

steadiness of purpose in the management of the herd. He has been called "the guiding star of the Mar Agricultural Society," and as a man and neighbor he was held in high esteem. The members of his family have retained a large interest in the breed of which their father was one of the early enthusiastic supporters. The present tenant of Kinellar, also Sylvester Campbell, and his brother, George Campbell, of Harthill, both are judges, breeders and dealers. During the Canadian and North American boom the former exported 300 Shorthorns to Canada on commission, and since that time he has been one of Baillie Taylor's channels of supply for the Argentine. At the joint sale on the Friday of Shorthorn week, last autumn, he sold four, his average being £75 1s. 6d., the highest of the day. Another brother, Alexander, tenant of Deystone, the neighboring farm to Kinellar, has retained some of the old Kinellar strains, such as the Claret, Nonpareils and Clementinas. His young stock being all sent abroad, and he being a modest man who does not seek publicity, his name is less well known than it deserves to be. Another well-known breeder and judge of Shorthorns, Alex. Watson, late of Auchronic, and now of Bruceland, is a son-in-law to the late Sylvester Campbell.—[B. in the Scottish Farmer.

### Expert Judges Claimed to be Satisfactory in Most Cases.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

On page 883 of your issue of May 31st there is an article headed "Expert Judges," by a contributor signing the initials "O. C." Wentworth County, to which I would like to reply.

It is stated that some agricultural societies are regretfully abandoning expert judges for some one of four reasons that are given. The first reason is that the judges promised in some instances have not been forwarded, and the fair directors have, at the last moment, been obliged to take someone whom they did not choose and whom they did not care to have. It is added that satisfactory reasons for the change of judges have not always been given.

It is difficult to answer a general statement of this nature. If your contributor will instance a case that has occurred within the last two years, with only one or two exceptions, I will guarantee to furnish a reason that will be satisfactory to the majority of your readers at least. It is true that in not more than five cases out of 300, the Department, during the last two years, has been forced to make a change in judges without having time to consult the directors of the society interested. In one case the judge's mother died very suddenly, and on this occasion the judge had not even time to notify the Department, but sent another judge at short notice, so as not to disappoint the societies altogether. In two other cases the judges missed connections on the way to the fair, and the society did not receive a judge at all. In two other cases a clerical error in the Department resulted in the judges not putting in an appearance. I am prepared to name these cases referred to, and to invite societies to mention any others.

There is not a year that societies which select their own judges outside of the Department are not frequently disappointed by the non-appearance of the men engaged. In fact, this was one of the main objections to the old system. It is because societies that have had judges from the Department find that they are more likely to receive them, that the system has been growing so rapidly in favor.

The second objection made is that some of the so-called expert judges have proven to be men whose rulings were not consistent one with another. It may be true that this happens more or less frequently. Any man who has had any experience in judging can realize the reasons for this. It frequently happens during the year that the order in which the animals are placed on one day at one fair, is reversed by a judge when the same animals come before him at another fair. It will generally be found that the judge recognizes that the same animals have been before him at another fair, but one or the other have gone back in form through long driving, lack of proper feed, or other reasons, so that it would not be right for the judge to again place that animal to the front. When changes of this kind occur, it always creates great dissatisfaction on the part of the man who loses the prize when he expected to win it. Occurrences of this kind are common, and can be learned from any person who has had any experience in judging stock.

The third objection given is that the judges sometimes lack the ability to give their reasons for the decisions. This raises a question that has been often debated. In selecting its judges the Department has followed the rule of endeavoring to engage men whom it knows to be thoroughly competent, in preference to men who might be much talkers, but otherwise not so competent. Some of the best judges the Department has are men who find it difficult to give their reasons when surrounded by a large crowd. It will

usually be found, however, that these men are able to give their reasons very creditably when asked quietly for them afterwards. All the judges are instructed to give their reasons as far as possible. A competent judge who can give his reasons, is always given the preference by the Department. Such an authority as "The Farmer's Advocate" has spoken in favor of this principle. The fourth complaint is that the rate of payment is too high for the value of the men. It is thought that \$5.00 a day is quite sufficient for any judge whose labors rarely extend over a few hours. The salary of judges who have been at work for two or more seasons, this year, will be \$1.00 a day. Judges who have been judging only one season will be paid only \$3.00 a day. The rest of the money paid by the fairs is required to pay part of the travelling and hotel expenses, which are very heavy. Last year the societies did not pay more than one-third of the total expenses connected with the sending of expert judges to the different fairs.

It is not claimed that all the judges sent out by the Department have been perfect. A number of them have been far from that, and such men have been discontinued as soon as it became known that they were not competent. The best evidence of the success of the system is that, in spite of the failings of some of the judges, the number of societies applying for them has rapidly increased in number, and that at the conventions of the officers of agricultural societies the system has been heartily commended.

Criticism of such an important matter as this is desirable. Critics, however, should bear in mind that the officials of the Department of Agriculture, and the judges, would have to be more than human to be able to give perfect satisfaction to the hundreds of societies that have had these judges, and to the thousands of exhibitors whose animals have been judged. The only fair way to judge the expert-judge system is according to the total results obtained, and not by isolated cases.

H. B. COWAN,  
Supt. of Agricultural Societies.

### Our Scottish Letter.

I have just returned from a three days' tour in the dairying district of Shropshire, in the company of members of the British Dairy Farmers' Association. The county is chiefly famous for its breed of sheep, requiring no introduction to Canadians. Everywhere one finds the thick, low-set sheep, which seems, as a Lincoln man in our company put it, to have no wool, yet clips a heavy fleece. The Lincoln man owned up that the Shrop sold for more pence per lb. than the Lincoln, but, of course, like a sensible man, he adhered tenaciously to his own opinion that the Lincoln sheep was best. So he is—in Lincoln, and the man merits looking up who imagines he can compel a public to take to a new breed of any class of stock when there is a native breed which pays quite well. Every breed of stock is best in the district to which it is indigenous. There is no real "best" in any breed; they are good, better and best representatives of their own breeds.

The horses of Shropshire are Shires with harder legs than the Shires of the Lincoln and Cambridge fens. This is due to the nearness of the limestone formation of the Welsh hills. The hardest class of Shires is undoubtedly found in the Western Shires of England, such as the Fylde district of Lancashire, and the Welshpool district of Monmouth.

Hereford cattle are kept by several breeders in the immediate vicinity of the town of Shrewsbury, but the Shorthorn dairy type easily holds sway in the more grassy pasture lands. Mr. Minton, of Montford, a famous breeder of Shropshire sheep and other classes of stock, has an excellent herd of Herefords, of which he is justly proud. He even goes the length of advising his Shorthorn friends to make use of their opportunity, and improve the milking and health qualities of their breed by crossing with a Hereford! Gentlemen were a little taken aback at the proposition, but Mr. Minton, being our hospitable entertainer, we refrained from indicating any dissent. Some men will have their joke, and Mr. Minton was so obviously quizzing his guests that they let him have his say in his own way. At the same time, the soundness of constitution of the Hereford cannot too generally be recognized, although their dairying properties, as a breed, have to be discovered. Visitors from Canada should visit Mr. Minton's farm. It carries such a variety of stock, and all of a superior character, that a liberal education is secured by leisurely inspecting all there is to be seen.

### PROSPEROUS DAIRYING.

To the visitors with whom I sojourned most of this week, the chief interest lay in dairying. The center of the Shropshire dairy industry is the little market town of Whitechurch, where a famous cheese market, conducted on primitive principles, is held. The women folks come in with their cheese, and stand the market until a

sale is effected. This week Cheshire cheese was sold in the market from 57s. 6d. to 60s. per cwt. of 112 pounds. Cheshire cheese is the most immature of the cheese family we have seen. One of our number said he would not call it cheese, but curd, and the criticism seemed apt enough in the lips of a maker of Stiltons from Leicestershire. But the Cheshire cheese men know what they are doing. They are not catering for a market of connoisseurs. London has long since ceased to be regarded as of any consequence by them. They are concerned only with the demands of the great populations of the industrial centers in Lancashire and Yorkshire. These operatives demand a "meaty" cheese, in which there is some body. Hence the popularity of Cheshire cheese with them. From the time the milk is poured into the vat until the cheese go to market about one month elapses. A gentleman of the party said he had that day seen cheese which had never seen a Sabbath Day, and never would see a Sabbath Day! This was, of course, exaggeration, but it rests on a basis of truth. In one dairy visited, the milk yield for the day had been 270 gallons, and the amount of curd produced therefrom was 390 pounds. This gives a fair indication of the amount of moisture in the curd. That such dairying pays, is self-evident. There is a steady demand for the produce of the farms. The buildings are in excellent order. The pasture is rich, and carries a large head of stock. The rent is only three per cent. per acre. The farmers visited declared, with one voice, that they had all the fixity of tenure they wanted. Some of them were in the holdings tenanted by their forbears for many generations, and, altogether, it was difficult to see much sign of depression among the dairy farmers of Shropshire. One speaker at the conferences told us that, on account of the demand for sweet (whole) milk from London, farmers in Leicestershire were abandoning cheesemaking, and rents had risen, so that they were paying 5 per cent. per acre for land within easy radius of railway stations for delivery of milk to London.

In Shropshire there is little difficulty in procuring milkers, and it can hardly be said that the country offers a promising field of enterprise to the patentee of a milking machine. All the laborers' wives and daughters milk, if required to do so, and in return for two hours' work per day, receive from 3s. to 4s. per week. This is a substantial addition to the income of any laborers' household.

Two useful papers were read at the Conferences, one by Mr. Primrose McConnell, on "Improving the Dairy Cow," the other by Miss Jebb, White-mere, Ellesmere, on "Small Holdings as a Nursery for Dairy Farmers." Mr. McConnell is a Radical in many directions. He would have horns abolished in the dairy cow, and he would look more to milk yield and quality than to conformation for proof that a cow was all she ought to be. He commended highly the Highland Society's milk-testing scheme, urging the adoption of similar measures in England. Mr. McConnell maintains strenuously that the quantity of butter-fat in a cow's milk is a constant element; it cannot be modified by feeding in any way. Quantity of yield can be modified by feeding, and because of this, the percentage of fat in a cow's milk may vary, but the actual quantity of fat is a fixed number. Several speakers differed from Mr. McConnell regarding this, but he adhered to his opinion, and gave good grounds for the faith that was in him. If a Holstein could be changed into a Jersey by feeding, why was the change not made? If the quality of the milk could be improved by feeding, why all the trouble about the proportions of butter-fat, and the standard which has been insisted on of 3 per cent. butter-fat?

The paper by Miss Jebb on "Small Holdings," contained some good points. She showed how farmers could ensure a constant flow of good milkers from the occupiers of small holdings. Certain popular kinds of cheese can best be made in the small holding. Small holdings, when wisely conducted, form the nursery for men who desire to better themselves, some of whom have, in Miss Jebb's knowledge, risen bit by bit, until now they occupy, and successfully cultivate, large farms. All this is very interesting, and in it there is a deal of sound sense.

Canadian breeders of Shorthorns should be interested in a series of articles appearing in the Scottish Farmer on Aberdeenshire Shorthorns. This week's article deals with the story of Kinellar, and its late lamented owner, Mr. Sylvester Campbell. The article is No. IV. of the series, and all of them have been the fruit of original, painstaking research. Few Aberdeenshire herds are better known to Canadians than that of Kinellar. I regret that space forbids further reference to the Kinellar herd at this time.

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