

HORSES AND CATTLE.

BIG ISLAND STOCK FARM.

Another addition has been made to this now celebrated Stock Farm, through the purchase by Mr. Mossom Boyd, of four more Polled Angus, three female and a bull. They were the pick of a herd of a hundred head, imported last January by the Geary Bros., of London. For two of the animals which are heifers coming three years old, Mr. Boyd paid \$2,700. A few weeks ago ten head of the same breed were received, nine females and a bull, and the Big Island Herd of Thoroughbred Cattle at present consists of thirty head of Polled Angus, twenty of Hereford, and a few Durhams. This herd is supplemented with a large number of half-breeds, many of which show the characteristics of the father to a surprising degree. One calf from a common red scrub cow, is perfectly black, and shows every feature of its Angus sire, even to the absence of horns. Many of the Angus cattle were imported direct from Sir Geo. Macpherson Grant, of Ballindalloch, Scotland, who possesses in his herd the oldest families and purest blood in existence. For the sire of one of the bulls now in the Big Island Herd, Sir Geo. refused an offer of 5,000 Guineas. It is now over two years since the establishment of the herd of thoroughbreds in Bobcaygeon, and its effect will soon be observable in the district. The perfect thoroughbred will, of course, command a much higher figure than most of the farmers in the neighbourhood will care to pay, but a number of partly bred, good serviceable animals will be raised, which will no doubt be purchasable at moderate prices. It appears to be a fact well-settled by breeders that instances frequently occur of calves "throwing back," that is they will bear little or no resemblance to their parents, but be an exact counterpart of an ancestor some generations back. It is this that gives in a great measure the value of thoroughbreds, by reason that an animal of ancient lineage, noble birth, and tip-top rank, must necessarily, when a "throw back" occurs, throw back into pure blood and families of the highest respectability. For all practical purposes of beef and milk, a fairly bred animal will answer sufficiently well. It is only in the "throwing back" that the difference is most marked, for from the partly bred animal, though a large percentage of its progeny will take closely after the sire, yet a certain percentage will throw back, and take the characteristics of some great, great grandsire of dreadfully plobian birth, who was a notorious rake, rone, and thorough scrub. One of the advantages of an improved breed is a greater power of making beef, and it is to the raising of beef that this district possesses such unbounded facilities, and to which the farmers should give their attention. One of Mr. Boyd's Polled Angus at eighteen months old weighed 1,040 lbs. The stable in which the herd is housed, will be over 200 feet in length when completed, and of two stories. The upper deck cattle have sloping gangways to reach their stalls, and the stable is fitted with every modern improvement and convenience. Mr. Mossom Boyd is taking a deep interest in his herd, and as no pains or expense are being spared, the Big Island thoroughbred cattle of Bobcaygeon may yet be noted both in the old country and throughout the continent of America.

IMPROVE THE BREED.

Many of our readers on sending to the breeders whose advertisements appear in the columns of the *Farmers' Review* and other agricultural papers, for their catalogues and price lists, are discouraged when they find at what a figure these breeders hold their stock. They compare these prices

with those of native stock, and many of them think that it is absurd to believe that there can be such a difference in favour of a blooded animal and that their alleged value is largely fictitious. It is true that there is such a thing as a fictitious value to certain strains of live stock, just as much as to pictures or statuary, and any other objects whose rarity, or reputation enhances their price beyond their real practical value. Cases are not infrequent where purchasers have allowed themselves to be blinded to actual merit by the brilliancy of an unquestionable pedigree; but this the practical farmer can not, must not, do; he must leave that for the wealthy amateur, who does not know a good animal when he sees it, and who fortunately for himself, can afford to pay handsomely for experience. For a good animal, that super-adds to his own unquestionable merits that of belonging to a family of meritorious animals, the farmer must expect to pay a good price and for, say, a beef or dairy animal of this class, he must be ready to pay from \$100 to \$350, according to age and merit. If a farmer's means are too limited to enable him to make an investment of \$200 or \$300 for a good bull, he should induce one or two neighbours to join him in the purchase. Why not own a bull in common as well as a threshing machine or a ditcher? Such an animal's services will very soon pay the original price paid for him, and his owners will have the use of him for their own cows besides. As to the value of such an investment whether made individually or in partnership it needs but little calculation to prove it. A visit to the Chicago Stock Yards will soon remove any possible doubt on that score, when we find Tom Forward, who has been improving his stock for the past few years, selling his two and three-year-old steers, weighing 1,600 to 2,000 lbs., and getting a cent more a pound for them than Dick Backward does for his five and six-years-olds, weighing 900 to 1,100 pounds! So with dairy stock. While much can be done by every farmer in the careful selection of calves for his own herd, from those of his best milkers (by the way we have known farmers keeping a dozen or more cows who did not know the milk and butter yield of each animal), still the infusion of a good milk strain into the herd would bring about results so satisfactory that they would speedily repay the first outlay, for the cost of keeping a cow that will give a good account of herself in the dairy is but little more, if any, than that of the poorest milker in the herd. With the farmer it is the many littles that "make the muckle" more perhaps than in any other business under the sun. Figure out an extra yield of 100 lbs. of butter yearly at 25c. (it might just as well be 25 or 30 as 15 cents) on each cow in a herd of ten cows and you have, as your ten-year-old boy will tell you, \$250 besides the improvement in the get of your cows, which makes every calf more valuable. Send for catalogues to reliable breeders, none others appear in our columns, and if you find the animal you want will cost you \$200 to \$300 or more don't be alarmed, but if it is more than you can afford get a neighbour or two to join you in the purchase, and your neighbourhood will soon be grateful for your enterprise. We may have more to say on this subject of prices.—*The Farmers' Review.*

FINE BEEF STOCK.

Certainly, if the results of recent sales are any criterion, our live stock interest is in a very flourishing condition. The principal sales so far have been of Polle and Shorthorns, and, with the exception, perhaps, of the sale from the Bow Park herd, at Waukegan, last Thursday, prices have been eminently satisfactory. Of course only very wealthy breeders can afford to invest from \$1,000

to \$6,000 in a single animal, but the diffusion of such stock as has been offered so far this spring throughout the country, in the hands of wealthy and intelligent breeders, will have a marked effect upon every section tributary, so to speak, to a breeder of that class. Taking the improvements resulting from high breeding throughout the country, and, as regards beef animals, noting the gain derived from three qualities of precocity, quality and weight, and it is not too much to say that the result if figured out in dollars and cents, would be almost incredible. We have no figures at hand showing the amount of meat consumed per capita in this country, but we are great meat-eating, as well as meat-wasting people, and we know that England imports forty pounds of meat yearly per head of its population to supplement its home supply and should doubtless be within the mark in estimating our own home consumption of meat at 200 pounds per capita, or five millica tons yearly. Add to this the European demand in excess of its own supplies, and we get a faint idea of the demand to be supplied by our American beef producers. As to quality the experience of both producer and consumer is the same as in dairy and other products, namely, always the greatest demand for the best quality. When the results of our great breeders' work are fully accomplished, and the maturity of the beef advanced say two years, its average weight doubled, and its value increased by one to two cents a pound, the total gain to the agricultural wealth of the country is slightly hinted at, but could hardly, without much more extensive calculation, be even approximately arrived at.—*Farmers' Review.*

STOCK RAISING.

We are glad that we have twice referred to the unprofitableness of the general winter feeding of cattle, for it has set farmers to thinking and will do good. If it is a fact that the majority of our cattle actually lose in winter—and there is no chance to harbour a doubt of it—the reason is to be found in the lack of judicial care. The food and fodder we give our cattle are good. They contain the elements to insure profit, if they are rightly fed and the animal properly cared for. But is it not a fact that many of us simply aim to get our cattle through the winter alive and nothing more? When the pastures fail in the fall, do we not virtually say: Now we must keep life in the animal somehow until pasture comes again? It would seem so. There are numbers of men who never think of buying any feed to keep their cattle up. But the farmer who does not realize the absolute necessity of bringing his cattle out in the spring in good condition, even if he has to buy feed to do it, had better sell his cattle when winter begins. A poor, weakened animal in spring will have hard work to "catch up" during the summer, and that fact ought to be fully understood by every cattle breeder. But it is useless to expect the best results from even the highest feeding, if there is no care in other respects. Good care is one-half the battle. It is because it is a saving of feed, and consequently a saving of money, that has been one reason for our frequent urging of the necessity of securing help that will treat cattle—and in fact all stock—kindly. A rough, careless man about the cow-yard will cost more than his head is worth, either in winter or summer. Feed must be furnished to supply what his roughness and carelessness in the care of the stock wastes, and it will not make good the waste either. Every cruel blow that is given an animal means loss to the owner; all the boisterous language that is used to confuse and excite cattle or other stock must be paid for, and the owner pays it. Especially is this true of