

county, eleven now being operated by 457 members, chiefly farmers. They began to improve the cattle by procuring the highest grade bulls, favoring the short horn Durham and Ayrshire breeds, and purchasing thoroughbred males from time to time, as importations were made by the board. For several years they have, with hardly an exception, kept one or more pedigree bulls, and a spirit has been diffused among the members, to get into pure stock. In many instances this desire has been attained; and the same thing has also been accomplished in several cases by private enterprise, stimulated no doubt by the action of the board and the societies. As the "N. S. register of thoroughbred cattle" has not been published, and the animals recorded are known only to the registrar, and their respective owners, (unless it may be the members of the assembly who lately had the opportunity of perusing it upon the table of the house, having such information) it cannot be expected, in a county like Colchester, comprising 837,000 acres, stretching from Musquodoboit to Harrington's river, and lying between the Shubenacadie and Tatamagouche Bay, that all of the pure bred animals are known to one individual. We can, therefore, at most, in response to the request of your Mr. Dennis for an article on the subject, only attempt to refer briefly to their introduction, in connection with the names of some of the leading breeders and their present herds.

The first knowledge our farmers acquired of the great value of Short Horn Durhams, is due to the enterprise of New Brunswick. About sixty-five years ago, a very superior bull of this breed was landed at Halifax for the border county in that province. He was led to his destination via Colchester. On reaching Onslow, his feet having become sore, his keeper arranged with William McNutt, father of John D. McNutt, the well-known Truro lawyer, to board him till fit to resume the journey. The next spring some of Mr. McNutt's cows dropped half bred Durham calves, the stock of which remained on the farm, when it passed to his son, James B. McNutt, the present owner. Forty-six years afterwards, the McNutt cows bred to Sir Gaspard and Jock, the first Durham bulls introduced by the Onslow agricultural society, had finer calves than the general run of cows in the neighborhood, a circumstance attributed by the oldest inhabitants to the blood of the New Brunswick bull inherited by their dams, a fact of which the present generation would have remained ignorant had not the difference in breeding been so apparent as to warrant the conclusion, so suggestive of the experience of breeders, 'that blood will tell.' Several of the

McNutt heifers were famed for their size, and one fed by James Norris became the largest and fattest ever exhibited at a provincial exhibition. Robert Putnam of Fort Belcher farm may be regarded as the earliest breeder of Short Horn Durhams in Colchester. He began by crossing the stock from a high grade Durham heifer, imported by the Board from Ontario in 1866, with pure bred bulls kept by the Onslow agricultural society. She was then over two years old, by the imported bull Balco No. 34 Canada, raised by S. Beattie, Markham. Her dam got the first prize that year in grade cows at the Upper Canada provincial exhibition. She was by imported Prince of Wales, 18630 English, 5100 American, which at one of the provincial exhibitions gained the Prince of Wales prize of \$60, together with the gold medal, for the best bull of any age or breed, the first prize for the best Durham bull of any age, and many other prizes. Mr. Putnam has now a fine herd of at least twelve females and one male. He is one of our most enterprising and intelligent farmers, and his farm in every respect is second to no other in the county. It bears a name suggestive of stirring times 'in the early history of the province.' Tourists who visit Truro about the end of June will be well repaid for a seven miles' drive to it, down the Onslow side of the bay. They will find much in the husbandry of Fort Belcher to remind them that the triumphs of peace are far more important than those of war. For several years John B. Fraser, who formerly resided on the Colchester side of the Shubenacadie river, was the leading breeder of short horns, and he gained for our cattle more than a provincial reputation. In a return sent to the Board of Agriculture, February, 1878, his herd consisted of the following animals: Bull—2nd Gwynne of the Forest; cows—Rose Gwynne 4th, Cambridge Witch, Fortune Teller, Lady Mary, Colchester Queen and Daisy Dean. At the provincial exhibition held in Truro, October, 1878, Mr. Fraser's Durhams took three first, two second, and one third prize, amounting to \$110, inclusive of \$40 for second best herd. In February, 1879, he returned to the Board, in addition to the cows returned the previous year, the following animals: Eliza Stewart, May Rose, Snow Ball, Colchester Prince, Earl of Dufferin, and Lord Windsor. At the provincial exhibition held in Halifax, September of that year, this herd took the first prize of \$50 and nine other prizes, amounting in all to \$155; Charles F. Eaton's ranking second, and Edwin Chase's third. In February, 1880, Mr. Fraser's herd was made up of bulls: Snow Ball, Earl of Dufferin, Lord Windsor; and cows and

heifers: Princess, Rose Gwynne 4th, Lady Mary, Colchester Queen, May Rose, Eliza Stewart, Rose, Laura, Daisy, and Isabella. At the provincial exhibition held in Kentville the fall of that year it received first and five other prizes, amounting to \$105. About two years ago business reverses caused Mr. Fraser to leave the province, when his fine herd was sold. It is gratifying however to know that many superior Durhams in Colchester are descended from some of the prize animals that at one time comprised the most valuable herd known to Nova Scotia.

Colonel William M. Blair, of Onslow, M. P. P., has been one of our earliest and principal breeders of Ayrshires and Durhams. He has, perhaps, more than any other person, been instrumental in improving the different breeds of cattle in the county. As the secretary or chairman of county, district or provincial exhibition committees; the originator of the Onslow cheese manufacturing company; the second president of the Onslow agricultural society; and the chief officer of the grange movement in Nova Scotia, he has had large opportunities for inducing his brother farmers to improve their herds, which he has not failed to use, besides setting a good example upon his own farm. In 1878-79 and '80 the colonel owned several Ayrshire cows; and about the year 1879 he imported from Ontario two short horn cows, and subsequently owned a fine herd of that breed. He recently, however, parted with several of his choicest animals to a new neighbor, who was bound to start with the best stock.

The writer was the first to breed Durhams in Truro, having bought the imported cow Maid of Oxford 4th from the Board in October, 1876. She was sired by Lord Waterloo 2nd, of the Waterloo tribe, and her dam was Maid of Oxford 2nd, by 7th Duke of York. Seventh Duke of York, bred by Colonel Gunter, of the Duchess tribe, was one of the most celebrated sires on record. There are now upon Lorndale farm after the stock of this fine cow, sired by good pedigree bulls, one cow and two heifers, and three bulls have been sold. In addition to raising these animals, the writer joined John Smith, Albert Flemming and Albert Doggett, in the purchase of the short horn bull King Dodds, brought from Ontario in 1879. Called after the celebrated anti-Scott Act lecturer, he did more in two years to improve the character of the quadrupeds of Truro, than his namesake ever did for the bipeds of Ontario.

Thomas Dunlap, of Lower Truro, who occupies a large and valuable hay farm, has bred Durhams for several years. This herd consists of cows: Red Lily, Violet, Lucy and Roseberry; and bulls: Rob