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The Rural Canadian.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

TORONTO, JUNE 1st, 1882.

SHORTHORN FUNERAL ORATIONS.

The New York Tribune has been moved to deliver two pathetic funeral orations over the remains of a notable Shorthorn cow. They have the rare merits of brevity and very plain speaking to the friends of the deceased. The first, headed "A Shorthorn Obituary," is as follows:—

"The circular of Mr. John Thornton, summing up the results of the auction sales of this breed in England during 1881, showing rapid decline in prices over some previous years, gives the *Mark Lane Express* opportunity for plain language in the way of obituary notice of the Shorthorn mania. The fictitious value of the animals as fanciers' pets, or for gambling purposes, 'has about gone down to zero'; the fancy is 'dead,' in truth, and rich amateurs who bred the stock on principles which cannot be defended from any practical point of view, have 'burned their fingers.' That, however, is not a matter with which the Editor has 'any concern or sympathy.' This latter fact is emphasized by the tone of the appended reference to the disease in Kentucky last month of Useless, better known as 10th Duchess of Onaida:

"She was a red and white cow, bred by Mr. S. Campbell; was purchased at the great New York Mills sale, in September, 1873, by Mr. Alexander, when five months old, for \$27,000. She leaves no produce, having never bred a calf. She was the last of the Duchesses of Onaida in the United States. It would not grieve us to hear of the death of the last 'Duchess'; the world is almost sick of them, and of 'Duke' bulls too."

"Our contemporary goes on to say that the stock in the hands of the fanciers is not so good for meat, or for milk, or for both, as it was before the craze set in, and it expresses the belief that since the bubble has burst and these deleterious influences are for the most part removed, the breeding of Shorthorns will probably be carried on with vigour and success by a class of men who will make actual merit in the animals their one aim and object, instead of 'fashionable' pedigrees. There is in fact a very healthy demand among all classes of farmers for Shorthorn bulls of good pure breeding and fair merit, to improve the rank and file of their herds, as was recently proved at the Birmingham sale. 'So long as a couple of hundred or so of farmers are to be found every year who will give from \$150 to \$200 each for bulls under fifteen months old, with fair merit and Herd Book qualifications, Shorthorns will be likely to hold their own.'"

After the lapse of a week, the Tribune resumed the subject, and said:—

"We gleaned last week from a leading English agricultural journal some obituary observations on the 'Shorthorn mania,' in which occurred such phrases as 'fictitious values,' 'fanciers' pets,' 'gambling purposes,' and 'rich amateurs' who 'burned their fingers' and 'degenerated their animals for meat and milk.' There was also an unsympathetic reference to the Tenth Duchess of Onaida, bought as a five months calf at the 'great' New York Mills sale in 1873 for \$27,000, and which recently died in Kentucky without offspring, 'having never bred a calf.'"

However it may be on the other side of the Atlantic, we may remark that so long as \$1,700, \$7,100 and \$9,500 are bid respectively for three Duchesses (only one of which had been bred), as was done the other day at a Shorthorn invasion in Chicago by persons 'gathered about the ring,' under the doubtful protection of a somewhat rheumatic old tent, it is perhaps safe to say that the announcement of the disease of the 'mania' is premature so far as America is concerned. The alleged aggregate for the twenty-four head offered on the above occasion, including 'doubtful breeders and all' (we quote from a journal very friendly to the Shorthorn interest), was 'about an even \$50,000.' The bidding was 'spirited and somewhat exciting.' Which we can readily believe. Tenth Duchess of Airdrie, fourteen years old, who 'slipped her calf at seven months and has not been bred since,' was 'knocked off' for \$1,350. Which was cruel, considering, her sex, age and condition.

"Champions and defenders of competing breeds will probably find double reason for congratulating Mr. Cochran on the result of this sale. They will maintain that his large offering of Duchess bloods was wise; that the skill and tact with which he has managed his business heretofore has not deserted him now that he seems to be gradually, if not rapidly, crowding out the old 'fashionable' Shorthorns with Hereford and Polled Angus cattle. There may be some who will even dare to cast a shadow upon the statistics, there always are persons of a doubtful mind who claim to be willing to believe that figures can be made to

lie; who lament in mournful numbers that 'all things are not what they seem.' But that is none of our funeral.

"Meanwhile, if one know just what it cost Mr. Alexander to move the Tenth Duchess of Onaida from York Mills to blue-grass pastures, and what the expense was of her nine years' keep, one might add this to the amount of interest on the \$27,000 paid for her, deduct the value of advertising benefit received, and the money worth of the satisfaction afforded by such ownership, and then strike a balance, which would show how much Mr. Alexander, for example, is short on one Shorthorn."

The allusion to Mr. Cochran in the article just quoted is hardly fair to that gentleman, since he distinctly declared, at the recent sale of his cattle in Chicago, that he was not there to unload Shorthorns, but intended to keep and breed them so long as he owned a hoof. He is not "crowding them out" with Hereford and Polled Angus cattle; but having gone into the ranching business on a large scale, has added these breeds to his former and present favourites. He will probably pay increased attention to what are known as the "plainer" strains of Shorthorns. These are more suitable for the purposes of extensive ranchers and ordinary farmers. We have no idea that the Shorthorn is going to be superseded by any of its rivals, but there are other breeds, notably the Hereford, which have not received their due measure of attention in the past, which are now coming to the front. The Hereford is, in most if not all respects, the peer of the Shorthorn. One of our most prominent Ontario breeders, Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph, has always maintained this, and when the Hereford was at a discount, gave it equal attention with the Shorthorn. He is now reaping his reward. This breed is in great demand now, especially among the ranchmen of the great West and North-west. Pure but not fancy-bred animals of the three breeds above named are likely to command ready sale at good prices for a long time to come, as the foundation of numerous herds that will be needed to supply the enormous demand of the export trade in beef.

HORTICULTURE IN MICHIGAN.

Secretary Charles W. Garfield has laid on our table the last report of the Michigan State Horticultural Society, a goodly volume of nearly 400 pages. It is rich in facts regarding horticulture in general, and particularly its condition and prospects in Michigan. The proceedings of the State Society are interesting, and show that the spirit of improvement is wide awake in that part of the world. A paper by the Secretary, entitled "A Glimpse at Michigan Horticulture," is well fitted to arouse emulation in adjacent States and Provinces. We could wish that the glimpse on this side the border were as pleasant and promising, and hope that, ere long, it will be. But it must be owned that in energetic tree planting, fruit culture, and outdoor æsthetics, our neighbours to the westward are in advance of us. We could wish that a section of this report, on "Ornamenting School Grounds," were issued in pamphlet form, and widely disseminated throughout Canada. The vigorous action in this direction has made nearly every school-house in Michigan a college of horticulture. The *New York Tribune* well summarizes a number of leading points in this report as follows:—

"In a discussion at a largely attended meeting on the Lake Shore, the great fruit belt of the State, the unanimous decision was to spare the birds. This deserved tribute to our winged friends came from men who live by raising fruit. Paris green and London purple are powerless to destroy the rose-bug or rose-chaffer; at South Haven they employ young folks to gather these pests. A boy will pick as many as four quarts a day. Although Captain Jack, Crescent, Jucunda and Sharpless are raised along the Lake Shore, at least nineteen-twentieths of the product of strawberries for market are Wilsons. If there is danger from mice or rabbits exposed trees may be protected by wrapping with tarred paper. Wounds should be covered in spring with grafting wax. Michigan has an easily enforced law which at the option of any locality precludes all stock from running in the road. Trees may be set at ten feet from the highway. Each year it is made obligatory upon the Governor to appoint a special day for tree-planting and to

call public attention to this duty. The society has not only accomplished this much, but has incited to an innovation of the old stereotyped plan of all one kind of trees equidistant in uniform straight rows. It is found that grouping with a variety adds materially to the effect. If trees are to be planted in rows, thirty feet is thought to be near enough. Some of the apples that find high favour are Red Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Shilawassco Beauty, Maiden's Blush, Baldwin, Red Canada, Jonathan, Wagener and King. Through influence of the society, standard sizes of fruit packages are alone lawful in Michigan. There is a very efficient law in reference to peach yellows. It works through the stamping-out process. Affected trees are cut and burned at the very outset of the disease. The *Tribune* has already called attention to the successful effort to secure the ornamentation of school grounds. The book gives the method in full. It is very interesting reading."

A WELL-EARNED TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

The following circular tells its own story of eminent and highly-appreciated service to the dairy interests of Canada and the United States. Hon. X. A. Willard, the late Harvey Farrington, and Prof. Arnold may be said to have been the apostles of dairying in this country. Mr. Willard's part has been that of lecturer at our Dairy Conventions. He was at Ingersoll when our Dairy Association was organized fifteen years ago, and has been an annually welcome visitor ever since. Mr. Farrington was our pioneer dairyman in Norwich, and went to his grave full of honour and deeply mourned by his brother dairymen in Ontario. Mr. Arnold has not only done valuable work at our Conventions, but has been a practical teacher of dairy manipulation and management at a large number of our factories. Many of our best dairymen are pupils of his. That now, amid the success of dairying in this country, they should remember their teacher and benefactor with gratitude, and wish to pay him a substantial token of their esteem, is eminently proper. It is creditable alike to Mr. Arnold and those who feel that they have profited by his instructions. We have much pleasure in giving publicity to this appeal in the columns of the RURAL CANADIAN, and earnestly hope it may meet with the hearty response it so richly deserves:—

ARNOLD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

Dear Sir,—At the last annual meeting of the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario, held at Woodstock, Feb. 1-3, 1882, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, That in recognition of the great benefits which have accrued to the dairymen of this continent from the researches, experiments, and lectures of Prof. L. B. Arnold, this Association would recommend that dairymen and all interested in dairy pursuits in Canada and the United States do acknowledge these valuable services in some tangible and worthy manner."

In the cordial and harmonious discussion that preceded the passage of this resolution, it was agreed that as Prof. Arnold's labours in the cause of dairying had been so disinterested that, now with old age just upon him, he is in straitened circumstances, the testimonial could not take a more acceptable shape than that of money. General concurrence was also manifested in the proposal that every person interested in dairying should contribute at least one dollar. While larger sums will be highly acceptable, this trifling amount from all who might reasonably be expected to subscribe will make a fund not unworthy of presentation.

A Committee was appointed by the Association to conduct this movement to an issue, and at a meeting of said Committee the undersigned was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, with instructions to lay the matter before the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario, to correspond with the Secretary of the American Dairymen's Association, and ultimately issue a circular inviting contributions.

The matter was duly submitted to the Eastern Association, and though no formal resolution was passed by it, encouraging assurances of co-operation were given by leading members of that body. T. D. Curtis, Esq., Secretary of the American Dairymen's Association, replied to a letter informing him of the project, with the following, among other hearty expressions of approval:

"I like the idea of a memorial to Arnold, and think a circular setting forth the object in view would meet with a cordial response. I shall be glad to do what my situation will permit to aid the movement."

The *Farmer and Dairymen* for April contained the following Editorial:

"ARNOLD MEMORIAL FUND.—The Canadians, in view of the eminent services of Prof. L. B. Arnold to the dairy interests of the world, have started a memorial fund for his benefit. The compliment is a handsome one, and deserved. Every dairymen should feel like contributing to it. All who desire to do so should address W. F. Clarke, Secretary-Treasurer, Lustowel, Ontario, Canada. A contribution of one dollar each will make a nice fund."