

discussed, observed and compared. A system of standard points should be established. Observations should be taken and reported as to how far the indications of a good milker or feeder are borne out by the results; how the judgment in the show ring is testified at the block; how the testimony of the butcher is corroborated by that of the consumer, and so on around the whole circle. Then feeding standards for the different objects should be established, and figures tabulated as to daily or weekly results, cost of production, &c. In this way it could be ascertained whether the use of cross or grade sires and dams would yield more actual profit in the beefing and dairy industries, or whether the breaking out of the smouldering embers of reversion would swell the cost of pedigree to still greater enormity.

### Special Contributors.

#### Breeding of Pure Stock in Scotland.

[FROM OUR ABERDEEN CORRESPONDENT.]

It might interest breeders of pedigree stock on your side of the Atlantic were I to devote a brief article to this subject during the past year. Breeders of Shorthorns have for some years been contending with great odds. A few years of depression in agricultural matters vastly reduced the value of their herds, estimated at the time at about £10 per head. Our Shorthorn men in Scotland lost their innings too when the extraordinary demand for Aberdeen-Angus Polled cattle sprang up, as it was the means of attracting some who had formerly patronized the "reds, whites and roans," to the ranks of their opponents. Polled bulls began to be used to a greater extent than formerly, taking the place of Shorthorns for crossing purposes, and the demand for the latter was for some years very sluggish.

The result of last year's sales of Shorthorns, however, are very encouraging, and it is sanguinely expected that owners of this class of stock are now entering upon better times. By aggregating all the public sales that took place last year in the northern half of Scotland—the half, I may mention, in which pure stock breeding is most largely carried on—and comparing the average price of the animals sold with that of those sold in 1882, I find it has increased rather more than eleven per cent., or about £3 per head. There has also been, during the last twelve months, a good demand for Shorthorn bulls, privately. For one-year-old bulls, from £80 to £100 have been paid, in several instances the animals having been bought for use in our own herds. A few good lots have also gone to Canada and the United States, where the term "Aberdeenshire" Shorthorn has come to be regarded as synonymous with substantial merit and real utility. The other week Mr. Green, Innerkip, Canada, attended a sale of Shorthorn bulls belonging to Mr. William Duthie, who owns one of the best herds in the county of Aberdeen, and purchased a beautifully fleshed roan by a noted stock bull of Litlyton extraction, named "Ventriloquist," at a fair price. In the north there were fewer dispersions of Shorthorn herds last year than in 1882, and the number of cattle sold was

comparatively small, namely, 481, as compared with 547 in the former year. The gross price of these 481 animals was £14,097 16s. 6d., giving an average of £29 6s. 2d. per head. The average in 1882 was £26 6s. 10d.

The demand for polled cattle in 1883 was as insatiable as in the previous year, but fewer fine herds were brought under the hammer last season. The average per head might indicate, in the absence of the explanation I have given, that the popularity of this remarkably fine race of cattle was on the wane, but such is really not the case. The number sold amounted to 242, as against 341 in 1882, giving a total of £11,718 0s. 6d., or an average per head of £48 8s. 0d. The average in 1881 was as high as £62 18s. 6d., but in that year the Montbletton, Advie and Cortachy herds were dispersed, and brought unprecedentedly high prices. For quality of beef and hardness of constitution—the two cardinal points in any race of cattle that aspires to be called first-class—our Polled-Aberdeens are unequalled, and I imagine it will be a long time before any other breed will be able to beat them out of the market, either at home or abroad.

#### A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

There has been much excitement over the rumors of the existence of cattle diseases in the West. The report that foot-and-mouth disease had made its appearance in Kansas was followed quickly by reports from various sections of the country to the same effect. Every man who had cattle with sore feet from standing in barn-yard filth, jumped to the conclusion that his cattle must have foot-and-mouth disease; and the whole western country was harrowed up over the rumors. The filthy, negligent farmers had rather think it was some kind of disease than to lay it to their own shiftlessness, and the army of quack cow doctors and political hangers-on were ready to fan the spark into a flame in order to secure national legislation that would tap the treasury, and create a large lot of offices.

Your correspondent, in company with Simon Beattie, of Annan, Scotland, and Markham, Ont., visited some herds that were reported to be in a bad way, their toes and feet in some cases coming off entirely. The animals were calves and yearlings, half starved and standing around in wet, nasty ground and foul manure. Their hoofs showed filthy accumulations of months, and in many cases the poor, scrawny beasts were hobbling around with one or both hind feet wholly gone. It was a shameful case of neglect and shiftlessness. The animals were suffering with foot-rot, or foul in-the-foot. Investigation proved that there were numberless farmers in Southern Illinois and elsewhere so shiftless and neglectful that they ought to be prosecuted for cruelty to animals. Such lazy, good-for-nothing farmers ought not to be allowed to have anything that could suffer from ill treatment.

The theory has been advanced that Spanish or Texas fever can be counteracted by the use of ice water. It has been suggested that if the Government would set aside a lot of land in the Indian Territory, manufacture ice with machinery, and compel all Texas cattle to stop three or four days and drink ice water, that the

germs of the fever would be killed. This is a kind of a crack-brain theory, like many others that have been advanced, but there may possibly be something in it. The Indian Territory, of course, belongs to the Government, or rather to the Indians, and if there is anything in the theory it might be that it could be practiced on cattle being driven north to feed, without much trouble. In regard to cattle coming to market for beef, by rail, it could not be worked so well.

The new fine stock auction sale house just built at Dexter Park, will prove a great convenience to those who have stock to sell at Chicago. The building is high, dry and roomy, and will be a big improvement on the old tent. By the way, Messrs. Geary, Cochrane, and Whitfield, of Canada, were the first to auction fine cattle in the new house.

The National Wool Growers' Association has called a meeting at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Chicago, for May 7th, to fight the tariff reduction measures. There does not seem to be much need of this meeting, except to agitate the matter and show that the wool growers are not asleep. The object of the meeting is to defeat the new bill reducing the tariff, and work for the restoration of the tariff of 1867. The Republican Senate will prevent the passage of the tariff reduction, and the Democratic House of Representatives will prevent any restoration, so what is the use of the national meeting in May?

The breeding of heavy draft horses is receiving quite an impetus. Large importations of Percherons and Normans are being made, and the business is proving very profitable to those who are conducting it carefully. There is a good, strong demand for well-bred, strong draft horses, and the business of breeding that kind of stock cannot be so easily overdone as many other lines of breeding. The standard of the horses of the country is being raised considerably each year by the infusion of better blood, but there is almost unlimited room for improvement yet. There need be no fear of overdoing the thing as long as good stallions are selling for \$1,500 @ \$2,500.

There will be a big crop of beef from the ranges this summer. The winter has been unusually favorable, and losses in consequence light. Cattle in many sections are said to be fat even now, and an early, heavy crop of beef from the plains may be expected.

The Eastern States are feeding vast quantities of stock. Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia are feeding nearly as many cattle as any three Western States. The land there is dearer, and it therefore behooves the feeders of the East to be more thorough in their work than is necessary for those of the West.

There has been considerable talk about the free admission into England of store cattle from certain north-western sections. It is proposed by Moreton Trewen, of England, who has cattle in Wyoming, to lay out a route for young cattle from that section by way of the great lakes and Canada, in order to dodge the danger of passing through infested districts in the East.

English breeders of the Devons are attempting to "boom" up that breed for foreign markets