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SMITHFIELD - COUNTRY COMES TO TOWN:

Once again, the country comes to London as the Smithfield Show opens at Earls Court. Out come the brushes and combs as the leading actors prepare for their debut in the show ring. Like sheep dogs with hat-rack attachments, high Highland Cattle succumb patiently to the beauty treatment. Other actors (obviously less) are got ready for their entrance.

Glynsland Matador is the name of this Devon Steer. It's owner? The Duke of Cornwall. Onto the scales, and the judges agree that it's the best in its particular class, even better than some of the Queen's beasts.

In the show-ring the champions parade. Leading the entrants is the steer "Seumas", voted the best Highland animal in the show. Naturally enough, Scotland carries off many of the big prizes, with Wales not far behind. The Earl of Durham enters a cross-bred first-class steer with a romantic name - "Moonlight"