

The Breeder and Grazier.

The Ayrshire Bull, "Baldy."

THE above is a life-like portrait of a young Ayrshire Bull of excellent points and rare promise, the property of Messrs. Wolcott & Campbell, of New York Mills, N. Y., and first prize taker in his class at the last New York State Fair. He is an imported animal, and his stock, should he do well, will be an acquisition to the Ayrshire herds of this continent. In our account of our visit to the New York Exhibition, which appeared in THE CANADA FARMER of Oct. 16, we expressed our very high opinion of this splendid bull and we have great pleasure in presenting our readers with the above engraving of him, which has been prepared expressly for this paper.

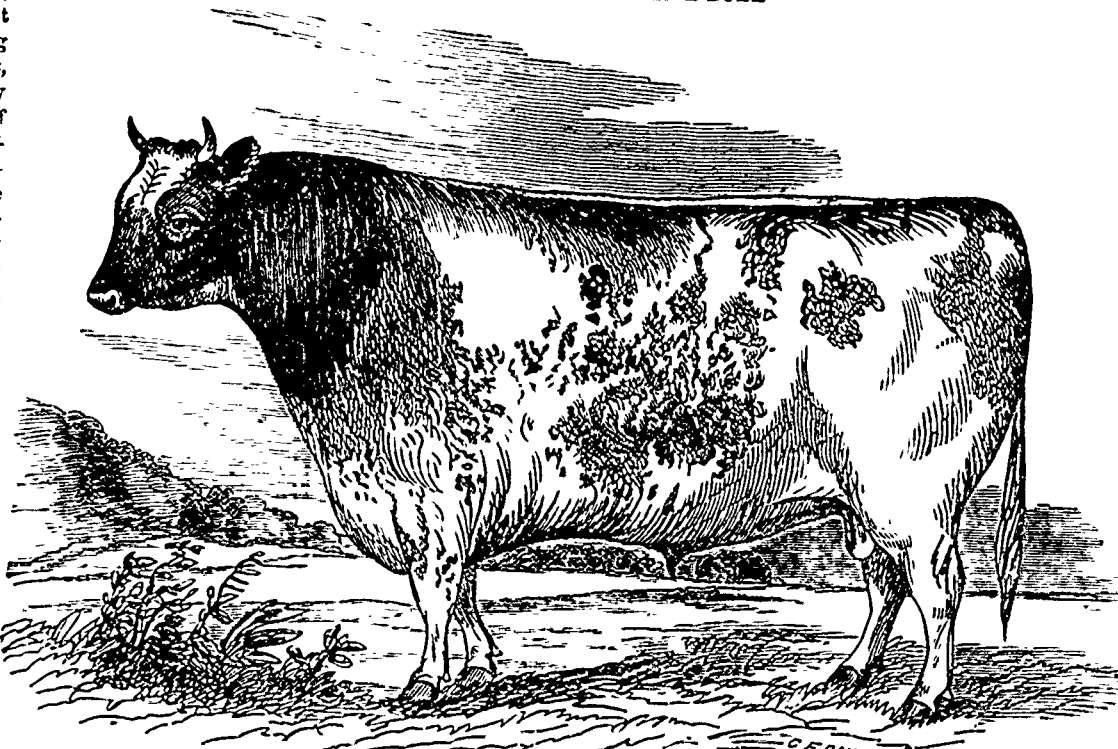
Report of the Cattle Plague Commissioners

THE Commission appointed by the British Government to inquire into the origin and nature of the cattle plague, and to consider what means may prove best adapted for its repression and cure, has issued its first report. It is a long and able document, entering minutely into the history of the disease, and offering such recommendations as have approved themselves to a majority of the Commissioners. The report opens with a few remarks on the object of the Commission, and then proceeds to state that the disease was first observed in Great Britain in the latter part of June. On the 19th of June two English cows had been purchased in the Metropolitan cattle market by a cowkeeper residing at Islington. On the 27th June, symptoms of disease in the same cows attracted the attention of the veterinary surgeon, the cows having remained from the 19th in one shed. The day after, similar symptoms were discovered by the same surgeon in a cow belonging to a dairyman at Hackney, which had been purchased at the same place on the same day. On the 24th two Dutch cows in the Lambeth shed were attacked; and these likewise had been bought in the market on the 19th. Immediately after, this, the disease broke out in many of the London dairies, and spread with great rapidity. The Islington cowkeeper lost his whole herd of 93; he afterwards bought more, and lost them, making a total of one hundred and seven deaths. In the early part of July the disease appeared in Norfolk, then in Suffolk and Shropshire; then it invaded one county after another in the south and west; then reached the north of England, crossed the Tweed, and spread its ravages in Scotland, until, on the 14th of October, it had extended to 29 counties in England, 2 in Wales, and 16 in Scotland. From the metropolitan market the disease seems to have crossed over the sea to Holland with some Dutch oxen, which had been shipped from Rotterdam to London, and which, after being exposed in the market for three successive days, were re-shipped from London to Rotterdam.

In the judgment of the Commissioners the disease is contagious—the contagion, they also think, is remarkably subtle in its nature and destructive in its effects. From the general characteristics of the disease, the symptoms which are exhibited during life, and the results of *post mortem* examinations, they conclude that it is identical with the rinderpest, or steppe murrain, known for so many generations in the northern parts of Europe. Nor do they consider this to be the first appearance of the malady among English cattle. As early even as 1348-9, after the black death had produced great mortality among men, a grievous plague appeared among the cattle, and swept them off by thousands. Afterwards at long intervals, in 1180, and in 1715, 1745, and 1757, it decimated British herds, and appeared to have taken deep root in the country. At these different periods commissions were appointed, and orders in Council were issued; but some of those regarded the disease as of "an incurable nature," and enjoined almost a wholesale destruction of the affected cattle.

Having thus traced the origin and defined the nature of the disease, the Commissioners next proceed with certain recommendations for its suppression.

THREE-YEAR-OLD AYRSHIRE BULL



"BALDY."

These are six in number, and are of a very simple and summary character. In the first place, they recommend that Government should have the power to suspend for a limited time the movement of cattle from one place in Great Britain to another; and that they should extend or shorten such period, and renew the prohibition as often as circumstances may render necessary. In the second place, the Commissioners are of opinion that the power to seize and slaughter vested in inspectors by the Consolidated Order may properly be withdrawn; or that, if retained, it should be exercised only in cases where the inspector's directions as to the separation of sound from diseased stock, &c., or any general preventative or sanitary regulations issued by the Government, are not complied with. The third recommendation has reference to the importation of foreign cattle; and should their first recommendation be entertained, and an absolute embargo be placed on all traffic in cattle with Great Britain, then the commissioners think that imported cattle should be slaughtered at the ports of landing. And further, they express an opinion that cattle should be allowed to land at certain ports only, where proper facilities can be afforded for inspection and transport. Fourth, during the period of prohibi-

tion, whether it be absolute or limited, the Commissioners suggest that no cattle should be allowed to be turned on common or unenclosed ground. In the fifth place, they urge that steps should be taken for obtaining periodical returns of all the horned cattle and sheep within the area of every parish in Great Britain, and of their sanitary condition, with special reference to the present disease. Finally, the Commissioners deem it their duty to make some reference to Ireland, admitting that the disease has not yet broken out in that country, and that therefore, there is no necessity for the application of the measures which have been recommended for Great Britain. Still there is some possibility of the appearance of the disease there; and hence it is important to take precautionary measures, so that "the calamity may be averted from Ireland altogether."

Such are, in substance, the recommendations of the majority of the Commissioners. But on some of the points herein mentioned, it seems there was not unanimity of opinion. Earl Spencer, Viscount Cranbourne, Dr. Bruce Jones, and Mr. Read, have issued a separate report, stating that they cannot join the other members of the Commission in recommending

the total stoppage of all movement of cattle in Great Britain. If such a measure were practicable, they say, it would be more effectual than any other in extirpating the disease. But they do not think it practicable. It would involve an interference with the course of trade at variance with the national habits; and it would demand sacrifices from large numbers of persons who are far removed from the presence of the disease, and who will, therefore, not see or feel the necessity for so stringent a measure. Another separate report is also appended from Mr. McLean, who opposes the interference with the traffic in cattle.

altogether, and who states that, in his opinion, the evils arising from it will be far greater than those arising from the disease itself.

In conclusion, the Commissioners publish a supplementary report, containing sanitary regulations for preventing the spread of the disease, certain remedies when the disease has attacked a locality, and measures for disinfecting sheds which have been affected. The pith of all these suggestions is, that increased attention should be given to secure strict cleanliness, good drainage, efficient ventilation, the separation of cattle that show symptoms of disease from those which are sound and healthy, and in all cases to avoid the overcrowding of cattle-sheds and cow-houses.

Such is the present result of the inquiries which have been made, and of the evidence which has been obtained by the Government Commission. It is impossible to deny to the Commissioners the credit of great industry and care. Their labours have extended over little more than a month. They have waded, during that time, through an immense mass of evidence, and have formed and published their convictions and recommendations with the utmost elaboration. Yet, it is very problematical whether any real