

Prince Edward Island and Its Government Stock Farm.

Ill-health, brought on by the long-continued heat of my Western home, having made a change of climate a necessary preliminary to a return to my former state of robust strength,—at least, my much-trusted medicus said so, and to please him, and to gratify my own longing for a smell of salt water,—I decided on a trip to this place, which is variously styled by its friends or detractors, "The Garden of the Gulf of St. Lawrence," "The Gem of the Sea," and the "Tight little Island." It is easy to understand why the two first titles should be given, for a more fertile spot is hard to find, and the rich dark green of its hills and valleys, as seen from the deck of the steamer as she sails along its shores, is not soon forgotten. But why the "Tight little Island"?—I have more than once asked that question, but no reply has been given. Surely the Islanders are not in the habit of going on the spree, for Statistician Johnston says they use less strong drink than any other part of Canada. Every acre is fit for tillage, and it is already largely under cultivation. Formerly the attention of Island breeders was devoted to either Clydesdale, Shires, or American trotting horses; many valuable and well-bred stallions and mares of those breeds having been imported from their respective countries. But of late a complete change has come, and now the stock-owning portion of the community is deeply moved by the milk cow.

For many years past the Island Provincial Government has maintained a breeding establishment at Falconwood, near Charlottetown, where Shorthorn and Ayrshire cattle and several breeds of sheep are kept, and the males distributed to the various parts of the Province and sold by auction.

During my stay in this town I made use of a few idle hours by taking a stroll out to see the Stock Farm, as they call it. I found it to be a property of over three hundred acres, beautifully situated on the banks of Hillsborough Bay. The buildings, as seen from a distance, have quite a pretentious appearance; but on closer inspection we found them to be ill-arranged and inconvenient to an extreme degree.

The Shorthorn herd consist of sixteen breeding cows and a lot of heifers under two years, and a full complement of bull and heifer calves, sired by the famous old champion of Ontario show grounds, Challenge, son of the grand old Barmpton Hero. Challenge is still in good form, active, and as full of vim as a two-year-old. The man in charge told me that he serves promptly and is a sure getter. He is now thirteen years old, and gives promise of surpassing his Imperial sire in longevity.

The Ayrshire herd is composed of about the same number of breeding cows and a like proportion of young stock as the Shorthorns. The cows are large and handsome, but did not give prominent indications of being great milkers. Two of the younger ones were bred by the well-known Ayrshire breeder, James McCormack, Rockton, Ont. The bull at present used in the herd is Pure Golden, bred by Mr. Robertson, Howick, Quebec; he was a 2nd prize winner at the World's Fair, Chicago. I did not see him.

Leicester, Shropshire and Southdown sheep had all been sold, as dogs from Charlottetown were too fond of pure-bred mutton.

Such is a brief statement of the present condition of this Government Institution. I confess I was not delighted with its general appearance, and I found by inquiry of several intelligent farmers, that the blessings of being provided by Government with a pure-bred cattle-breeding establishment is not appreciated by them. RUSTICUS.

Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

The Kingston Exhibition.

The Midland Central Fair opened up the campaign of 1895, and proved a thorough success throughout. It was considered by many to be the most successful exhibition held in the City of Kingston since the old Provincial. The weather was all that could be desired, the attendance exceeded that of former years, and the live stock exhibit was much better than it has been for a number of years, the different breeds being well represented in numbers in their respective classes; and the quality of the stock was very superior as compared with the past few years. Especially was this noticeable in the cattle department, there being some four or five excellent herds on their way to Toronto, and opening up the season's campaign at Kingston.

The exhibit in the Main Building was hardly up to the mark, but the Carriage and Implement Building was well filled with a good exhibit, the Kingston Vehicle Co. making the finest and strongest show in this department.

The vegetable display was considered much better than last year, notwithstanding the exceptionally dry season, and the fruit was mostly a very fine sample and compared favorably with former years.

The Poultry Department was remarkably good in some sections, while others were conspicuous by their absence; but taken on the whole the exhibit was very good in this class.

Horses.—The horse exhibit was considerably the strongest in the Carriage and General Purpose classes. The former was numerically the best represented, and some very good specimens indeed were brought forward. Wm. Craig & Sons and W. A. Robertson were out with a couple of fine

matched teams, and Mrs. J. H. Metcalfe won 1st on a fine single carriage horse over 16 hands, and C. Holder 1st on carriage horse under 16 hands. The section prizes were well distributed to different breeders. J. Carson and P. McLaughlin were the exhibitors in Thoroughbreds, while F. Van Slyck, Napanee, had it his own way in Standard-breds. The call for General Purpose horses brought out some very good individuals, but there was not as many responded to the call as we should like to have seen. W. Wallace won the special gold medal for best team of General Purpose horses owned in Frontenac. The Draught horse apparently does not take well in the vicinity of Kingston, as this class was only represented by some six or seven individuals, the exhibitors being C. Stewart, A. J. Watts, E. McMaster, and A. Knight.

Cattle.—As already stated, this department was unusually good, most of the different breeds being represented most creditably. In Shorthorns W. C. Edwards & Co., Rockland, Ont., captured the majority of prizes, taking six firsts and three seconds. John Forth & Son, Glen Buell, and T. C. Stark, Pittsferri, were the other Shorthorn exhibitors. Brown & Neilson, Lyon, secured all the prizes in Galloways. C. J. Gilroy & Son, Glen Buell, was out with a good useful herd of Holsteins. This herd secured most of the prizes in this class, F. Van Slyck and J. A. McLaugherty winning one 1st each. W. H. & C. H. McNish were forward with a strong herd of Guernseys, and won most of the prizes in the class for Jerseys, Guernseys and Alderneys. Rev. C. A. McWilliams came in for 2nd on a Jersey bull, and Allen Smith 1st on a yearling bull. Ayrshires were also a full and superior exhibit. The best awards were taken by W. Stewart, Menie, Ont. The other principal exhibitors in this class were P. McCallum, J. C. Creighton, A. Knight, C. Stewart, and S. Lyon.

Sheep.—This department was better represented, both in numbers and quality of the stock, than any year since the Provincial. In Cotswolds, A. T. Frink, Napanee, took the bulk of the prizes. In Leicesters, R. G. Martin, Marysville, took four firsts and two seconds; the rest of the prizes being about equally distributed to R. J. Garbutt, John Forth, Alf. Hunter, and John Daley. In the Southdown class, R. Shaw & Sons, Glanford, Ont., swept the field. T. Lyon, Latimer, and Brown & Neilson were the exhibitors in the class for Oxford and Hampshires. In Shropshires, J. F. Dawson was out with a flock of ten head, of No. 1 breeding and splendid quality; this flock carried off every prize for which they competed, "quite easily"; R. G. Martin came in for a 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and J. Dunlop a 2nd and 3rd. R. Shaw & Sons again captured all the prizes on Merinos. A very nice flock of Dorsets was shown by M. N. Empey, Switzerville. As a county fair the sheep classes made a very creditable showing, and the prospects are that another year will greatly improve on the present.

Pigs.—There was a fine exhibit of pigs in most of the classes. This was the first year out for some of the most successful winners, and judging from what was brought forward we would not be surprised to see some of these herds represented at the Toronto Industrial another year. In Yorkshires, E. Dool, Hartington, took the majority of the prizes; R. G. Martin coming in, however, for three firsts and a third. In Berkshires, R. G. Martin, R. J. Garbutt, and W. J. Shibley were the principal winners; A. T. Frink was also out with a few good pigs. S. A. Lyon was the only exhibitor of Chester Whites. The Tamworth breed was well represented by about thirty head: Alfred Hunter & Sons; F. Tindell, Collins Bay, and T. F. Vanlaver were the exhibitors in this class.

Owing to the success of this fair the present year, both financially and otherwise, the officials will be encouraged to work still harder another year, and the success of '96 is already assured to a great degree.

Comments on Mr. A. W. Smith's Paper.

"MISTAKES OF SHORTHORN BREEDERS."

(By "CLAUGHBAKE.")

(Continued from page 356.)

The third mistake which Mr. Smith refers to is the neglect of the milking qualities of Shorthorns, and he is not alone in this, for many prominent breeders have both spoken and written, pointing out this neglect as a very serious mistake, but none, so far as I know, have offered any solution of the problem.

Some upholders of the Shorthorn would seem to think that good specimens of the breed are not only ideal butcher's beasts, but also fine dairy cows, and that these two qualities can be combined and perpetuated in their favorites; but if they take a perfect specimen of the dairy type, and a like animal of the beef type, they will find that they have practically no two points in common; it, therefore, stands to reason that if the essentially different conformations are necessary to produce the best results in the different types, then, as any animal of either type has any of the points of the other, so in proportion as it partakes of them will it be deficient in the qualities of its own type. The Shorthorn breeder, when he takes his cattle into the show ring, wants animals thick in the withers, wide in the crops, with great broad, fleshy backs. If he breeds so as to improve the milking qualities of his herd, how is he to compete with the breeders who breed solely for beef points? for the dairy type has thin withers, narrow crops, with a lean back, and large and prominent backbone, and just as sure as a herd of cattle are bred so as to improve

their dairy qualities, just as certainly will they lose their thick backs, and tend in conformation toward the dairy cow in proportion to the milking capacity which they attain.

Mr. Smith says: "The Shorthorns are naturally grand dairy cows; this quality was established with the breed, and all the strength of atavism is at hand for the assistance of the breeder who is endeavoring to re-establish this grand quality in his herd." There is no doubt that the Shorthorns were naturally grand dairy cows, and it is even common at the present day to see exceedingly fine specimens of the beef Shorthorn which show one or more points which have descended to them from their milking ancestry, and which have cropped out according to the law of atavism, and were not found in their immediate progenitors. For instance, a tendency to narrow crops is often noticeable in the show ring, although for generation after generation the Shorthorn has been bred with a view to alter this conformation. There is no doubt that the show ring is largely responsible for this falling off in dairy qualities in Shorthorns, but that this has been a mistake I fail to see, for it has certainly tended to improve them as a beef breed, and how could they have attained the pre-eminence that they have now reached had they been bred with a view of combining milking qualities with beef production? The Herefords and other beef breeds would have left them far behind; in fact, they would not have become what they are to-day—the most popular breed of cattle. Most farmers want to raise the so-called general-purpose cattle, but nine out of every ten of these men in selecting a bull would pick on a fine specimen of the beef type in preference to one partaking more of the dairy form, for it takes an eye educated to the dairy cow to see beauty in her conformation when compared with an ideal beef beast, and this is more especially the case when the two types in male animals are compared, and I believe that class of farmers that I speak of are very largely uneducated regarding the dairy cow. There is no doubt that even when a sire of beef form is selected that these farmers often raise some fine dairy cows, for, as Mr. Smith says, "all the strength of atavism is at hand," and when a bull of this description is used on first-rate dairy cows, even if they are of no particular breeding, the chances are much of the beef form will be lost in the progeny, but the longer that the Shorthorn is bred to the beef type, so will the power of atavism become weaker, and they will cease by degrees to be the sires of that nondescript—the general purpose cow.

As I have already said, many breeders have advocated the desirability of keeping up the milking qualities of Shorthorns, but none have yet pointed out any way by which it could be done, for neither the show ring nor the customers are an encouragement in that direction. It seems to me that a separate registration is the one means by which the dairy quality of the Shorthorns can be reclaimed, retained and utilized. If this be not done, or some other plan adopted, the dairy quality of the breed must decrease, till in the course of years they will cease to exist, and the Shorthorn will be known only as a beef. A separate registration need not be a separate herd book, but the breed should be divided into two classes and registered as either beef or dairy animals. Is it fair that the Shorthorn cows which kept up the reputation of the breed so well as dairy cattle at the Columbian, should, if brought into the show ring with other Shorthorn cows, there look entirely out of place? If registered separately they would be exhibited separately, and the outcome would be, I believe, the best breed of large dairy cows. If not perpetuated in some such way as this, the Shorthorns' one-time grand dairy qualities are doomed, and when this becomes apparent to the average farmer, as it is doing, their popularity will cease, but if the farmer can, as suits him, select a bull that has been bred for either beef or milk, and so be able to take whichever he thinks his herd requires most, thus enabling him to go on breeding his "general purpose cows" according to his own sweet will, the Shorthorn men will continue to enjoy the advantage of breeding the most popular breed of cattle.

Cattle Raising in the Argentine Republic.

Notwithstanding the fact that agriculture occupies a large extent of land each year in the Argentine Republic, meat products still constitute the principal wealth of the country. The five most important Provinces, with their latest official returns of stock, are as follows:—

PROVINCES.	Cattle.	Horses.	Sheep.
Buenos Ayres	9,602,274	1,855,426	55,397,881
Entre Rios	1,120,068	719,510	4,901,123
Corrientes	1,841,366	238,696	611,065
Santa Fe	2,428,413	327,536	2,977,382
Cordoba	2,110,513	493,879	2,355,030
Total	20,002,634	3,765,047	66,242,501

The cattle are said to consist for the greater part of the old race of the country, and are said to be something like the Shorthorn breed. For many years the Argentine breeders have been introducing the best kind of bulls and cows from Europe, and have in this way increased the quality and value of the stock in the country.

Hitherto the exports of live cattle from Argentina have consisted mainly of consignments to