

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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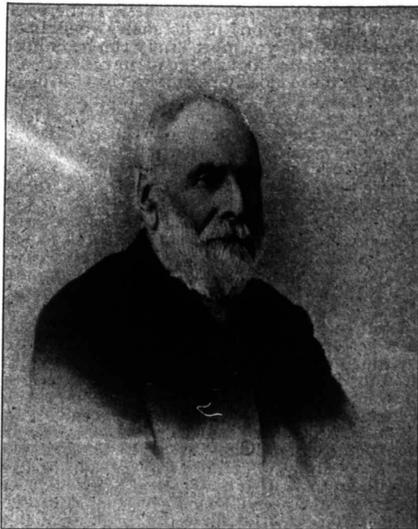
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Cost of Production—A Suggestive Article.

A special and original feature in this issue is the article in which our esteemed contributor, "F. J. S.," figures out in detail the cost of producing a pound of butter in different seasons under certain conditions. This is a vital question with the dairy farmer, and should stimulate others to give our readers the benefit of their experience, whether in line with that of "F. J. S." or not. The article suggests at once how essential to profit it is to provide a cheap and effective ration for the use of a cow with the inherited and developed faculty of producing large quantities of rich milk.

Death of "The Grand Old Man of Sittyton."

It is with a sense of profound sadness that we record the death, on the 29th ultimo, of Mr. Amos Cruickshank, of Sittyton, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and we feel sure we but voice a grief that will be felt everywhere throughout the Shorthorn world, and nowhere more so than in Canada and the United States, where the impress of "Cruickshank" blood has been so universal. A series of articles, still fresh in the minds of breeders, appeared last fall in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, entitled "The Evolution of the Scotch Shorthorn," in which were recounted the system of breeding and management pursued in the creation—so to speak—of that grand type of cattle.



It will not be necessary now to detail the growth of the Cruickshank herd from about '37, when Amos, who had been joined in the farming and breeding enterprise by his brother Anthony made his first trip into Durham, where he secured a solitary heifer. From so modest a beginning grew a herd that ultimately numbered some 300 head, and the benefactions of which spread to all cattle-rearing lands. In 1889 came the final sale to the Messrs. Nelson, whose purpose was to export the herd en bloc to the Argentine Republic; a plan not carried out, however, through the intervention of the enterprise of Messrs. Duthie and Willis.

The late Mr. Cruickshank was born near Inverury in 1808, within a few miles of where he spent his life, over fifty years of which was devoted to Shorthorn breeding, and the personal supervision of a farm that finally covered about 1,000 acres. Without special educational advantages, he was essentially self-made. A man of broad-minded sympathies, he led a quiet life, though full of business care, with its trials and successes; yet, withal, a life of ideal simplicity. He cherished no feelings of ill-will nor petty jealousies. No one ever heard Amos Cruickshank say an unkind word about a fellow mortal, and no one ever heard him boast. He needed not to herald his own achievements—they spoke for themselves. Truly he was a great man, within whose honest breast beat a large and tender Scottish heart, that even a rugged exterior could not hide from view.

We need but repeat the closing words of an editorial tribute to his career, published in these columns in November 15th last:—"He was a man whose steadfastness of purpose, whose fidelity to a high ideal, whose worth and achievements, will enshrine his memory with imperishable regard."

The Boot Is On the Other Foot Now.

The English Live Stock Journal writes, in a melancholy and reproachful strain, of the German Government for shutting out English live stock because of the "alleged prevalence of foot and mouth disease" in the latter country, protesting that they only had one isolated case of this pest many months ago, when it was immediately suppressed, and that the country has been absolutely free from it for a long time. The Journal goes on to insinuate that the action of the German Government was really due to the abnormal development of shipments of common, not to say inferior, stock purchased at low prices in British fairs and markets, a trade which has since terminated. Our contemporary thinks that the Germans really ought to abandon their restrictions, "because there is not the slightest risk of disease," etc. These Germans must have taken as a precedent the British embargo on Canadian cattle, and if condolence is of any use to our contemporary and its readers, we hereby extend the same.

Our Frontispiece--The Product of Skill in Breeding and Feeding.

We give in this issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, two live-stock illustrations,—one, the frontispiece, representing a Shorthorn ox; the other, within, an unimproved native from the Baltic Sea Provinces in Western Russia, which, in contrast, more vividly impress upon the mind than any words could portray the achievements of British skill in cattle breeding and feeding. The differences stand out quite as strikingly as in the "before and after taking" portraits of the patent medicine vendor, especially when we consider that these are faithful representations of the originals. The frequency with which we are reminded that "the breed goes in at the mouth" indicates that not a few men can probably yet be found who cherish the notion that it is all a matter of feeding the given individual. But let each of these processes be given its due place;—no amount of feeding, however skilful, would transform the Baltic native which we portray into the Smithfield winner; because the foundation—the framework—was not there to build upon, nor the tendency implanted, by breeding, to convert the food into flesh.

This Shorthorn ox was the property of Edward Wortley, Esq., of Riddington, Rutland, Eng., and was by a pure-bred bull sired by "Father Matthew," bred by Lord Spenser. The dam was well-descended, but not pedigreed. At the Oakham Show, in December, 1856, this steer took the 1st prize of seven sovereigns, as the best under three years old; and the following year, at the same show, the 1st prize of 15 sovereigns, for best ox under five years old, of any weight or breed,—open to all England. At the Leicester Show he carried off a similar trophy; and the following week (December, 1857) he took the 1st prize of 25 sovereigns, as the best Shorthorn ox, with silver medal for the breeder, and the gold medal as the best ox in the yard, at the Smithfield Club Cattle Show. He was of great length and breadth, with beautiful symmetry and compactness of form. His chine and ribs were wonderfully extended; his immense weight of flesh most evenly laid on, and of first-class quality, in the opinion of a writer in the Farmer's Magazine, published at that time, and from which our engraving is reproduced. His dead weight was 206 stone, with 22 stone of loose fat. When slaughtered he was three years, 11 months and six days old.

Mr. Wortley, the breeder and feeder of this famous beast, had never before entered one at the Smithfield Club Show; but he had been a Shorthorn breeder for about 15 years on a small scale. In ten years he was the winner of some forty premiums.

The portrait of the black, hornless cow, which appears elsewhere, is from a photograph obtained by the U. S. Consul at Riga, and is a representative of the unimproved stock of the Baltic Provinces, where he truly says (judging from this specimen) that stock raising is in a very primitive state, pure-breds being rarely found. The mature stock of that country average in weight from 800 to 1,000 lbs., and the system of general management and feeding appears to be just as primitive as the breeding. On this side the Atlantic, the subject of our extra illustration would be known by the expressive, if not euphonious, designation—Scrub!

Our Stand Commended.

We have received hearty commendations regarding the position taken in our last issue anent the "annexation" of Canadian records, and in favor of maintaining our independent control. One of the foremost of our breeders expressed himself indignantly at the anonymous suggestion (scattered broadcast, after the manner of a circus poster, among at least one section of our breeders) to go to the States for ability to run our records. He regarded it as little short of a slander to talk of all Canadian records being "penniless," when the Shorthorn Breeders' Association, for example, has now \$4,000 in the bank and no debts to pay,—something at least one American record Association he had in mind could not say, for it had to borrow money to keep going. "I cannot understand," he remarked, "why this thing should have been mooted. I approve of what you have written, but you might have made it stronger." Another prominent breeder, who does a large trade with the States, writes emphatically, concluding as follows:—"I do not like this amalgamation scheme, and am wondering who in Canada is mooted it. I would prefer our own records to going into that venture."