

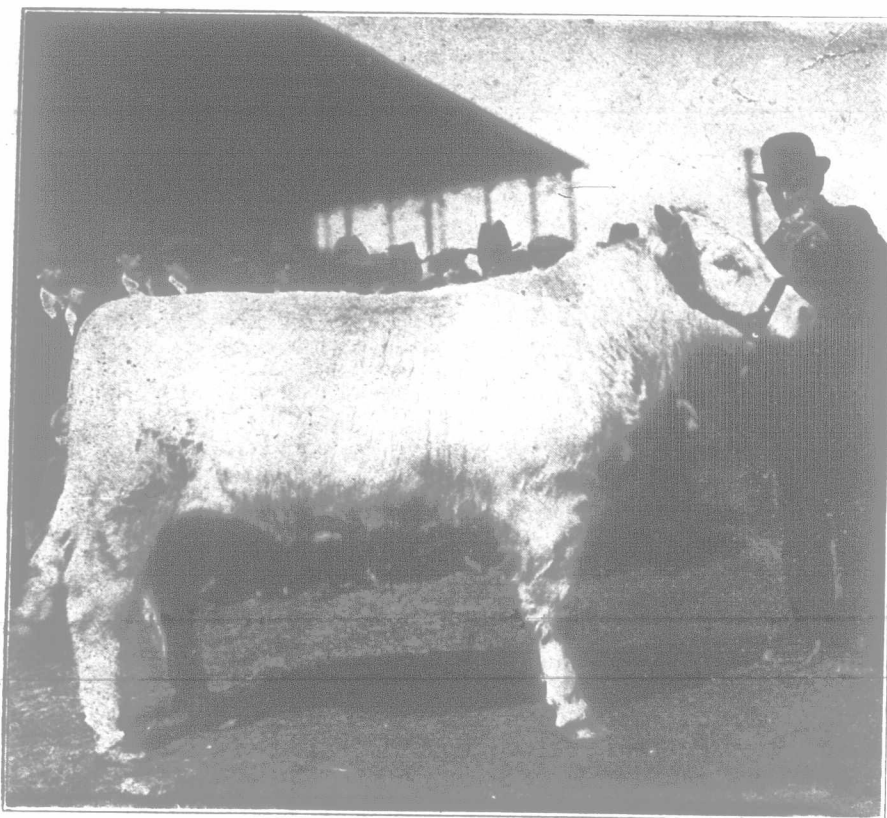
Shorthorn Pedigrees.

BY GEO. E. DAY.

To the average Shorthorn breeder a Shorthorn pedigree is either "straight Scotch" or "plain." A straight Scotch pedigree, of course, is one which traces in all its lines to Shorthorns bred in Scotland, whereas the so-called plain pedigree is usually one which traces back on the side of the dam to a cow imported from England in the earlier days of Shorthorn breeding in Canada. It is true that there are some plain pedigrees which trace back to a cow bred in Scotland many years ago, but sires of mixed breeding have been used for generations, so that the pedigree cannot be called straight Scotch.

Scottish breeders have attained such a high reputation as Shorthorn breeders that there is small wonder their cattle should receive favorable recognition, provided of course, that the individual animal measures up in point of excellence, to some degree at least, with the best Scotch cattle. But it is hard to justify the selection of an inferior individual simply because it is of straight Scotch breeding, and the rejection of individuals of high merit because all lines of ancestry do not trace back to Scotland.

It is true that we have in Canada and the United States many Shorthorns which are properly called plainly bred, for the reason that the breeders have been men who never invested in really high-class sires, and who were not particular as to the blood represented in the bulls they used. Such animals are properly called plainly bred, no matter whether they are of Scotch or English extraction. On the other hand, we find animals of high merit where the best blood of the breed has been used for generations by our best breeders, which are called plainly bred simply because the dam traces back to an English importation made many years ago. To illustrate this point the pedigree of the young bull "Sultan's Perfection" is given below.



Sultan Hero.

Winner of senior bull class at Western Ontario Shorthorn Sale. Shown by J. T. Gibson, Denfield.

SULTAN'S PERFECTION = 132338 =	
DAM	SIRE
Silver Queen = 114708 =	Sultan Choice = 107452 =
Fairy Maid = 84524 =	Lavender Sultan = 84075 =
	Prince of Archers (imp.) = 60861 =
Lavinia Lass = 55699 =	Prince Louis (imp.) = 32082 =
Lavinia = 55698 =	Prime Minister (imp.) = 15280 =
Humber Fairy = 35438 =	Guardsman (imp.) = 18956 =
Fairy's Flower = 23600 =	Albert (imp.) = 2668 =
Fairy May = 9057 =	Prince Ingledwood (imp.) = 1283 =
Fairy Circle = 988 =	Count Grindelwald (imp.) = 60 =
Fairy Girl = 990 =	Louden Duke = 803 =
Fairy Gem = 989 =	Duke of Bourbon = 507 =
Fairy = 987 =	Prince of the West (imp.) = 203 =

Tracing back seven more generations to the imported cow Annabella = 16 =, bred by J. Wetherell, Brompton, England, and imported in 1823.

Let us look into this pedigree a little. The sire of Sultan's Perfection is Sultan Choice, a son of Lavender Sultan. Lavender Sultan is a son of that excellent breeding bull Superb Sultan, by the great Whitehall Sultan. In addition to this the dam of Superb Sultan is a daughter of Avondale, perhaps the most illustrious son of Whitehall Sultan. It will be seen, therefore, that Sultan Choice carries two crosses of Whitehall Sultan on the side of his grand-sire, Superb Sultan. Further, the sire of Sultan Choice is Fairy Maid, 2nd, a daughter

of Prime Favorite (imp.), a Toronto grand champion in his day.

The dam of Sultan's Perfection is half sister to Sultan Choice, her sire being Lavender Sultan, whose breeding has been noted. Therefore, Sultan's Perfection carries four crosses of Whitehall Sultan, two on the side of his sire and two on the side of his dam.

The third sire is Prince of Archers (imp.), a bull of the best Scotch blood, and one who proved himself to be an excellent sire. The fourth sire is Prince Louis (imp.), belonging to the Lancaster family, and carrying in his blood the very best Scotch blood. He also proved to be a very successful sire.

Next comes Prime Minister (imp.), bred by Wm. Duthie. The name of his breeder is sufficient guarantee as to the blood he carries, and he proved to be a most successful sire.

Next to Prime Minister comes his half brother, Guardsman (imp.), also bred by Wm. Duthie. It is worthy of note that Guardsman was the sire of the great show bull St. Valentine. No apology need be offered for this bull either in breeding or performance.

The seventh sire is Albert (imp.), bred by Sylvester Campbell. His sire is Vermont, and he carries the very best blood of the breed. He also proved to be an excellent sire.

Below these bulls of Scotch breeding we find bulls of English blood, mostly Bates.

Sultan's Perfection is said to be plainly bred, because on the side of his dam he traces back some eighteen generations to the imported English bred cow Annabella = 16 =, but through seven generations he has received the very best Shorthorn blood existing in Canada, the United States and Great Britain. It would be difficult indeed to find a bull, even in Scotland, with seven better bred sires than those appearing without a break at the top of this pedigree. There must surely be something wrong with our method of valuing Shorthorn

pedigrees when a bull of this breeding is classified as plainly bred.

Attention might be called to the fact that in Great Britain a man can start with a grade Shorthorn cow, and, after using pure-bred sires for four generations, can record in Coates' Herd Book the female descendants of this grade cow. The fifth cross makes the male descendants eligible for registration, and if an animal of such breeding were brought to Canada from Scotland it would be accepted for registration in our Herd Book, and rated as of straight Scotch breeding. In the sale ring such an animal would outsell an animal of equal merit as an individual bred along the same line as Sultan's Perfection. The straight Scotch bull would have five crosses of Scotch bulls in his pedigree with a grade Shorthorn cow for foundation on the side of his dam, but Sultan's Perfection has seven richly bred Scotch bulls at the top of his pedigree and runs back through nearly twenty generations of recorded animals on the side of his dam, and further than this, the English blood which he carries was the very best blood of its day. If Sultan's Perfection is plainly bred, where can we hope to find well-bred cattle?

There are many other Shorthorns in Canada and the United States with breeding similar to that of Sultan's Perfection, which are consequently dubbed "plainly bred." Sultan's Perfection is used merely as a striking example of a really well-bred animal which is not appreciated, and it must not be supposed that this is an isolated case by any means. How this evident injustice is to be overcome is not clear. So long as our customers demand animals of straight Scotch breeding we are practically compelled to furnish them with what they expect, but it would be a good thing for the Shorthorn

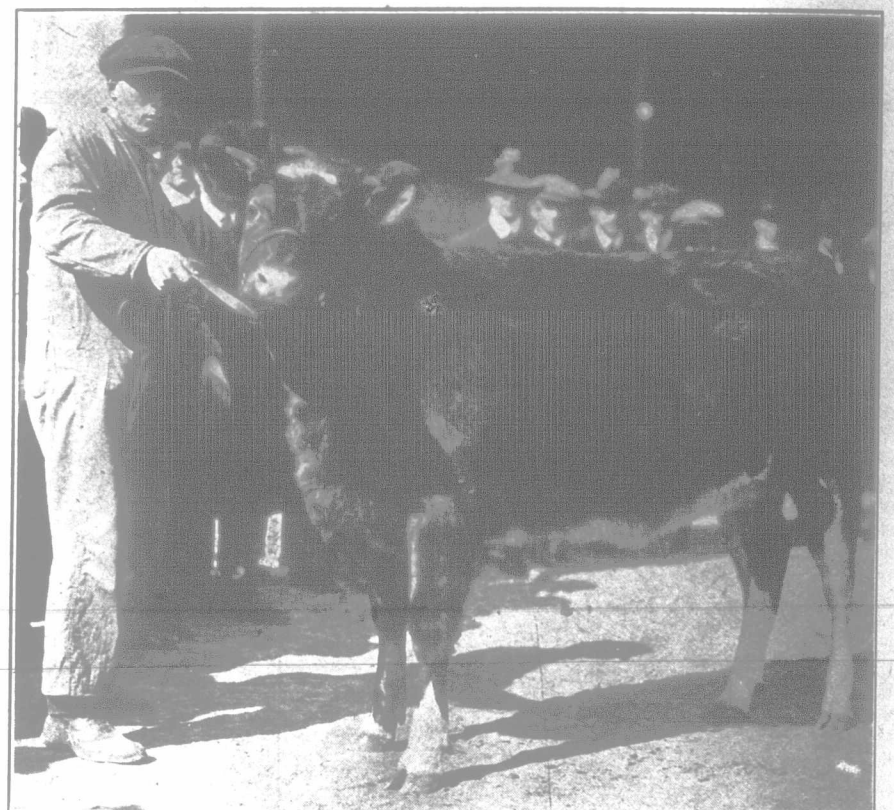
breed if we would pay more attention to the quality of the sires appearing in a pedigree and less attention to the foundation cow from which the family is descended. Some day we will probably learn this lesson, and the sooner we admit the fact that good breeding is good breeding no matter where it is done, the better it will be for the breed.

There is one redeeming feature in connection with our methods of estimating Shorthorn pedigrees, and that is the fact that straight Scotch Shorthorns of high merit are widely distributed, and consequently while we may feel that a great injustice is being done to many really well-bred cattle, there is little danger of any deterioration in the quality of the breed. Shorthorn breeders are not restricting their selection within one or two families, as occurred during the Bates boom of years ago, but they are admitting to public favor all Shorthorns of Scotch extraction, no matter what families or line of breeding they may represent. It must be admitted, however, that progress in Shorthorn breeding would be facilitated by placing all really well-bred Shorthorns upon a par, regardless of whether their remote blood lines take us back to Scotland or to England.

The Trials of the Importer.

BY D. B. MCEWEN, MIDDLESEX CO., ONT.

It is customary, when we desire to raise the status of our flocks and herds in Canada, by the use of superior sires and matrons, that such animals come from Great Britain or Ireland. Strictly speaking, importing is the purchasing and transportation of an animal or goods from a foreign country, but when applied to live stock it is naturally associated with a pleasant trip to the British Isles, the selection of animals and their consequent shipment to Canada, without taking into consideration the financial risk, trouble and worries which



Rosemary.

Champion Shorthorn heifer at Western Ontario Sale. Exhibited by Geo. Gier & Son, Waldemar.

the importer encounters. In the sheep business, with which the writer had some experience, very few importers have made any remuneration worth while, and only then when they are breeders here of the line of stock which they brought over. It is not the writer's desire to discourage anyone who may have a desire to try importing, but rather to give a fair estimate of the risk, restrictions, and difficulties encountered in England during the ante bellum period.

It is essential before leaving home that your plans be well formed. You estimate the number of sheep which you intend to purchase and their cost, the cost of shipping to the boat and their space on board, with necessary feed, and then a rough estimate of your own expenses. After allowing for travelling, hotels and incidentals, you arrange with your bank to have the estimated amount required placed at your disposal at a bank in the city in the British Isles where you propose having your headquarters.

Your headquarters should be located in some city where you will be centrally located for buying from the flocks you have in mind, and it will serve as a permanent address where all mail or wires will reach you. Also, to be safe, leave about a fifty-per-cent. margin on the money you estimate to need, as it is impossible to keep within the limit which you set. Last but not least, you require a passport and reservation for passage across to England, both of which are sometimes difficult to obtain on short notice. When leaving you state that you will be back at a certain time, but, from others' experience, you should make this very indefinite so as not to give the impression later that you are just stopping in England for a pleasure tour.

You may or may not enjoy ocean travel, but in any

case land will. Naturally you go to the arrangement given points with the breeder will give you a list of the sheep upon a flock sheep you will be and rams, for you arrive hurdled in which are shown to be shown to may not be priced at a other sheep but they are bred sale ewes which breeding flock leave without had. The and you find you want, a you had set a few sheep means of to some extent selected and past, as health and space sheep are have them with sire a stating the numbers with the part of Canadian five months English pedigree for the sheep. All sheep for veterinarians' ment declared the sheep from the disease, new etc., signed district. We cars an affected, an area, must accompany for examination boat. Naturally worry if the tions, but trifles. A Board of allow export. You the to procure reserved for time, and you purchased to port one or not uncommon transportation an all probability that the sailing. Upon wiring orders, you and arrange for and fed delays in sale with feed for is well, but of foot and exports for there are no been unable outbreak at cancel all pr some of the and refund loss financial burden is lifting providing you case someone several h the writer w fore an out thrown over. The boat are loaded quarantine, quarantine the boat sail do not deve the veteri sheep that only by the the sheep u tagious to a have know several weel all sore mo extreme har delayed till for which th Importin