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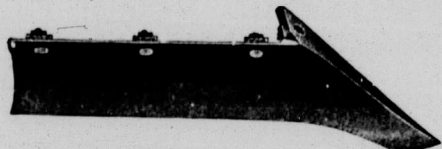
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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

### DUAL-PURPOSE CATTLE IMPORTATION

An article in a recent issue of the "Breeder's Gazette" mentions that James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, has just brought over one of the finest lots of dual-purpose cattle that ever left the shores of England. They consist of milking Shorthorns and South Devons. The importation includes fifteen milking Shorthorn cows and fifty bulls. It also includes a steer of the same class from a dam that gave more than 11,000 pounds of milk in a year. The South Devon importation consists of ten South Devon cows and two bulls. Amongst the milking Shorthorns are to be found some of the finest specimens that England ever produced, in fact the whole importation would have been of this class but for the fact that many of the animals selected failed to pass the tuberculin test. The average maximum production of these seven cows in milk is more than 10,000 pounds in a year, showing clearly the capabilities of Shorthorns of the dual-purpose type. The steer imported was bred by Chivers. He is two and a half years old and has made a gain of nearly two pounds a day from birth. His dam in 1913 gave about 11,000 pounds of milk in a year, thus proving the fleshing abilities of this dual-purpose type of cattle. The intention is to distribute the fifty pedigreed bulls thruout the Western states, with the object of improving and grading up the stock in the district.

In the importation there are ten South Devon cows and two South Devon bulls. These cows are as large as the average Shorthorn. They are noted for both milk and meat production, being exceptionally good milkers. That the steers are large is evidenced by the fact that there is now at the Primley farm, in South Devon, a three-year-old steer that weighs more than 2,800 pounds. One of the bulls purchased weighs a ton and his age is only two years and four months. A young Devon bull has also been purchased as a safeguard, since there were no South Devon cattle in America previous to this importation. The article closes with the remark that, "All these Devons are of that class which our wise men say cannot be bred."

### WHAT IS A FUTURITY?

The term "futuraity," as applied to many of the classes at larger exhibitions, is becoming more common, yet its full significance has not been revealed to many of the spectators, and there are probably many exhibitors who do not yet realize the meaning of the word. Our Western show circuit has adopted the principle at some centres, but it has not become general thruout Canada. Since 1911 the National Draft Horse Breeders' Futurities have been held at Iowa State Fair, and since that time the International Exposition at Chicago has adopted the system, and it now covers all breeds of draft horses, Poland-China swine and Shorthorn cattle.

The aim of the futuraity is to encourage breeders to fit and grow their stock while young and when it should be grown. The age at which animals should be shown for these prizes is optional, but in the case of horses it has usually been set for yearlings. They must be entered some time in advance, and one principle which has worked out fairly well in the States is to set the entry fee at \$5.00—\$1.00 payable at time of entry, \$1.00 payable at a later date, and \$3.00 thirty days before the time of showing. In this way breeders are encouraged from the very first to fit and grow their young stock, and at the season of showing the futuraity classes are looked upon with intense interest and buyers flock there, for they know that the winner of such an event must be exceptionally good. The principle is an adaptation of the old racing stake, whereby many contribute a small amount that the successful one or two may reap a considerable reward. In the past premiums for young stock have been small, but under the futuraity plan they have grown so large that the cost of fitting and showing is inconsiderable compared with the prize received. The stake in these cases is made up by entry fees, contributions by associations and private donations, and on the whole are far more enticing to exhibitors than the ordinary prize-list premiums. Furthermore they encourage breeders to advance their stock while it is young, and thus the futuraity encourages feeding and rearing in a way that the ordinary classification deals with very little.

—Farmers' Advocate, London.

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