

of Sir Geo. M. Grant, Bart.:—"The ancestress of this family was bred at Ballindalloch in 1860, and was sired by Craigo (2601) " " and was out of Dandy (794), a cow of the old Ballindalloch sort, and bred by the late Sir John Macpherson Grant. The Coquettes are a valuable milking race of cattle, and are allied to Southesk, Tillyfou, and the modern Ballindalloch strains." Coquette 4th was bred by the late Mr. Robt. Walker, Montbleton, Scotland, but her present owners came into possession of her by purchase along with about forty others from Mr. John Strachan, Montcoffer, Banff, Scotland. This large addition to the Lake Forest herd makes it the largest and most valuable, as it is the oldest, herd in the United States.

THE CANADIAN BREEDER AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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S. BEATTY, MANAGER.

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Advertisements of an objectionable or questionable character will not be received for insertion in this paper.

SUPER-SENSITIVE.

Extreme self-consciousness is too often a prominent feature in the people of newly organized communities. They are as a rule too apt to think, not only that the eyes of the whole world are constantly upon them, but they often seem to be of opinion that every act of any individual in the outside world has some especial reference to, or bearing upon, the little world which, for the time, bounds their hopes and aspirations. A correspondent who signs himself "C. C. McC." writes from Fort Macleod to *The Week*, complaining of something we said about the ranching interest some weeks ago. He sets out by saying that "In *THE CANADIAN BREEDER* of February 13th is an article on 'The Ranching Interest,' which, if intended to apply to the cattle ranches of the Canadian North-West, has either been written without any knowledge of the facts or with a deliberate intention of depreciating the value of investments made in cattle in this country. 'Stockholders in large ranches, when they come to learn what sort of a year's business has been done, will be eager to sell out at any price,' predicts *THE CANADIAN BREEDER*."

Now, in the first place, any one who read the article in question could not possibly have interpreted it as applying especially to the ranches of the Canadian North-West, and as for the accusation that we were endeavouring to depreciate the value of investments made in cattle in that or any other country, a quotation from our original article will furnish the best answer. Immediately following the quotation already given is the following:—"There are among investors in ranching, as well as other enterprises, so many who are eager to throw in their money recklessly as long as a business looks prosperous, but who are always quick to take the alarm at anything that looks like disaster, that it will not be surprising if within the next six months ranches and heavy interests in ranches should be selling at whatever they may fetch. Should such be the case it will only add one more to the many thousands of cases where the patient, the strong-minded, and the cool-headed have been able to reap a crop, the seed of which has been sown by fools who were too childishly impatient to wait for the harvest. Profits in range cattle would be large if three winters out of five were more severe than this one has proved itself; but it is well known that such winters as this are very exceptional, while those during which no healthy, sound, range cattle die of the cold are the rule rather than the exception. As it is, profits on range cattle are very large, and taking one year with another singularly constant. If therefore this hard winter should scare many inexperienced investors out of the cattle business it will also give cool-headed cattle men extra chances for safe and profitable investments."

It is difficult to understand how anyone could read the above quotation and then suppose that the writer wanted to depreciate the value of the ranching interests of the North-West or, indeed, those of any country. The letter in question furnishes some very satisfactory news with regard to the cattle interest in the Fort Macleod country however, and for this reason, as well as to show this super-sensitive correspondent that we are quite as friendly toward what we have always considered to be a matchless ranching country, we will give our readers the benefit of the remainder of his letter.

"I venture to assert that the general conclusion among cattle men in the North-West will be that the winter we have just passed through (for we are practically through it) will be regarded as a very favorable one. The losses among range cattle, from all causes, in this section are not expected by the most experienced and best-informed cattle men to average two per cent. This is not difficult to account for: The cattle entered on the winter peculiarly 'fit,' owing to the very prolonged warm autumn weather, which lasted up to the middle of December. It is true the latter half of December was bitterly cold, and the snow lay deep on the ranges; but the New Year was ushered in by a very welcome Chinook, and the month of January was by no means unusually cold. The snow almost entirely disappeared, except in the coulees and side-hills, early in February, and the month was characterized by an alternation of thaws and short cold snaps until about the 20th; since the 20th

February up to to-day we have had an uninterrupted succession of warm spring-like days. The snow in the coulees is rapidly melting into pools and streams, and the ice in the rivers is beginning to break up.

"I have talked to many cow-boys, ranchers, and others, in regard to the way cattle have stood the winter, and there is a general consensus of opinion that, except among the 'Pilgrims,' the losses have been nothing to speak of, and will not average above two per cent. These are the views of the range-managers of the Oxley, Wabron, and Cochrane Ranch Companies, the largest owners in the district, and are shared by all the other cattle men with whom I have spoken in the country."

The letter is dated Fort Macleod, March 7th.

MR. SWAN ON CANADIAN CATTLE.

Mr. Swan, the great cattle dealer of Glasgow, Scotland, has been carefully studying the stock-raising interest in Ontario, and altogether he has been favorably impressed with what he has seen. Not that he thinks there is not abundance of room for improvement in the methods of many of our farmers who are cattle-raisers, but that he judges from appearances that improvement is rapidly being made. He saw the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm at Guelph, and expressed the opinion that it was not surpassed by any institution of the kind that he had ever seen in Great Britain or on the Continent. He expressed himself as particularly pleased with the thoroughly practical nature and value of the experiments that are conducted under Professor Brown's management. He was pleased with the sight of so many really excellent and finely bred bulls both at the Experimental Farm and elsewhere throughout Ontario.

On the other hand, however, he was surprised that in the face of such evidences of enterprise and intelligence on the part of some farmers, others were still found breeding scrub cattle year after year without an apparent desire to make any improvement. He had found that both in Sweden and Denmark there was a prejudice among the farmers that if they attempted to grade up a herd its milk product would be lessened, but he could assure any Canadian farmer who might believe such a doctrine that it was a thoroughly exploded theory, whose fallacy had been thoroughly demonstrated by repeated and carefully conducted experiments.

He believed that both in the United States and Canada cattle dealers had been losing heavily during the past two years, and that this season dealers were showing a disposition to be extremely cautious. He had no doubt the trade might be exceptionally quiet during the coming summer, but he hoped no farmer would think of being influenced by such a prospect to the extent of reducing his herd further than the strictest necessity seemed to dictate. It was by sticking to his business through good and bad years just as they came that the stock-raiser grew rich, and it was by forever changing his manner of farming to suit the current markets regardless of all other considerations that many farmers managed to keep themselves poor on the very land off which