

The Guernsey Cattle.

Confined within the sea-bound limits of a small island, the area of which is only 24 square miles, the Guernseys have been bred for over a century in absolute purity, and the indications of judicious selection and watchful care and attention, though pent up within these constrained limits, are clearly apparent in the robustness of frame and constitutional vigor that has given them a preference in the minds of many over their Jersey competitors. Just about a century ago the insular legislature passed a law forbidding importations of any cow, heifer or bull calf under a penalty of 200 livres, and the forfeiture of all the outfit, and an additional penalty of 50 livres on any sailor on board who should fail to inform of the importation. Previous to the passage of this law, and even at a later date, the breeds of the Channel Islands were grouped together as Alderneys; but now, through the action of the authorities on the other islands, as well as owing slightly to a difference in selection, there are three distinct breeds of three separate types. The Jersey was bred a shade finer than the Guernsey, and an eye was also had for appearance and the possibility of a market for the deer-like beauties to embellish the greensward of the parks of the English gentleman was not overlooked.

Low, in his book on Domestic Animals, published in 1841, groups the three under the name Alderney, and gives an engraving representing this breed, which the Guernsey patrons claim is a faithful representation of the modern Guernsey, and they cite this as an indication of their fixity of type, which is further shown in the potency of the bulls in imparting their qualities to graded offspring.

The origin of the Guernsey is wrapt in mystery to a certain extent, some affirming that they were brought to the island by the Scandinavians, and others claim that they came from the neighboring coast of Normandy. On the island they have been bred for years, and the great desideratum kept in view both in breeding and care, was the evolving of a cow possessed of the strong powers for the production of butter. Nearly the whole of the milk produced by the island is made into butter, which, owing to its golden color and fine quality, brings a high price in the markets of Great Britain.

The first feature of a typical Guernsey to attract the attention of the examiner is the rich golden color of the skin, as pliant as a glove, and so unctious that you feel you could squeeze the butter out of the pores of the skin, clearly showing that the breeding and attention to butter qualities has not been in vain. In general form the Guernsey is stronger built and more vigorous than the Jersey, possessing more bone and size. Matured cows weigh as a rule from 1000 to 1400 lbs., and some of the bulls will tip the beam at 2000 lbs. A good cow of this kind is deep bodied, with a capacious udder running well forward and strongly attached, and good sized teats, and her clear, contented eye, her placid countenance in conjunction with her docile disposition, indicates that she is perfectly satisfied with her office in life—a special butter machine.

The following is the scale of points adopted by the American Guernsey Cattle Club, which will give some idea of the type they desire to establish:

Quantity and Duration of flow.		
	Escutcheon wide on thighs, high and broad, with thigh ovals.	10
	Milk veins long and prominent.	6
	Udder full in front.	6
	Udder full and well up behind.	8
	Udder large, but not fleshy.	4
	Udder teats squarely placed.	4
	Udder teats of good size.	2
		40

Quality of Milk.		
	Skin deep yellow in ear, on end of bone of tail, at base of horn, on udder, teats and body generally.	10
	Skin loose, mellow, with soft fine hair.	30
Size and Substance.		
	Size for the breed.	5
	Not too light bone.	1
	Barrel round, and deep flank.	4
	Hips and loins wide.	2
	Rump long and broad.	2
	Thighs and withers thin.	7
Symmetry.		
	Back level to setting on of tail.	3
	Throat clean with small dewlap.	1
	Legs not too long with hocks well apart in walking.	2
	Tail long and thin.	1
	Horns curved and not coarse.	2
	Head rather long and fine, with quiet and gentle expression.	3
	General appearance.	2
		14

For heifers deduct 20 counts for udder.

From the above it will be seen that great stress is laid on the butter and milking indications, for no less than seventy out of the hundred points are given for these traits.

The Guernsey advocate looks more for averages than phenomenal results from individuals, and hence the reason that we hear so little of them, while the great performers are being paraded. At their native home an average Guernsey is expected to give a Guernsey pound (18 ounces) a day per year of marketable butter, tethered in the pastures with little or no grain.

The herd of Mr. J. DeGaris, Rouvets, Guernsey, consisting of 5 head, averaged per head 252 lbs. of commercial butter, and 4 quarts of milk was used by the family. That of Rev. W. A. Glynn, of Isle of Wight, who has been breeding Guernseys for twenty years, and has about 30 or 40 head, averaged 650 gallons of milk per year, and some went as high as 900 gallons per year; and he has found his milk to average 1 lb. of butter to 2 gallons. Individual records ranging from 15 to 20 lbs. per week are not by any means rare, and this has been sustained in many cases for lengthy periods. The averages of five years tests of the various breeds exhibited at the dairy shows of the British Dairy Farmers' Association may not prove uninteresting and it certainly speaks volumes for the quality of their milk. The following are the results:

	Per cent. butter fat.	Total solids.
Guernseys.....	4.80	14.09
J Jerseys.....	4.26	13.6
Shorthorns.....	3.79	12.7
Dutch.....	2.97	11.8

A recent test conducted by the English Guernsey Cattle Society was made with the cow Luke de Richmond 683. Every precaution was taken to make the results reliable, thus leaving no doubt as to the validity of the outcome. In three days she gave 104½ lbs. of milk, which analysis showed to contain 5.01 per cent. fat, and 14.3 per cent. total solids, from which gave 6 lbs. ½ oz. of butter, or equal to 14 lbs. ½ oz. butter per week. The conditions were unfavorable, the weather being bad, and she had calved five months before the test. During 1887 this cow yielded 3,646 quarts, and in October, 1888, five months after calving, she gave 449 quarts.

They have an equally good record in America, and tests from 14 to 20 lbs. per week are not infrequent. Lucille 115 has tested at the rate of 21 lbs. per week, though not for seven consecutive days. Polly of Fernwood tested 19 lbs. 4 oz. in a week, and Hazel 1225, 16 lbs. 14 oz. on grass alone per week.

As far as we are aware there is not a single animal of this breed in Canada, their scarcity and resultant high prices acting as a damper on their progress. With increasing interest in the dairy industry and particularly in the butter production, they may captivate a Canadian patron, and will surely fit into some niche of our vast Dominion.

Judges for Exhibitions.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—I see that Mr. McCrae has undertaken to answer my last letter. In the first place he accuses me of using a *nom de plume*, so that I can state propositions that I do not believe. Would it not be just as easy to do so over my proper signature? I think any sensible man would say it would. He looks upon it as a great crime for any one to do so. Did not some of the greatest authors that ever wrote in the English language do so—such as Dr. S. Johnson, Joseph Addison, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, and a host of others?—and they were never accused of doing so, that they might state propositions they did not believe. The fact was they had strictly honorable reasons for so doing, and so have I. Enough for him to know that I have a name, a name that I am in no way ashamed of. He then goes on to heap fulsome compliments on his protegee, and I have no doubt but that when he (the protegee) reads his communications he will be very proud of his doughty defender.

He then states that I seem to be afraid of his protegee. In the ordinary sense of the term I am not the least afraid of him. So much for the first paragraph of his letter. In the remaining portion there is only one thing worthy of notice, and that is this. He says: "After this 'Brevis' seems to get mixed, for he says there will be over 100 exhibitors, and then he seems to think that it will be necessary to have 100 judges for these exhibitors." He then sneeringly remarks, "Did you ever hear such stuff?" It is but fair to myself to say this was a printer's mistake. It should have read (and did in the manuscript), "In the Dominion there will be over 1,000 exhibitors, and if the D. S. B. A. were to appoint judges for all these it would have a herculean task that would be worthy of it. The error was so palpable that if your correspondent had been a little more generous in his mind he would have treated it as such. Other than this the remaining portion of his letter is a perfect riddle—I cannot in the least see the drift of it; it is simply a literary conglomeration.

But this is not the question. The important question is the best mode of appointing judges for our agricultural exhibitions. And now, friend McCrae, lay aside all personalities, and let us reason together.

In the first place understand that I am not accusing any of the members of the different associations or boards of which we may hereafter speak, of acting dishonorably, for I have no doubt but that "they are all honorable men;" but we must remember that man is a fallen being, and there is none that are above reproach, and the one being that is the most uppermost in the mind of all is self; and if it is in his power to manipulate circumstances for his own benefit he will certainly do so. And speaking after the manner of men, who can blame them? But is it not a dangerous thing to place this power in the hands of men when it can be used for their own benefit and to the disadvantage of others?

Let us look for a moment at the composition of the executive of the D. S. B. A., and the list of judges they have nominated; also some of the managing boards of our exhibitions, how one person will hold a position on several of them until a solid and powerful coterie is formed composed of a few leading exhibitors, a few prominent members of the D. T. H. B. A. executive, and also a few from the managing exhibition boards. Now, to be told that an exhibitor unknown to fame, or one who exhibits only one or two animals, will have an equal chance with the members of this powerful clique, is just too funny for anything.

For instance, we find that the president of the D. S. H. B. A. is also a member of the committee on cattle at the Toronto Industrial, and as he is there to look after the Shorthorn interests, I infer that it will rest almost solely with him who will be the judges in that class. (I might state here, Mr. McCrae, that surrounded as your ward is by the prestige of office, and entrenched in this almost impregnable position, if I was so unfortunate as to show against him I should have just cause to be afraid of him.) Now I don't wish it to be understood that he would use this immense power that is placed at his disposal, but it is a radically wrong system that puts this power into the hands of an interested individual.

Another of those who have been nominated as competent for judge is a member of the Agricultural and Arts Association. He is also a very prominent member of the D. S. H. B. A. executive. He is also an extensive dealer in Shorthorns and deeply interested