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S CAMERON.

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uniformly meritorious in quality and character I have ever seen. His home-bred bull, Airdrie, a medium-sized but handsome and well-fleshed animal, was used in the herd till thirteen years old, and the majority of the cows I saw there were his daughters. He was a son of Imp. Duke of Airdrie, out of a Rose of Sharon cow of Mr. Renick's own breeding. The pure Bates bull, 4th Duke of Geneva, had been purchased the year previous by Mr. Renick, and his neighbor, Ben Vanmeter, in partnership, for \$6,000, and most of the Renick calves were sired by this bull, and were priced at from \$500 to \$1,000. But there was one, red, with a little white, not sired by the Duke, but by a son of Duke of Airdrie (imp.), owned by a neighbor, which the old gentleman was anxious to sell on that account, and he stumped me to make an offer for this calf, which I liked as well, or a little better, than any he had, and I said, more as a joke than with any hope of getting the calf, "I'll give you a hundred dollars for him." Uncle Abe chewed tobacco and cogitated for a moment, then, to my surprise, said, "Well, you may have him." We named the calf Loudon Duke =803=, and he developed into a first-class show bull, winning first prizes at Provincial Fairs, and heading the Prince of Wales' prize herd, besides proving a capital sire. He was worth half a dozen such as the one for which I had paid seven times as much on my former visit to the South.

(To be continued.)

### Ireland's Native Breeds.

By "Emerald Isle."

The extent of my theme almost baulks me as I start out on this article, because, congenial though the topic is, the commission from the editor to write some notes on the subject was accompanied by a strict injunction as to brevity. However, far from complaining of this, I am very glad to have an opportunity of telling my Canadian friends something, even though it be an outline, of the leading varieties of farm stock with which Ireland has been endowed by nature. We cannot boast, like our neighbors in Great Britain, of their numbers, but of their admittedly useful characteristics we are patriotically proud. Without further preamble, therefore, let me introduce the four-footed subjects of this article as follows: Kerries and Dexters among cattle; Roscommons among sheep; and the Large White Ulster among pigs. Some other time we may have an opportunity of considering the Irish Hunter, the Irish draft horse, and the Connemara pony, among horses. If I can even briefly dispose of the first named in the allotted space, I will count myself fortunate.

#### CATTLE—KERRIES AND DEXTERS.

I have mentioned two names under this category, viz., Kerries and Dexters; in reality, though, they are but branches of the one family, and, though representing two distinct types, are, as a rule, bracketed together as Ireland's "only breed." As its name implies, the home of the Kerry is in the rough, mountainous south-western county of that name, which we sometimes facetiously term, "The next parish to America." Space forbids a dip into history, more than to say that in their rugged habitat they were bred for generations with no great regard to improvement, and that this has tended towards developing for more modern systematic breeders a race of cattle of outstanding hardiness and remarkable thriftiness. To the Farmer's Gazette, an old-established Irish paper, belongs the credit of having made a start in the matter of shaping the destinies of the Kerry along businesslike lines. The journal named decided, early in 1877, to publish a register for the preservation of pedigrees, and in this way admirable material was soon got together for a herdbook, which was transferred subsequently to the Royal Dublin Society. Following this, the breeds increased greatly in popularity and prestige, and in England they gained many adherents, the formation of an English Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society taking place in the year 1892, while seven years later an English herdbook for the breeds made its appearance. His Majesty the late King was patron of this society, and an enthusiastic admirer of the Kerry.

So much for history. Now as to capability. Although it may sound like high-treason, I have to declare that the Kerry has the temerity to make a claim as a dual-purpose animal. First, as a milker, she is a most profitable cow. Small in size, she does not demand a great deal of food, and what she does get she makes the most thrifty use of, while those who have the will and the means to treat her liberally are amply repaid. Mrs. E. Robertson, of Limavady, Co. Derry, who has brought to the front the great desirability of forming a milk-record scheme for Kerries, such as has done the Ayrshires so much good in Scotland, is the owner of a herd in which the cows average about 700 gallons of milk per annum, of 4 per cent. butter-fat, and this from cows that probably do not weigh more than five or six cwt., is a striking example of what the breed can do at the mil. From the butcher's point of view, the

Kerry cow, mated with either a Shorthorn or Aberdeen-Angus bull, throws an excellent, quick-growing animal which suits admirably the prevailing taste for small choice joints.

The Dexter, an offshoot of the Kerry, is a diminutive creature, excellent for milk, but more so for meat. Indeed, at the great fat-stock shows each year, both these types are always to the forefront, and are increasingly popular. A Co. Kildare breeder has systematically used the Shorthorn and Dexter as a blend, and has evolved quite a distinct variety which he aptly styles the Dexter-Shorthorn. This has no fixed color, but it possesses beautiful symmetry, grand constitution and medium size, while it has a dual-purpose capacity. A peculiarity of the Dexter is that it is not always possible to mate two Dexters to-

perature normal, and helps to wash the effete matter out of the system. A nicely-colored carcass results.

### The Farmer and the Wool Tariff.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It would be better for the world if the civilized nations raised money to carry on their governments by direct taxation, and not by duties on imports. All trade would then be free from restrictions, and each nation would take pre-eminence in those products and manufactures for which nature best suited it; but, as a matter of fact, we find that every nation except one raises money by customs duties. Even Great Britain raises a large amount of revenue by customs duties, which are imposed on between fifty and sixty classes of merchandise, embracing several hundred items.

If the cost of government was maintained by direct taxes, we would then see to it that no money was squandered on political railways or canals, or upon more or less needless projects, which act as a bribe upon the constituencies. Direct taxation would make for honesty and economy in administration.

The situation in Canada is this: That no responsible party has at any time since Confederation seriously proposed to maintain the costs of government by direct taxation. And, since we have a tariff, all classes should have an equitable share in its advantages and burdens. Unfortunately, our position alongside of the United States puts the Canadian farmer at a special disadvantage. The duties on most articles for which the Canadian farmer should have protection are about twice as high in the United States as in Canada, and the result is that, when prices in Canada are relatively high, the United States farmers can flood the Canadian market with their surplus products, while, when the situation is reversed, and prices are relatively high in the United States, the Canadian farmers are effectually shut off by a tariff which is almost prohibitive on those farm products which the Canadian farmer would like to sell there.

Leaving out cotton and such products as are not grown in Canada at all, we find that there has been in recent years a more or less steady falling off in the exports of Canadian farm products to the United States, because of the high tariff there and a large development of the exports of the United States farm products to Canada in those very lines which are specialties of the Canadian farmer. For example, in 1886 Canadian farm products to the total of \$32,772,000 were shipped to the United States, while in 1908 these exports had dwindled to \$13,712,000, or less than one-half. Among the items that make up this trade may be noted the following: Exports of horses, cattle and sheep fell from \$3,694,000 to \$2,058; eggs fell from \$1,722,000 to \$5,900; provisions dropped from \$1,836,000 to \$117,000; grain of all kinds fell from \$6,692,000 to \$635,000; hay from \$897,000 to \$236,000; potatoes from \$374,000 to \$15,000; bacon fell from \$468,000, in



Dexter Cattle.

gether without running the risk of the cow producing a freak or monstrosity as a result of the alliance.

With regard to type, a Kerry cow should conform as far as possible to an ideal such as the following: Black in color; long, level and deep in body, with graceful limbs, lightly fleshed; thin in shoulder, getting broader as the eye travels towards the udder region; in front, she should have a bright, gentle outlook, her head being long, and her horns (white, with black tips) having a characteristic outward and upward turn, inclining inwards at the points. Of course, as a dairy cow, she must have a well-placed, capacious milk vessel, "square on the floor," and carried well forward under her, and well up behind.

The Dexter ideal presents several contrasts with that of the Kerry. It may be either black or red, with a little white, and is deeper and better fleshed, with thicker and more horizontally-lying horns. Indeed, in body, a typical Dexter bull might not inaptly be imagined as a low-set Shorthorn, looked at through the wrong end of a telescope.

(To be continued.)

### Fast Before Killing.

The Minnesota Experiment Station does not recommend the killing of an animal for the purpose of human food within twenty-four hours after feeding. When an animal is on full feed, it is impossible to thoroughly drain the veins. Food in the stomach rapidly decomposes after the animal is killed, and the gases generated often flavor the meat disagreeably. Water, however, may be given up to the time of slaughter. It keeps the tem-



A Prizewinning Kerry Cow.