

James I. Davidson and the Cruickshank Cattle.

Belonging to the farseeing class of Scots of practical turn of mind, and full of enthusiasm for the work in hand, Mr. James Ironside Davidson, of Shorthorn fame, was early led to read correctly the signs of the times in the Shorthorn world. Away back in the early seventies, when the great majority of breeders of Shorthorns could see no superiority in the Cruickshank strains, Mr. Davidson, knowing their family make-up and the lines along which the brothers were working, was convinced that the produce of Sittyton possessed a superiority that could not fail to assert its just claims. So, while others were honestly giving the thick-fleshed, low-set and early-maturing composite-blooded Cruickshank families, frequently termed "little beasts," the "cold shoulder," Mr. Davidson was establishing himself on the ground floor of an enterprise that by its intrinsic utility has swept the cattle-breeding world with its well-founded popularity. After eleven years of studious experience with the two cows, Rolla 4498, bred by the late John P. Wheeler, of Scarborough, and Cherry 2611, bred by the late George Miller, of Markham (both descendants of imported stock), and their produce, an importation of six heifers was made in 1871 from Sittyton. They were all two-year-olds, and with one exception all in calf. Two were purchased at auction and the others at private bargain. The latter three were held by Mr. Cruickshank until the time arrived to ship, when Mr. Davidson was offered ten pounds to leave one of them behind. The offer was refused, however, but one of the others which was housed at a farm apart from the main herd could not begot to shipboard in time to sail with the others, on account of a storm, so that Mr. Davidson's friend, who had made the purchases, put in a heifer he had secured at auction to fill the passage taken for the sixth beast. She was Matchless 15th, and being undersized and thin, cost just one-third the price of each of the others. When they arrived the little heifer was a disappointing specimen. To use Mr. Davidson's own words, "She was a shabby little beast." By the time she calved, however, she compared favorably with any of the others, and her first offspring, which was sold for \$500.00 to Mr. C. Jordan, of Iowa, at fifteen months old, proved to him a profitable investment, as she turned out a grand breeder, mothering, as she did, a valuable herd. Matchless 15th continued her good work, as she produced many high-priced animals, and herself sold for a long price when quite advanced in years. We have in this an evidence of the value of pedigree, without which even the most successful showing winners have little value in the breeding herd. Without an exception, the entire importation proved regular and fortunate breeders of choice stock. In 1873 two heifers, Orange Blossom 19th and Mysie 37th, were brought over the sea. While they each did well, the excellence of the latter still lives in such beasts as Capt. T. E. Robson's Mysie's Rose, that was recently shown so successfully in Canadian and American competitions, winning the female championship at Toronto two years in succession. In 1874 Mr. Davidson made the bold stroke of importing 19 cows and a bull from the best in the Sittyton herd, placing him to the front as an importer for that year. Like former importations, these turned out well for Mr. Davidson, as well as for his customers who were fortunate enough to get hold of them. At this time the bull, Crown Prince of Athelstane 2nd, was the chief head of the herd. Some of the straight-laced breeders were pleased to consider this sire an out-cross, but his value may be indicated by referring to a daughter of his from Mysie 43rd, that brought at auction at the clearing sale of Lancelot Palmer \$1,850, the entire herd of Cruickshank cattle bringing an average of five hundred and sixty-eight dollars. The cow referred to, being the highest priced at the sale, was secured by Col. Harris, who made the well-grounded assertion that "Crown Prince of Athelstane injured nothing, but improved everything that bore his blood." In 1881 Mr. Davidson made a visit to Scotland, and personally selected eleven females and three bulls, many of which found their way into such leading American herds as those of Messrs. Kissinger, Potts, and Col. Harris. From this time importations followed yearly until the outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia at quarantine. From 1871 until this date Mr. Davidson's importations included 185 animals from the herd of Mr. Amos Cruickshank. During recent years a strong herd of the best families have been maintained to breed for his old customers.

While Mr. Davidson has left the three score and tenth mile-stone considerably in the distance, he maintains his old-time activity and interest in the doings of the day, and except for weakening vision, enjoys a full measure of vigor. It may be mentioned, too, that his enthusiasm awakens as he refers to the present-day acknowledged superiority of Cruickshank blood, which predominates to so large an extent in the prizewinners at the great national shows. He also feels a satisfaction in the evidence of their excellence indicated by the sale prices as well as the show ring, which he feels leaves them in need of no other recommendation. Realizing, too, that the excellence thus proven is so much of a utility character, we feel like saying "Amen" to his wise observation, that, "A man who introduces a Cruickshank bull among his cows is taking the best method of securing a good herd, with the least loss of time, and at least expense too."

Manitoba December Crop Bulletin.

The final estimate of the crop shows, as was expected as soon as threshing began, a considerable falling-off from the estimate made in August. The most promising-looking crops were in many cases the most disappointing. The soil being excessively wet in spring caused the wheat plant to root very shallow, and from the waterlogged soil moisture evaporated more rapidly during the midsummer drought than had soil conditions been normal, and when the time came for the grain to fill, the soil was baked and dried out, and the plants, being without deep roots, were unable to furnish sufficient nutriment. Some districts were also, for the first time, visited by the Hessian fly, and to this cause may be attributed some of the falling-off. The sample, however, has on the whole been very fine, the bulk grading No. 1 hard. The sample of oats, too, has been much above the average. In the August estimate the yield was placed at 22.5 bushels per acre; whereas the final report places it at 17.13: the December, 1898, estimate was 17.01.

	Area in crop. Acres.	Average yield per acre.		Total yield. Bushels.
		Bushels.	Bushels.	
North-western.....	137,700	18.8	2,588,760	
South-western.....	682,965	16.30	11,077,692	
North Central.....	306,560	16.73	5,128,748	
South Central.....	390,770	19.	7,421,630	
Eastern.....	112,000	15.2	1,702,400	
Province.....	1,629,995	17.13	27,922,290	
" 1898.....	1,483,232	17.01	25,313,745	

	Area in crop. Acres.	Average yield per acre.		Total yield. Bushels.
		Bushels.	Bushels.	
North-western.....	86,920	38.76	3,369,019	
South-western.....	195,020	39.	7,614,780	
North Central.....	90,160	38.2	3,441,112	
South Central.....	111,136	42.1	4,679,667	
Eastern.....	90,880	35.	3,180,800	
Province.....	575,136	38.80	22,318,378	
" 1898.....	514,824	33.6	17,308,232	



MR. JAMES I. DAVIDSON.

A pioneer breeder and importer, Balsam, Ont.

	Area in crop. Acres.	Average yield per acre.		Total yield. Bushels.
		Bushels.	Bushels.	
North-western.....	18,500	30.	557,200	
South-western.....	35,610	30.	1,068,200	
North Central.....	33,840	29.	981,360	
South Central.....	55,842	32.3	1,803,696	
Eastern.....	39,000	24.8	967,200	
Province.....	182,912	29.38	5,379,156	
Flax - total in Province.....	21,780	14.	304,920	
Rye.....	3,217	20.	64,340	
Peas.....	1,366	15.	20,490	

	Area in crop. Acres.	Average yield per acre.		Total yield. Bushels.
		Bushels.	Bushels.	
North-western.....	2,837	165	468,105	
South-western.....	4,683	153	726,175	
North Central.....	3,230	175	565,250	
South Central.....	3,148	194	610,712	
Eastern.....	5,231	163	852,653	
Province.....	19,151	168.5	3,226,395	
Other roots.....	10,079	265	2,670,108	

POULTRY DISPOSED OF BY FARMERS.

	Turkeys.	Geese.	Chickens.
North-western.....	15,000	5,000	33,000
South-western.....	22,545	6,075	38,725
North Central.....	7,200	3,120	46,400
South Central.....	12,500	7,760	61,680
Eastern.....	8,000	3,200	46,400
Province.....	65,845	25,155	246,205

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

	Quantity.	Price.	Value.
Butter - Dairy.....	1,341,790	14.41	\$195,604.80
" - Creamery.....	1,092,490	18.75	184,826.68
Cheese.....	232,190	\$8.31	\$1,931.48
	518,8		\$6,080.16
1898 Total value of dairy products.....			\$197,536.48
1898.....			169,155.26

	NEW BUILDINGS.	FALL PLOWING. Acres.	SUMMER FALLOW. Acres.	BREAKING. Acres.
North-western.....	\$ 190,000	42,500	37,400	30,000
South-western.....	413,000	225,450	264,000	61,155
North Central.....	273,960	200,640	64,000	20,160
South Central.....	296,240	253,560	77,760	33,600
Eastern.....	224,000	133,920	29,280	13,600
	\$1,402,200	861,070	472,500	158,515
				= 1,492,085 acres

Beresford Stock Farm, Brandon, Man.

One of the most extensive breeding establishments in Manitoba is that owned by Mr. John E. Smith, at his Beresford and Smithfield stock farms, and from these farms have been distributed to all parts of Manitoba and the Territories breeding stock of Shorthorn cattle and Clydesdale horses. At the Beresford farm, which lies about 16 miles south-west of the Wheat City, an extended area of land (some 960 acres) is under cultivation, with an additional 960 acres of pasturage and hay land, all fenced. On the cultivated areas, wheat, of course, is the principal crop, with a smaller acreage of oats and barley. Mr. Smith's system of cultivation consists of summer-fallowing, followed by one or two crops of wheat, one of oats or barley, and summer-fallowing again. His experience has shown that better results are obtained from spring or fall plowing, but as the spring season is so short, he finds it necessary to plow a considerable area in the fall.

Of the breeding stock, a large number are kept at Beresford Farm, thus utilizing the best of the oat straw, wheat chaff, etc., and converting a large percentage of what would otherwise be wasted into manure, which is returned to the land. At Smithfield Farm there are 320 acres lying within the limits of the City of Brandon. Nearly all of this area is under cultivation, oats and barley being the chief crops grown. Bromo grass has been recently tried, and the yield this year has been over three tons per acre. On this farm is a comfortable, substantially-built brick dwelling house, an engraving of which appears in the illustration in this issue. The house, being built under Mr. Smith's personal supervision, is well laid out for convenience and economy of labor, and is easily heated. The building site is a very desirable one, on high, rising ground, with sufficient fall for perfect drainage, and sheltered on north and west by the steep hills that here form the northern banks of the Assiniboine River; with a light, sunny exposure, and a magnificent view of the City of Brandon on the opposite slope, and glimpses of the river as it winds its circuitous course along the bottom of the valley, with here and there a cluster of elm trees along its banks.

Adjoining, at a convenient distance from the house, is the brick poultry house, comfortable, warm and well ventilated, in which the fowls are kept laying all winter. A specialty is made of the Brown Leghorns and Barred Plymouth Rocks, by Mr. John Hunter Smith. To the south-east of the residence, along the southern slope of the hill, an extensive plantation of small fruit trees has been set out, which will, with the avenue trees recently planted, in a few years add greatly to the attractiveness of the situation. West of the house, as portrayed in the illustration, are the two large barns, one 50x112, with 10-foot stone basement and 16-foot superstructure. The cattle floors were removed this year and replaced by Thorold cement. Stall accommodation is afforded for 50 head of cattle, besides seven large loose boxes for calves, and at the west end, separated by a close board partition, stalls for eleven horses and a number of box stalls for stallions are provided. The loft of this barn, which is entered by two drive floors, is for holding fodder and grain. It is provided with windmill for pumping water, crushing grain, running straw cutter, grindstone, and bone crusher, the latter for crushing green bone for the poultry. The smaller barn is 36x72, 10-foot stone basement, 12-foot superstructure, and a lean-to 18x36, giving capacity for 38 cattle and 8 horses. All the cattle in this stable are fed from the center passage at their heads. The winter feed consists of oat sheaves (sometimes cut), hay and straw. Chopped oats and barley, with an equal amount of bran, forms the principal grain ration. Some turnips are grown for the young stock, and it is a rule with Mr. Smith to grow 10 acres of potatoes, which are either sold or fed to the stock, as the price and market seem to warrant. All roots are put through the pulper before feeding.

The Clydesdale stud, consisting of some 30 registered mares and fillies, and a number of young stallions of such famous strains as Darnley (222), Prince of Wales (673), Old Times, etc., and at the head of the stud have been such noted sires as Bravery, Lord Randy, Neptune, and Sir Arthur, all imported stallions, prizewinners and prizegetters. In the illustrations are portrayed several representative animals from this stud, including the young stallions, Jubilee of Beresford [2359], by Protection [1617], out of Rosalie of Beresford [2340], by imported Lord Randy, and Sir Thomas Greenway [2361], by Sir Arthur (imported) (8903), dam Lady Kenmuir (imported), by Kenmuir Prince (1450), grandam by Darnley (222). Of the mares in the illustration are Bessie of Overlaw (imported) [451], by McPherson (3825), dam Dainty, by Champion of the North (1002); Flora Beresford [1900], by imported Lord Randy, out of Lady Skeldon (imported), by Bredalbane (1978); and Lady Aberdeen [2425], by Aberdeen [2269], out of Rosalie of Beresford, by imported Lord Randy.