

THE DAIRY

Shorthorns as Milkers

In a letter to Farming World, in April, from Mr. J. G. Clark, under the heading—"Is the Dual Purpose Cow Possible?" he makes some rather unfair remarks concerning the Shorthorns.

Breeders of Shorthorns do not make the claim that they are better than all the special dairy breeds in the dairy. But they do claim that they are a strictly first class beef breed, with none superior. And that in addition, they compare very favorably with the strictly dairy breeds, as producers of milk and butter.

Undoubtedly there are many "misses"—can this be wondered at when so many of our breeders not only have not encouraged the production of large quantities of milk, but in too many cases have discouraged it. And it stands as good proof of the persistency of deep milking quality in the Shorthorns, that they overcome such difficulties, and still compare very favorably with breeds specialized as producers of milk, and which have been bred very carefully for many generations, with the great production of milk and butter the prime object in view.

But are all the "misses" with Shorthorns? Is there not an unpleasantly large proportion of the strictly dairy cows "misses" as well?

I quite agree with Mr. Clark, that there are many farms, which (if the necessary help is obtainable), may be very profitably devoted to dairying exclusively, and especially with the excellent prices for all dairy products which have ruled during the past few years. In such cases the calves are usually destroyed. Then the cow that will give the largest quantity of milk of good quality, for the food consumed, should be the one in use.

However, it is to the very large number of farmers who wish to have cows that will give them calves to consume the rough feed, and pasture on a well regulated farm, and give good returns for the coarse grains fed them to finish for export, and at the same time will give them milk of good quality and in large quantity, that the Shorthorn appeals most strongly, and with whom she fills the bill so acceptably. The man who keeps that class of cows

will have something pleasing to look at and satisfying to his sons financially, and which they will think "worth while," when they have a bunch of handsome Shorthorn steers and heifers quietly and contentedly growing into profit, without so much labor. Regarding the claim that Shorthorn cows compare very favorably with those of the strictly dairy breeds in milk production, I need do no better than take the tests referred to by Mr. Clarke at the Provincial dairy shows in connection with the Winter Fairs, since their commencement. Following is the standing of pure-breeds:

1895—Were shown: 1 Shorthorn, 3 Ayrshires and 5 Holsteins. Three Holsteins and one Ayrshire made more points than Shorthorn.

1896—Records incomplete.

1897—Were shown: 1 Shorthorn, 7 Ayrshires, 8 Holsteins, 4 Jerseys, 3 Guernseys. Out of this lot 3 Holsteins and 1 Jersey only, succeeded in getting ahead of the Shorthorn.

1898—4 Shorthorns, 8 Ayrshires, 6 Holsteins, 8 Jerseys, and 3 Guernseys were competing. Four Holsteins alone succeeded in beating the Shorthorn, which was of the same family and closely related on dam side of Champion and Grand Champion, Shorthorns, at the Canadian National, Toronto, and International, Chicago.

1899—11 Shorthorns, 12 Holsteins, 3 Ayrshires and 1 Jersey shown. Shorthorn was fourth in list of breeds counting points, and second to Holsteins in quantity of milk.

1900—Were shown: 1 Short-

horn, 9 Ayrshires, 4 Holsteins. Only one cow—Messrs. Rettie's great Holstein Altje Posh, 4th, stood between the Shorthorn and the championship, and the \$200.00 prize mentioned by Mr. Clarke.

1901—Showing: 9 Shorthorns, 10 Ayrshires, and 8 Holsteins. Only one pure bred cow, a Holstein, came between the Shorthorn and the championship.

1902—6 Shorthorns, 8 Ayrshires and 11 Holsteins competing. One Holstein and one Ayrshire, only, were ahead of the Shorthorn in points, and only one Holstein gave more milk.

1903—9 Shorthorns, 11 Ayrshires, 9 Holsteins shown. Four Holsteins and two Ayrshires were ahead of the Shorthorns.

1904—There were 5 Shorthorns, 10 Holsteins and 4 Jerseys competing. Holsteins were ahead, with Shorthorns second.

1905—2 Shorthorns, 10 Ayrshires, 9 Holsteins, and 4 Jerseys competed. Four of the Holsteins and two Ayrshires were ahead of Shorthorn. Four Holsteins and one Ayrshire gave more milk.

1906—Mr. Clarke says no Shorthorn scored high enough to win a prize, yet while seven of the cows of the dairy breeds scored higher, eight scored lower than Mr. Brown's Shorthorn.

If the above showing does not put the Shorthorn cows in favorable comparison, what of those purely dairy breeds that were so often below them?

Fortunately there have always been some of the Shorthorn breeders who did not lose sight of the great advantage good milking qualities gave to the breed, and they have bred with the object of retaining those qualities, while not impairing their great beefing capabilities. A. W. Smith.



"A WARM DRINK ON A HOT DAY"