

the universal diffusion of pure blood. A high grade Shorthorn to-day brings a much better price than a scrub, not so much that it is a high grade Shorthorn as that it is *intrinsically* better than the scrub. This means, then, a gradual lowering of the prices for the average breeder. But the breeders of to-day need not feel concerned, for the number of the unimproved is so out of all proportion to the number of the improved, that many years must elapse before that happy era shall arrive when the latter shall be in excess of the former. Very probably before that day of sunshine comes the present generation shall have passed away, and it has been the experience of the world in all past ages, that each generation can manage its own material affairs better than the preceding can manage them in prospective.

Shall very high prices, then, soon become a thing of the past in the rearing of pure-breds? Comparatively speaking they will, but in the case of some, fancy prices will always be obtained. Mr. Handy, the distinguished English breeder, obtains better prices for his Shorthorns to-day than most of the breeders of England, and just because he has proved it to the people of England and of other countries that he has produced better cattle. Physicians and other professional men have a rate of charges to which they usually adhere, yet some of them, more distinguished, will charge more for the very same kind of assistance as others, and just because they are more distinguished. Now this has gone on through all past ages, although there have been physicians from the beginning. So with the prices obtained for pure-breds. There will always be a sort of standard price, and that standard will vary from time to time, and there will always be some Mr. Handleys and some Mr. Fullers, although not many, who will obtain much better prices.

We have no sympathy with those who rejoice in any legislation that lessens for the time being the number of registered animals of any breed, because it may temporarily raise the price. Any one who harbors such a thought is nursing a moral leprosy that will feed upon his manhood. This is very different from sustaining such a course, in the hope that it may advance the best interests of the breed as such.

In the prosecution of any pursuit it is the good that will accrue to the largest number that should be sought, rather than the enrichment of the few. If they by their superior tact and skill distance their fellows, rather than complain we should feel proud that we have such men in our midst, and rather rejoice with them in their success.

It is always a safe rule for those who have live-stock which they are anxious to sell, to bow to present prices, and make the best of the situation, as stock, unlike many kinds of produce, are very expensive to hold over.

### Reaching the "Laggards."

In referring to one means of reaching the very numerous class who will not open their eyes to the advantages of good stock, "Farmer John," in his very excellent letter in another column, uses the following language:

"I have in my mind's eye just now, some ten or a dozen of this pagan class. I intend to send them, at my expense, the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL for six months out of the twelve. There will be made from five to seven converts . . . The sale of one extra animal a year will more than pay for the outlay."

"Farmer John" has here given expression in his own happy way to a *truism* that we could never have uttered ourselves, lest modesty should be outraged. One of the class of visitors, such as he interrogated at Bow Park, can never be reached, unless in some

such way. He will keep the windows of the temple of his mind closed till some kind neighbor opens the shutters and lets in some rays of light. It would be lost labor to ask this man to take a farm paper by any one unless a neighbor in whom he had confidence. The only other way to reach him is to send it to him for a time *free*. In such a case, though he still refuse to open his eyes to the light, it may not be thus with his boy. The latter may become interested, and thus another will be enrolled on the side of progress. The diffusion of minute rays of light gradually warm the atmosphere, and the constant working of moral forces in the world so react upon the mass of evil which it permeates that it becomes less and less in those latter and better days. Just so if there is to be a great reform in agricultural methods, it must be brought about gradually through the influence direct or indirect of the progressive upon their neighbors.

### An Outlet for our Barley.

Professor J. W. Robertson, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, gave the following as a winter ration for average sized dairy cows in milk, at the cheese convention of the Eastern Dairymen, held in Brockville on Jan. 6-8 of the present year: 2 lbs. bran, 2 lbs. oil cake or cotton cake, 5 lbs. barley and oats, 7 lbs. clover hay, and 30 lbs. mangolds, daily. The barley and oats were to be ground and fed in equal proportions, and the meal and bran should be fed in three feeds. Assuming that the number of cows in Ontario is 700,000, which is under rather than over the number, and that this ration were fed to them for but six months in the year, they would consume no less than nearly 7,000,000 bushels of barley during that time. This is nearly one-half the whole amount grown in the province. Farmers are sometimes found asking the question, "What will be done with our barley in coming days?" There is no ground for anxiety here. Like the Danes, let us convert it into milk, and it will prove a most blessed disposal of it. True, the cows would not consume it all, but with ground oats it is a good food for calves, and a little for a change is good for fowls. With the number of cows constantly increasing, and the acreage of barley constantly decreasing, we need have no anxiety as to what will become of our barley. We ought to thank those Danes for what they have taught us. They have long held the butter market in England amongst foreign exporters, and it is pleasing to know that a part of the food ration from which this butter is produced is barley.

### The Beef Breeds of Cattle.

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(Continued from December.)

THE NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK POLLS OR RED POLLS.

This is a remarkably interesting race of cattle. The writer has always believed that of British cattle they were among the first to be imported to this country, and this seems to be confirmed from various sources. L. F. Allen's "American Cattle" is of this opinion.

It is well known that from the earliest times there have been "domestic herds" of the ancient white polled cattle in East Anglia, and that it is from these that the Norfolks sprung. That fact indicates that the Norfolks are a very ancient race. Low, in his Domesticated Animals controverts the assertion that it was the Galloway that originated the Norfolk. He says, "They have as much the characteristics of a distinct bovine breed as the Galloway itself."

Doubtless, there were in the early times introductions of Polled Scots into Norfolk, of which the Galloway seems to have been one. But put a red Norfolk alongside a Galloway and no one in the world would jump to the conclusion that there was any likeness. I there is a resemblance between the Norfolk's best sorts and any other polled breed, it is to the old Aberdeen-Angus—the difference being the larger size of the latter. Take photographs, wood cuts or lithographs of the two breeds where color is not apparent and no one could distinguish them, but they could easily distinguish the Galloway and Norfolk from this test.

"Sigma," in the *National Live-Stock Journal*, in alluding to the antiquity of the Norfolk breed, says that they (the Norfolks) were "universally polled at a time when the Galloways were certainly not universally polled"—that indeed the latter "have been proved to be the youngest polled race in Britain."

There is a certain species of evidence on this matter which is conclusive on these points, but this is not the place to allude further to this; we may only trust that it will be given in a more suitable place.

Camden two or three centuries ago described the country of these cattle "as a fat and fertile soil, . . . in every place most rich and goodly corn fields, with pastures as battable for grazing and feeding of cattle. And great store of cheeses are there made," which found their way into "all parts of England, many into Germany, France and Spain, also as Pantalem, Phistian writeth, who stucke not to compare these of ours for color and taste both with those of Placentia." Speed also in 1676 made similar averments. The earlier accounts of the county state them to have been "universally polled;" and Arthur Young describes their character fully, as do Culley, Lawrence, and others, writing in 1764 and 1805. "The character which indicates a disposition to arrive at early maturity, and secrete fat, have been disregarded, while those that indicate a disposition in the female to produce abundant milk, have been alone valued." They were, according to the earliest account, subject to the most careless treatment, and supported on the coarsest fare—yet they were not surpassed by any in the power of yielding milk. The color of the old race was dun, and we would remark in this that their color would seem to have been the common original color of the aboriginal cattle in Britain. Red came to be the result of fancy.

In the *Agricultural Gazette*, No. 503, published August 20th, 1883, were given, by favor of Mr. G. Gooderham, the portraits of his two remarkable red Suffolk cows, Wild Rose, and Wild Rose of Kilburn. The former was reported to give on grass, without cake, 54 pints in a day for four months together; and it was asserted that 20 pints of her milk, on grass, gave 1 pound of butter. The milk of Shorthorns, at the prize farm reported in the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1883, is stated to have yielded at the same rate, of 1 pound of butter to 20 pints of milk. Mr. Austin's cows are stated to have each 4 pounds of cake per day, and that 15 1-10 pints yield 1 pound of butter. The record of Mr. Austin's herd is certainly noteworthy, both for the amount yielded and the percentage of butter.

As this is an essay on "beef" breeds we do not go further into the subject of the milk properties of the polls, but go on to consider their beef qualities. In the agricultural shows, indeed, it has been as beef cattle that they have mostly appeared. In a breed so highly developed in the milky way as they are, they are the only one of which this can be said. At Paris, in 1878, they were the only other polled breed