

Fitting Beef Cattle for Show.

To produce good feeding animals of fair size and first-class quality of flesh, evenly distributed, the preparation of show animals must really be begun before they are born, by judiciously mating parents of this description, a proportion of the offspring of which may reasonably be expected to prove suitable for show purposes, if well fed, handled and managed from their early calfhood. The calf intended for a show animal should never be allowed to lose its calf flesh, but should be kept growing and improving in size and weight continuously up to maturity. To this end, there is no food equal to whole milk drawn by the calf itself from the udder of its dam while she gives a sufficient supply to keep it improving, and when she fails to give enough milk for that purpose, an additional nurse cow should be provided. If the cow provided is a very heavy milker, the calf should suck three times a day, so that its stomach may not be overloaded at any time. The calves should run loose in roomy box stalls, and have sweet, fresh clover hay in a rack, and a mixture of bran and ground oats, which they will very early learn to eat, and to which, when they are two months old, a little nutted oil cake should be added, and in winter a supply of sliced turnips. Their pen should be frequently cleaned out, and kept well bedded, and more roomy quarters given as they grow larger, so that they may get a fair amount of exercise. They should be kept in well-ventilated buildings constantly during the first summer of their lives, the open windows having screens to keep out flies and being darkened if necessary during the day in hot weather, and a supply of clean drinking water should be kept constantly within their reach, that they may drink at will. It is well to halter them occasionally when not more than a month old, and tie them for an hour or two each day to accustom them to being handled, and as they grow older, a little training once a week will teach them to lead quietly and make them handy before they get strong and hard to break. A mixture of bran, ground oats and peas and oil cake, fed dry, as much as they will eat up clean between feeding-times, should be continued during the whole summer, and a supply of clover, lucerne, vetches and mixed grain in season, cut green, furnished regularly three times a day while they last, after which well-cured clover hay will take the place of these. The calf should suck until eight or nine months old, and, if under eight months old at show time, the nurse cow should be taken to the show with the calf, so that it may not have any setback.

The first winter's feeding will consist of a plentiful supply of roughage, in the form of good clover hay and chaff or cut straw, ensilage and roots, and a moderate ration of meal and bran. The bulls must necessarily be kept up the year round, but should have a roomy yard or grass paddock to run in part of the time. In the spring, the heifers may go out on grass during the day for a month or two, and be kept in at night, receiving a feed of meal morning and evening. When the weather gets hot and the flies troublesome, the animals will do better in the stable during the day, and may be turned out at night until within a couple of months of show time, when it will be better to keep them in airy, darkened stables day and night, except that they should go out for an hour or two in the cool of the evening and early morning for exercise, if they are tied up during the day. From this time the meal rations may be gradually increased till they are taking all they will safely stand. Attention should be given to the condition of the feet of the animals at all times, and especially during the last month previous to the date of the show, to keep them trimmed and rasped into good shape, as an overgrown hoof sadly hurts the appearance of a beast, and is apt to make its legs look crooked, if not to grow so. Training to lead well and to stand in the best position to show to advantage is of no small importance, and frequent washing with castile soap or English soft soap and soft water, together with industrious grooming—not with sharp currycombs, but with the brush and a woolen cloth—and latterly by vigorous hand rubbing and constant blanketing to get the hair soft and oily to the touch, are factors which count for more than many are apt to think when it comes to a case of close competition.

While it is well to avoid making the animals excessively fat by the use of a too heating grain ration, which is liable to make them handle hard and lumpy, and to damage their breeding qualities, there is no getting over the fact that the chances of winning are greatly enhanced by having a good thickness of natural flesh to show, and this may be secured by liberal feeding of mixed grains, as oats, peas and barley, and bran and a moderate mixture of oil cake, fed on cut hay and corn. Some feeders place great value on boiled grain feed, and, if fed fresh, there is no doubt it has a fine effect in putting on flesh and getting the hair in good condition, though we are not sure that it is a necessity or that it pays for the extra labor. Getting the animals thoroughly used to the halter and to handling, so

as to be free from nervousness, has much to do with their settling comfortably in strange quarters at the fair, and feeding well and looking their best.

The Breeding of Military Horses.

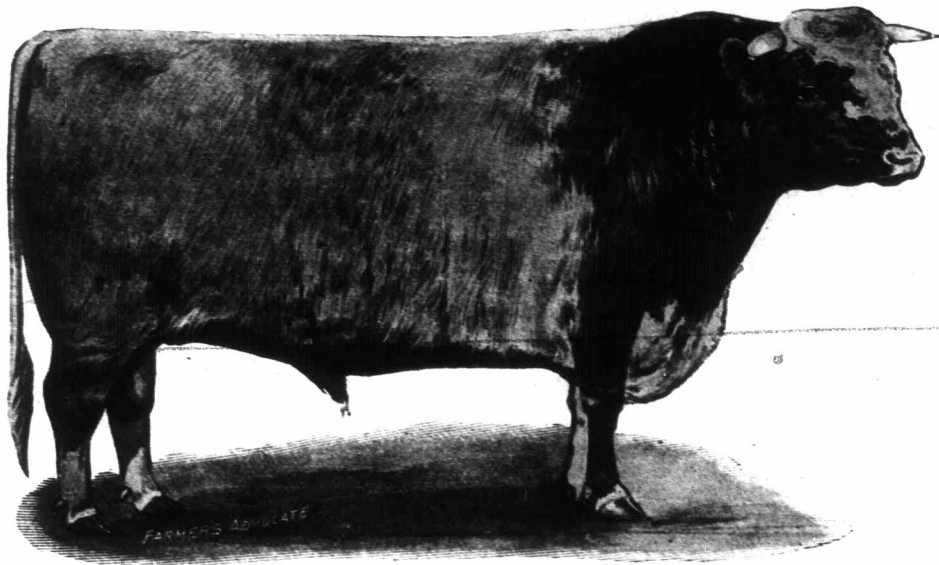
SIR,—I received a letter from you asking me about the breeding, etc., of the two military horses that won at Toronto Horse Show. Well, I am a dealer in horses, and I do not take much interest in the breeding, etc. What I want is the horse, and a great many I handle I do not know what their breeding is, but I have found out the breeding of these two horses, General and Hero, the first-prize cavalry and infantry horses.

General, the cavalry horse, had for his sire Wiley Buckles (Thoroughbred), and his dam was a nice big general purpose mare, which would weigh about 1,400 pounds; did not seem to have much Clyde about her, but looks more like as if she had a cross of Percheron.

Hero, the infantry horse, was sired by Lightning (imported Hackney), and his dam was a half-bred Thoroughbred, a small, breedy mare, with good bone and feet. I find a number of the good kind with that same breeding, and I think there is no better way to breed the good ones. As a rule, breeding like the General's produces carriage and saddle horses, while such mating as Hero came from produces cobs and actors. CHAS. HEAD.

Guelph, Ont.

[NOTE.—In our report of the Canadian Horse Show it was remarked that the Hackney breed had shown a new field for favor, inasmuch as the registered mare Cassandra, shown by Mr. Robt. Beith, Bowmanville, had won first prize in class for artillery purposes. It now comes to light that the winning infantry horse was also of that breed, being from a Hackney sire. We are not surprised, however, to learn that the blood of the Thoroughbred entered so largely into the make-up of the high-class military horses. A writer, dealing with the breeding of horses in a journal of the distant colony of Australia, points out the difficulty with which the British Government has secured their required number of military horses in that country.]



ROBERT THE BRUCE = 22635 =.
Five-year-old Shorthorn bull. (See Gossip, page 363.)
OWNED BY C. A. ARCHIBALD, TRURO, N. S.

Out of about a million horses in Australia, it has been possible to get only five or six thousand of all sorts, and those obtained have cost three or four times as much as they ought to have cost. The most serious cause of failure to produce the right sort is pointed out as being the lack of any continuous effort to establish a type, while another difficulty has been that of using the blood of the racing Thoroughbred. The writer says:

"All our saddle horses are cross-bred, with a very considerable strain of the racing Thoroughbred, and are really mongrels of the worst kind. The racing Thoroughbred may be, and, no doubt, is, an excellent animal to carry a light weight over a short distance in the shortest possible time, but for every other purpose he is absolutely valueless. A gambling machine pure and simple, that has been bred for hundreds of years on the same lines as our greyhounds, and is about as useful. To try and breed serviceable, weight-carrying saddle horses, using even the most carefully selected Thoroughbred sires, is bound to prove a failure, because only a small percentage of the progeny will be of the type required, and the balance will be valueless nondescripts, unfit for racing, and too weedy for any other purpose."

In Canada, however, we have two classes of Thoroughbreds, as is well illustrated at our larger horse exhibitions where classes are set apart for Thoroughbred stallions, also for Thoroughbred stallions qualified to improve the hunter and saddle stock of the country. It is this latter class that is found more in evidence at the stallion stands throughout the country at this season of the year, and from their use there need be no fear of employing, on suitable mares, such types as the late Wiley Buckles, Wyndham, Monotony, horses that stand fully 16 hands high, deep chested, round barreled, and weighing upwards of 1,200 pounds. — EDITOR.]

English Shows.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The summer show season opened this year with the Oxford County Show at Oxford, on the 16th and 17th of May.

The Shire Horse Classes were very good, Mr. R. W. Hudson, one of your advertisers, being a prominent winner, as were also representatives of the studs of Lord Llangattock, Lord Rothschild, P. A. Muntz, M. P., and F. Crispe. In a small section of Hackneys, Mr. H. Livesay with that grand mare, Orange Blossom, took leading honors, and her foal, by McKinley, the champion cup winner for stallions at the last Hackney Show, also secured leading honors in the foal class.

The Shorthorn Cattle were very strong, as one would only expect from the fact that in the County and close adjacent thereto are many first-class herds. A useful class of aged bulls, five in number, were headed by Mandarin, from Mr. W. E. Balston's herd; Silver Plate, from Mr. J. Deane Willis', coming in for second honors. Miss Alice de Rothschild led in the two-year-olds with Bashful Youth, a very taking bull of considerable merit; White President, from Mr. L. de Rothschild's, being second. In the yearling class, Mr. Henry Dudding's very extensive and highly-bred herd took precedence with King Alto, a grand calf with splendid hair and typical character, he being also made champion bull, an honor well deserved; Duke Charmingland 93rd, who represented Mr. R. H. Dyke's excellent herd, being a very good second. This is a wonderfully well-bred and symmetrical bull. The old cow class, a useful one, found its leader in Miss Alice de Rothschild's Signet, with Mayflower 3rd, from Mr. L. de Rothschild's, next in order of merit. The last-named exhibitor took similar honors in the succeeding class for 3-year-old heifers, with White Socks; premier honors going to Mr. A. Henderson's Grace Darling. Messrs. Garne, whose herd is a very old and noted one, took first place in the 2-year-old class with Aldsworth Jewel, but her right to this place was very keenly contested by Lady 21st, from Mr. Henry Dudding's herd, a heifer of very high merit. The two winning yearling heifers came from Lord Tredegar's and Mr. C. H. Jolliffe's herds.

In Herefords, the Earl of Coventry secured both the cash prizes for bulls, with Grimm and Chaucer, both of which most creditably represented that well-known herd from whence they came.

Jerseys.—Lord Rothschild's herd was clearly the leading winner in the Jersey classes, both the champion awards being secured, besides other leading prizes; the Earl of Cadogan, Col. H. McCalmont, M. P., being also well to the fore, as was also the Duke of Marlborough.

Guernseys made a small entry, Mr. E. A. Hambro receiving the premium prizes in both classes with really grand specimens of the breed.

Kerry and Dexter-Kerry, a breed becoming very popular, made a small but very good entry, Messrs. Robertson & Son and J. Thorley being the more prominent winners.

Sheep.—The breed of the county, Oxford Downs, takes precedence here in the classification, and from its very excellent entry is fully entitled to do so. The yearling ram class was one in which the awards were contra to the opinion of many of the principal breeders, it being generally considered that the 1st and certainly the 2nd winners, from Mr. G. Roberts, were wrongly placed. Precedence should have been given to Mr. J. T. Hobbs' grand, good-fleshed, deep-bodied ram, whose type and character were first-class, his fleece being free from black wool. Two from Mr. J. C. Eady's well-bred flock received barren honors, and one, as good as any in the class, from Mr. H. W. Stilgoe's flock, was entirely omitted in the award list. This ram is a capital one, and should be looked for by any who desire to secure a ram with type, character and fleece. The ram lamb and ewe lamb classes were very good, and the leading pens in both came from Mr. W. J. P. Reading's, whose success was fully deserved, though it was by no means a run-away one from Mr. W. A. Treweeke's two pens of first-quality lambs, which were second in these classes. Mr. J. C. Eady's success in the yearling ewe class was again complete, for he, as last year, took both first, champion and second awards with a grand lot of ewes, some of which, if not all, will, as in former years, come over to your side, where they certainly will add further luster and fame to that very excellent flock from whence they came.

The Hampshire Down breed have never been so strongly represented at this Show before, and the general high merit and quality of the exhibits were such that little, if any, difference divided the leading winners. Mr. J. Flower went to the fore in the yearling ram class, being very closely pressed for this place by a grandly fleshed ram from Mr. R. W. Hudson's Danesfield stud. Lord Rothschild's flock securing the third award. In the yearling ewes, Mr. R. W. Hudson had two grand pens of ewes, which went first and third, being divided by a pen from Mr. James Flower's flock. Ram lambs and ewe lambs were of great merit, and the contest for the two first places in both cases rested between the