

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...

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...

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 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Swine.—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.

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 "CLAUGHBAE.")

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.

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.

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:

Table with 4 columns: PROVINCES, Cattle, Horses, Sheep. Rows include Buenos Ayres, Entre Rios, Corrientes, Santa Fe, Cordoba, and a Total row.

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