

Early Importations of Shorthorns.

The first importation of Shorthorn cattle from Great Britain to Canada of which we find record, was made by the Board of Agriculture of the Province of New Brunswick in 1825 or 1826, consisting of four bulls, three of which were from the herd of Mr. Wetherell, of Durham.

One of the first importations, if not the first, to Ontario was made by Mr. Rowland Wingfield, of Guelph, who brought out in 1833 six cows and heifers, and the white bull Young Farmer =275=. About 1835 Hon. Adam Ferguson, of Waterdown, Ont., imported from England the bull Agricola and three cows, including Beauty, by Snowball (2647), who proved very prolific of a very useful class of dual-purpose cows, her name still figuring in the pedigrees of many excellent cattle in Canadian herds. With her came Cherry, by a son of St. Albans (2584), and the bull Agricola (1614).

In 1837 Messrs. Geo. and John Simpson, of Newmarket, Ont., brought out a bull and two cows, one of which, Lady Jane, by Sir Walter, left a large family, which has descendants in many herds.

In 1845 Mr. Ralph Wade, of Port Hope, imported the roan cows Adeline, Clarentine, Fisher Roan and Snowdrop, and the bull American Belted Will, imported in dam. The cow Fisher Roan is the ancestress of an extra good breeding family in the herd of Hon. John Dryden, from which family he has bred many successful show animals, including the grand red yearling bull, Bertie's Hero, winner of the first prize in his class at the International Show, Chicago, in 1905.

During the years 1854 to 1856, Messrs. Geo. Miller, Markham, and William Miller, Pickering, brought out the first Scotch Shorthorns imported to Canada. They were principally of the good, thick-fleshed families bred by Mr. Robert Syme, of Redkirk, Dumfriesshire, and they and their descendants for many years held a prominent place in the prize-lists of Provincial fairs, winning perhaps more first-class honors than any other one family. With one of these importations came the noted bull, Baron Solway =23=, selected by Simon Beattie for Mr. John Snell, of Edmonton, Ont., (now Snelgrove). This bull, a massive roan, with grand handling quality, bred by Mr. Syme, was a sweepstakes winner at Provincial exhibitions, and a capital sire.

From 1854 to 1856 Mr. F. W. Stone, Guelph, made six importations, comprising many excellent cattle from noted English herds, and for many years afterwards Mr. Stone imported extensively of cattle, sheep and Suffolk horses.

The first Cruickshank cattle to come to Canada were imported in 1859 by Mr. Neil McGillivray, of Williamstown, Glengarry County, Ont., who brought out two bulls and two cows, bred by Amos Cruickshank, Sittyton. They were said to be excellent cattle, but were given no special attention and were soon scattered and lost sight of.

In the year 1867 Mr. Geo. Isaac, father of Mr. John Isaac, Marlham, and his brothers, who had emigrated from Scotland in 1842 and settled near Cobourg, Ont., began importing cattle from the herd of his brother-in-law, Mr. Sylvester Campbell, of Kinellar, Aberdeenshire, and for many years Mr. Isaac and his sons imported many excellent Kinellar-bred cattle, principally the get of Cruickshank bulls. The importations of the Isaac brothers, some of whom are yet in the business, have done much to improve the cattle of this country. The noted herd of Messrs. J. & W. Russell, of Richmond Hill, which made such a splendid record at the World's Fair, at Chicago, in 1893, was founded on stock bred at Kinellar, and imported by the Isaac brothers.

In 1870 Mr. John S. Armstrong, of Eramosa, near Guelph, made an importation of excellent cattle, drawn from the Uppermill herd of Mr. W. S. Marr, one of which was Missie 23rd, belonging to the tribe of that name which has been very popular in recent years. In 1871 Mr. Armstrong made a large shipment, mainly from Uppermill, a number of which were sired by Heir of Englishman, a bull that influenced the Marr herd for good to nearly as great an extent as did Champion of England the Sittyton herd.

In 1864 Hon. David Christie, of Paris, Ont., made an importation of magnificent cattle from the herd of Mr. Douglas, of Athelstaneford, which included the great show cow, Queen of Athelstane, one of the most perfect specimens of the breed ever seen in this country. These were very successful show cattle in Great Britain, and were in very high condition when imported. In 1868 Mr. Christie, who had great faith in Booth blood, brought out from England the bull Knight of St. George (8472), bred by Mr. Carr, of Yorkshire, a strongly-bred Booth bull, but his progeny from the Douglas cows was no great success, except in the case of his son, Crown Prince of Athelstane 2nd, out of Crown Princess of Athelstane, purchased when a calf by Mr. James I. Davidson, of Balsam, in whose herd, bred to some of his best Cruickshank cows, many exceptionally good animals were produced.

Mr. Joseph S. Thompson, of Whithy, Ont., one of the best judges of his day, made an importation

in 1870 that fairly entitled him to the credit of having first brought Cruickshank cattle into prominence in America. In this shipment were two daughters of Champion of England, Sylvia and Christobel. They were the first specimens of Sittyton breeding exhibited at the leading shows in Canada, and created quite a sensation at the Provincial fair in Toronto as yearlings, where they were placed first and second in strong competition. Mr. Thompson made a larger importation the following year, including the noted show cow, Violet's Forth, bred by Mr. Cruickshank, and sired by the grand show bull, Forth. She was a light roan cow, of great substance, quality and character—one of the best ever imported. Another grand cow brought out by Mr. Thompson, from the herd of Mr. Sylvester Campbell, Kinellar, was the roan Golden Drop 1st, sold at Mr. Thompson's auction sale, in 1874, to John Snell & Sons for \$1,600, in whose hands she won first prize and sweepstakes at the Provincial fair at London the following year, and at the executors' sale of the Snell herd the next year, owing to the death of Mr. Snell, senior, she was sold for \$1,225, and her yearling daughter, which she carried when purchased at the Whithy sale, brought \$1,000, the purchasers of both being Messrs. Day, of Iowa.

Mr. John Miller, of Thistle Ha', Brougham, Ont., son of Wm. Miller, sr., of Pickering, made his first importation in 1870, which included the roan show cow Rose of Strathallan, bred by Lord Strathallan, and sired by Mr. Cruickshank's Allan. She was a first-prize winner in Scotland and at Provincial fairs in Canada. Her son, Lord Strathallan, which she carried when imported, a red bull, developed into a grand show animal, and was sold to Mr. Lockridge, of Indiana, for \$2,500, and a daughter, Rose of Strathallan 2nd, sold to Messrs. Snider, of Waterloo County, was a sweepstakes winner at Provincial fairs, and one of the most finished cows of the breed ever seen in this country.

Mr. James I. Davidson, of Balsam, Ont., father of John, of Ashburn, and James I., of the home-stead, still in the business, made his first importation in 1871, selected from the herd of Mr. Cruickshank, of whom he was a close personal friend, and of whose cattle he was a most consistent and enthusiastic advocate. Mr. Davidson was, for many years, the principal importer of Sittyton cattle to America, handling large numbers of them, the greater part of which were sold to United States breeders, but many to Canadians as well. From 1881 to 1887 he had practically a monopoly of the handling of the surplus stock of Sittyton for the American trade.

In 1871 Hon. John Dryden, of Brooklin, Ont., made his first importation of the bull Stanley and five females, bred by Mr. Cruickshank, including the red three-year-old cow Mimulus, by Champion of England, the dam of the noted prizewinning and breeding bull Barmpton Hero =217=, a roan, born in 1878, and sold when a calf to Messrs. J. & W. B. Watt, of Salem, Ont., in whose herd he was used until he was thirteen years old, proving the progenitor of more high-class prizewinners at principal Canadian shows than any other bull, imported or home-bred, that has ever figured in this country. He was sired by Royal Barmpton, a bull bred at Sittyton, and imported in 1873 by Mr. Dryden. As proof that much more depends upon the quality than the length of a pedigree, it may be noted that the pedigree of Mimulus, as it appears in the herdbooks, shows only four crosses of recorded bulls, and is, perhaps, the shortest of any of the Scottish cattle of that decade imported to Canada; but these were bulls of exceptional individual merit, though only one, Champion of England, was bred in Scotland, yet her first calf, Royal Duke of Gloster, whose sire, Grand Duke of Gloster, was more than her half-brother (being also by Champion of England, both being out of cows by Lord Raglan, an imported bull), was used freely in the Sittyton herd, and was the sire of the noted bulls Roan Gauntlet and Cumberland, the former the sire of Field Marshal, who, in turn, was the sire of the champion Mario. Mimulus produced only one heifer calf, which was sold to go to the States, her other produce being all bulls, of which six are recorded.

It was in 1874 that Mr. Arthur Johnston, of Greenwood, Ont., in connection with Mr. David Birrell, made his first importation, including the roan yearling heifer Alexandrina 6th, from the herd of Mr. W. S. Marr, of Uppermill. In 1884 Mr. Johnston brought out from Mr. Duthie's herd the Highland Society prizewinning bull Eclipse, by Earl of March, and in the same year he landed a large and excellent importation, which included the white Sittyton heifer, Allspice, an own sister to Field Marshal, four Lancaster heifers, two Clarets, a Nonpareil, and two Rosebuds, from Kinellar, and eight young bulls, seven of which were of Mr. Campbell's breeding. Mr. Johnston made many later importations, and showed his rare good judgment in the purchase, from the Luther Adams' importation of 1887, of the noted roan, Cruickshank-bred Victoria bull Indian Chief, the sire of more successful show bulls than any other in the history of the breed in Canada, with the possible exception of Barmpton Hero.

A Study of the Breeds of Swine.

I.

The spirit of appreciation in which the series of articles appearing in these columns recently on the history and characteristics of the various breeds of cattle was received by many of our readers, has encouraged us to take up the principal breeds of swine in a somewhat similar way, and, as in the other case, we shall treat the breeds in alphabetical order. The occasion appears opportune, owing to the prominence recently given to the questions of the raising and marketing of hogs. The chapters in this series will necessarily be brief, owing to the limited information available regarding the origin of the breeds, which point, however, is of secondary importance, as their adaptation to the present-day demands is the most essential requirement.

Swine have existed in a wild state on the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa since the dawn of history, and have been improved by domestication and selection. The principal breeds of swine in Britain at the present time are the Berkshire, the Large Yorkshire, the Tamworth, the Large Black, the Middle White, the Small White or Suffolk, and the Essex. The purely American varieties are the Chester White, the Poland-China, the Duroc-Jersey, the Cheshire and the Victoria. The breeds most common and most popular in Canada at the present time are the three first named in each of these sub-sections, though not necessarily in the order in which they are named.

The swine of Great Britain have been improved chiefly through crosses made with certain foreign and native breeds, by generous feeding and improved care, and the chief of the foreign breeds used in the process were the Chinese and the Neapolitan. The former have been used chiefly in the improvement of the white breeds, and the latter in the improvement of the black. Both crosses tended to reduce the size of the bone, shorten the limbs and ears, to refine the hair, and to improve the early-maturing qualities. Swine in the United States have been improved through crosses chiefly derived from Britain, the skillful blending of varieties, and improved management.

The agitation through the press, and otherwise by the Canadian pork-packers, in the last ten years, for the production of a type of hog specially suited to the demands of the English market for the class of bacon product known as Wiltshire sides, has led to a considerable modification in the general form and character of the pigs of all the breeds in Canada, a result reflecting much credit upon the intelligence and skill of the breeders of this country. This demand has been for a larger proportion of lean meat, with more bacon, and for pigs that mature sufficiently early to be marketed at from six to eight months old, when they should weigh from 160 to 200 pounds, or even more, if well fed. This modification has been effected mainly by selection and mating of the fittest within existing breeds, and by crossing the short-bodied grade stock with pure-bred sires of the approved type and quality, length of sides, smoothness of shoulders and fleshiness of back being principal features in their make-up, keeping in view at the same time the importance of strong and vigorous constitution and good feeding qualities, or the ability to make rapid growth and gain in weight, giving reasonably good returns for the food consumed. That a large proportion of Canadian farmers have succeeded in the effort to meet the demand for this class of hogs is evidenced by the largely increased percentage on the market conforming to the standard of selects. But while this is true, it must be admitted that, owing to the indifference or carelessness of many farmers, there are yet too many of the unsuitable sort being produced, and the sooner these careless ones wake up to the necessity of getting into line with the requirements of the trade, the better for their own financial interests and for the reputation of our country in the best market open to our pork products.

(To be continued.)

The Live-stock Branch.

We have received advanced sheets of the annual report for the past year of the Dominion Live-stock Commissioner, Mr. F. W. Hodson. It is a model resume of the work of the branch, grouped under three divisions: 1, Educational, carried on to a greater or less extent in all the Provinces by means of expert lecturers for farmers' institutes, judging schools, and illustration work at exhibitions, most of the work bearing directly or indirectly upon live-stock husbandry; 2, the nationalizing of the Canadian live-stock records; and 3, the extension of trade in live stock to foreign countries.

Seven Years' Trial.

I received your premium knife, and am well pleased with it. I have been taking your paper for seven years, and would not like to be without it. I will try to send more subscriptions. JNO. B. EPPLETT, Perth Co., Ont.