated. It stands over two feet in height, and the anterior of the two horns characteristic of the African form is stout and conical, being over three inches long, whilst the posterior horn is represented by a small sharp stump. It has been taking chiefly milk and sugar cane, and the Curator of Mammals has been able to provide a large supply of the latter, the quantity shipped with the animal being nearly finished. The young rhinoceros has come at the best time of the year, and as it is a male will be a mate for the fine young female already in the possession of the Society. There seems to be no reason why rhinoceroses should not breed in captivity, but it has very rarely happened that suitable pairs have been in the possession of Zoological Gardens, and there appears to be no record of a birth in captivity, at least in European gardens. A full-grown African rhinoceros of the black or most common species may reach a huge size, the height at the shoulders being as much as five to six feet, and the rarer species, the square-nosed or white rhinoceros, which has not been exhibited in captivity, attains a still greater size. There is some doubt as to the longevity of these creatures; Brian Hodgson was of the opinion that a century was the natural term of their lives, but the *maximum* duration of which there is an exact record is that of an Indian rhinoceros which lived for 40 years in the London Gardens. A rhinoceros about the age of the new arrival fetches as much as £800 in Europe.

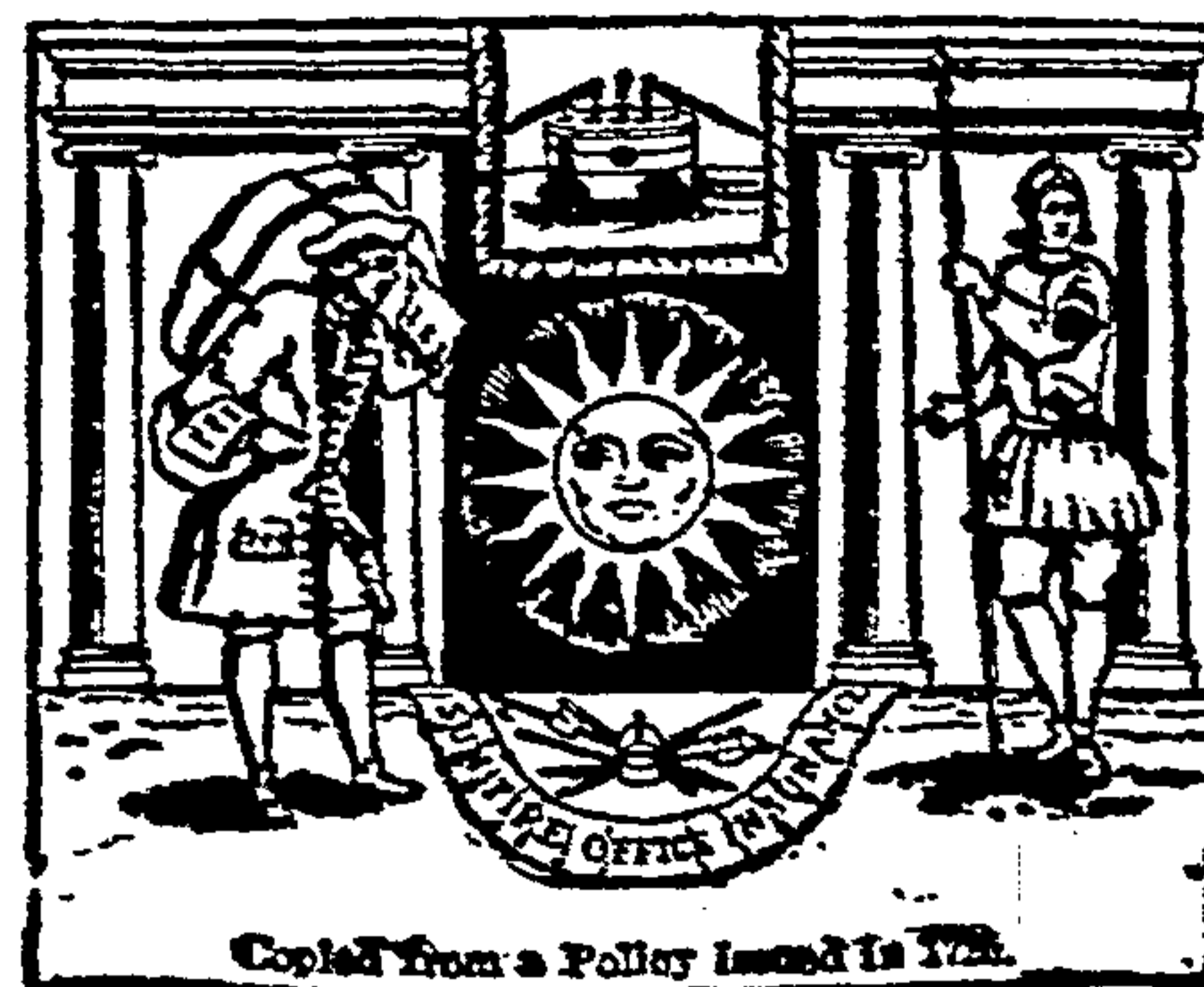
Owing to unexpected delays on the voyage, the Union-Castle steamship Comrie Castle, which is bringing a very large consignment of South African animals for the King's Collection, will not arrive this week, as was anticipated, but some time in the course of next week. A full list of the animals will be posted when the ship calls at Lisbon, so that final preparations may be made for their landing at Southampton, entraining for London, and arrangement in the new enclosures. The delay is in one respect fortunate, as it is to be hoped that the existing spell of unseasonable weather will be over before their arrival. The authorities hope to have the animals displayed in the Gardens within 48 hours of their landing, and the collection will be on public view as soon as the King has made his promised visit of inspection.

RESCUE WORK IN MINES.

HOME OFFICE DRAFT ORDER.

The Home Office has issued a draft Order, made by the Secretary of State under the Mines Accidents (Rescue and Aid) Act, 1910, dealing with the formation of rescue brigades in mines. Objection to the draft Order, if any, has to be sent to the Home Office within 40 days.

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