

LIVE STOCK.

Dairy Shorthorns in England.

The development of the milking propensity in Shorthorn cows is engaging the attention and effort of breeders in England—the home of the breed—in an increasing degree. The Shorthorn Society ten years ago decided to give liberal prizes at leading shows for dairy Shorthorns eligible for Coates' Herdbook. This has had the effect of exciting interest in the matter, and arising out of this movement a separate association has been formed of breeders interested in the propagation of superior milking qualities in the pedigree dairy Shorthorn. This association, called the Dairy Shorthorn (Coates' Herdbook), is gradually developing the objects for which it was founded, and it has obtained permission from the Royal Agricultural Society to establish a separate class for bulls bred from milking pedigree cows that have won prizes in classes specially designed for them. The President of the Dairy Shorthorn Association is offering a 50-guinea challenge cup for the best bull and two females at the Royal Show this year. Two of these animals must have been bred by the exhibitor, so that if necessary the exhibitor may buy a bull to mate with cows of his own breeding, it being stipulated that the bull shall be shown in the dairy class. The conditions on which pedigree dairy Shorthorn cows competing in these classes are to be entered and shown are that they must be milked out the night before at a stated hour, and milked next morning in the presence of the judge. The amount of milk necessary to qualify for competition is, in the case of cows that have calved within three months, 25 lbs., and those having calved over three months must produce 20 lbs. of milk. Heifers are required to give not less than 20 lbs. if calved within three months, and 15 lbs. if over three months.

The records in milk and butter production made by Shorthorn cows in public trials and tests at English shows in recent years have furnished ample evidence of their ability to rank with the best in competition, open to all breeds, while where private records have been kept whole herds of dairy Shorthorn cows have shown very satisfactory production, a registered cow of this breed having on more than one occasion won the supreme championship.

In a paper recently read before a Chamber of Agriculture, by G. Taylor, an experienced breeder of dairy Shorthorns, he said in part:

"When establishing a herd of pedigree milking Shorthorns, one must naturally look to the cow with dairy characteristics. I would place first and foremost a kindly head and shapely bag, with well-placed teats. Constitution must not be neglected, and I place great importance upon the selection of bulls if you intend to breed a milking herd. I think whatever the extra cost may be it is money well laid out if anyone before buying a bull will go to the herd where he is bred and see his dam, and, if possible, his sire also. The influence of the dam is specially pronounced in milking pedigree Shorthorns, and this policy I know is followed by many of the best breeders of horses, who consider it of greater importance to study the character of the dam than even the character of the sire.

"My experience leads me to the conclusion that milk and beef are very difficult to get right throughout the herd—that is to say, one naturally expects in a herd which is devoted solely to producing animals of beef type to find them more perfect there than in a herd whose chief duty is to fill the pail, and vice versa. We must, therefore, maintain the idea of milk and beef in the one animal. This cannot be in individual cases, but as every practical grower knows, our heaviest milkers often make the best show of flesh, so that I think we ought to be content that our pedigree dairy Shorthorns while they are filling the pail should perform that duty satisfactorily, and when they go dry show a ready aptitude to put on flesh.

"I should not say altogether that the pursuit of milk and beef in one animal is altogether illusory, for so long as the Shorthorn is the Shorthorn we must necessarily cultivate both qualities; but he would indeed be a fortunate man who could find all the best qualities of the dual type combined in one herd, as we occasionally find them in individual animals."

MILK RECORDS.

Reference is also made in Mr. Taylor's paper to the importance of keeping private records of the production of not only particular single cows, but of all in the herd, and attention is called to the elaborate series of milk tests conducted by the Highland and Agricultural Society in the south of Scotland. These were conducted by John Speir, who has said that the Ayrshire cow has never had a better advertisement than this series of herd tests; that in herds where no records had been kept before, they found cows which had been giving 1,000 gallons of milk, while others were giving only about 400 gallons, and not only has it proved a good advertisement for the breed, but has materially improved the demand for calves out of the best cows. Of course this applies also

to the dairy Shorthorn and to other breeds. "When I first started to keep milk records," says Mr. Taylor, "my herd average was not 600 gallons annually; now it exceeds 800 gallons (a trifle over 8,000 pounds), and I rarely keep a cow that does not yield 700 gallons per annum."

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle.

By James Bowman.

From the earliest times, Aberdeenshire, and particularly the part called "Buchan," has been noted for its cattle, the name itself being derived from the fact that it paid tribute to the Romans in oxen, Buchan being derived from the Gaelic words "Bo," an ox, and "Caen," head, or poll. There were records of polled cattle being purchased in

1816, when he paid a visit to England, and saw the great work that was being done with Shorthorns. (What a lesson this is for farmers to let their boys see improvements.)

Mr. Watson's most noted cow was Old Grannie, that lived 36 years, and had 25 calves; her last, a bull of merit, in her 29th year (she holds the world's record, I think). Next followed Wm. McCombie, who came from six generations of good cattlemen. He loved his cattle, and mated and cared for them till he moulded them into the "Bonnie Blacks" that won the grand champion herd prize over all breeds at the International Show, at Paris, France, in 1878. He was a great believer in individual merit, coupled with superior pedigree, and emphasized the value of the sire. He bred Pride of Aberdeen (581), the founder of the

famous Pride family. She was also a great show cow. He also bought Queen Mother (348), and founded the great Queen family. He also bred Trojan, that Sir Geo. McPherson Grant bred to Erica, and founded the Erica family. The late Sir Geo. McPherson Grant, of Ballindalloch, has made a great success in breeding Aberdeen-Angus cattle. How many years Ballindalloch bulls have topped the sales in Scotland, among them the noted Prince Ito, that sold at Chicago for \$9,100; Emulus, Ermine Bear, Eblito, Eland's Laggite, Judge, Justice, and many others.

EARLY IMPORTATIONS.

Importations to Canada and the United States started in 1873, when Geo. Grant, of Victoria, Kansas, imported three bulls to use on Western range cows. In 1876, the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, imported two bulls and a cow. In 1878, Anderson & Findlay, Lake Forest, Ill., imported five cows and a bull. In 1880, George Whitfield, of Rougemont, Quebec; and, later, M. H. Cochrane, Hillhurst, Quebec; Dr. Craik, of Montreal; Hay & Patton, of New Lowell; Mossom Boyd, Bobcaygeon, Ont., and the Gearys, of London, and many of the best cattle to-day trace to these importations.

DESCRIPTION.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle should be moderately short in leg; deep, thick and smooth in body; head moderately short and clean-cut, with poll



Black, But Comely.

1752, and in 1775 there were two sorts spoken of, the small and lean-fleshed, such as the crofters (small farmers) used, and a larger sort, some black and some brindled. The smaller cattle were said to be the more prepotent.

NOTED IMPROVERS.

The earliest real improver of the Aberdeen-Angus was Hugh Watson, of Keillor, Forfar, Scotland, the "Colling" of this breed. He was born in 1789, became a tenant at Keillor in 1808, and remained there 56 years, dying in 1865. His father and grandfather were lovers of good cattle, and when Hugh went to Keillor he took six cows and a bull with him, all black. He also purchased other good heifers and a black bull named "Tartan Jock." His daughter states that he did not start his great work in earnest until



Idelamere (2306).

Champion Aberdeen-Angus bull at Royal Show, England, and sire of James Bowman's Magnificent—2856—.