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The Four Great Beef Breeds.

IV.

SHORTHORNS.—Continued.

Thomas Bates died in 1849, at the age of 71 years, and his herd was dispersed by auction in 1850, at a time of exceedingly severe agricultural depression, and the average price realized for the 68 head sold was only £67, or about \$335, the highest price for a bull being £215, and for a female £210. Mr. Bates had often said his cattle would never be appreciated at their full value during his own lifetime, but he believed his own estimate of them would some day be accepted, and history reveals that in later years this indeed came to pass, as in the sixties and seventies Bates cattle experienced a boom such as had never before and has never since attended any class of live stock, and, let us hope, never will.

CRUICKSHANK AND SCOTCH SHORTHORNS.

Amos Cruickshank, of Sittytton, Aberdeenshire, born in 1808, laid the foundation of his herd in 1837, and may be regarded as the originator of the Scotch Shorthorns, as they are known, and which have gained so much popularity in the last twenty-five years. The many tribes of the Sittytton herd were built upon a mixed Bates and Booth foundation. Bulls of superior individual merit, of either class, but principally of Booth blood, were freely purchased, some at very liberal prices, the object being to produce a type embodying less of size and more of compactness, easy-feeding qualities and early maturity. Mr. Cruickshank's success in this purpose, however, was never realized satisfactorily to himself until, after twenty-five years of conscientious work, a bull of his own breeding named Champion of England (17526), was used in the herd, whose progeny proved so uniformly of the desired type and quality that a system of in-and-inbreeding was commenced, he and his sons and grandsons and more remote descendants being practically the only sires used in the herd from that time up to the date of its dispersion. Champion of England was sired by Lancaster Comet (11663), a roan bull, bred by Mr. Wilkinson, of Lenton, England, and ordered by letter without being seen by Mr. Cruickshank, who knew and admired the Lenton herd, and took the bull, then eight years old, on the recommendation of Mr. Wilkinson, but was so disappointed on his receipt, on account of his big head and long horns, that he was turned out with a bunch of cows that were doubtful breeders, on an off farm, "to hide his horns," where he contracted rheumatism and died, leaving only about a dozen calves in the herd, one of which was Champion of England. Lancaster Comet, notwithstanding his horns, is said to have been a good bull. He stood near the ground, was of medium size, had a fine coat of hair, a round barrel, straight top and bottom lines, level quarters, nicely-filled thighs, carried plenty of flesh, and was active on his feet. He was somewhat inbred, both his sire and dam having been got by the same bull, Champion of England was a roan, born Nov. 1859, out of the cow Virtue, by Plantagenet (11906). His dam was no better than the average of the Sittytton cows, and he inherited her fault, a slight drooping of the hind quarters. He was not at first considered an extraordinary calf, but later gave such promise that he was sent to the Royal Show in 1861, as a yearling, but being young for his class was not placed, and at Aberdeen only secured third prize, and on account of this non-success he came near being disposed of, but his hair, quality and thrift led to his retention for a trial as a sire. His calves soon evidenced rare promise, being thick-fleshed, low-set, putting on flesh rapidly, and Mr. Cruickshank resolved to use him freely and not risk impairment of his usefulness by putting him in high condition for shows. The Sittytton herd having grown into large numbers, some 200 head, comprising many families, Mr. Cruickshank was enabled for many years to make selections of bulls of his own breeding, without resorting to very close inbreeding, but, as before remarked, the sons and grandsons, and more remote descendants of Champion of England were freely and principally used, and with very great success, bringing to his breeder both fame and fortune, and, to a large extent, revolutionizing the character and type of the breed in Britain and America.

It may appear strange that outside of Scotland

the fame and popularity of Cruickshank cattle grew earlier and faster in America than in England, where the bringing in of Shorthorns at that period would have been considered as great an innovation as carrying coals to Newcastle. But in the last twenty years, especially the last ten years, Scotch-bred Shorthorn bulls and their get have been winning the bulk of the best prizes at leading English shows, and most of the principal breeders have found it to their interest to use bulls of that class of breeding, the outcome being

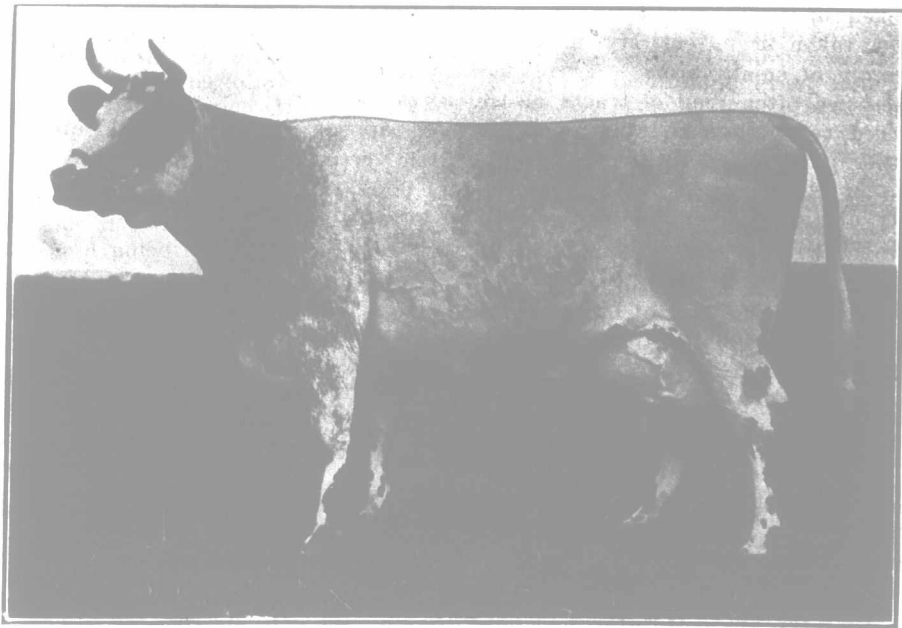


Typical Scotch Shorthorn.

that Englishmen are at present among the best-paying customers of the North Country breeders.

The entire Sittytton herd, consisting at that time of 154 head, was sold at private treaty in May, 1889, to James Nelson & Sons, of Liverpool, Eng., for exportation to the Argentine Republic, but, owing to the failure of the great international banking house of Baring Bros., which occurred in England soon after the purchase of the stock, the sale was cancelled, and in 1890 private sales of the herd were made, the majority of the most useful cows—35 in number—being purchased by Mr. Wm. Duthie, of Collynie, Tarves, Aberdeenshire, and nearly all the yearling heifers—23 in number—by Mr. J. Deane Willis, of Bapton Manor, Codford, Wiltshire, England, in whose hands the character of the Cruickshank families has been admirably maintained. Mr. Cruickshank was in his 82nd year at the date of the sale of the Sittytton herd, and his death occurred in May, 1895, in the 87th year of his age. He was a modest and unassuming man, a devout Quaker, leading a simple life, and, like many of the most noted Shorthorn breeders of his century, he never married.

While Mr. Cruickshank, like his predecessors, the Booths and Mr. Bates, was signally successful in the practice of in-and-inbreeding, it was generally observed, and it is said was admitted by himself, that he had about reached the limit to which he



Dot—A Dual-purpose Shorthorn.

Winner of many first prizes at leading English dairy shows and milking trials.

could safely have continued the use of sires bred in his own herd, and it is well known that a large proportion of the bulls of his own breeding, in the later years of the history of the herd, were far from being of a desirable class individually, though from their intensive breeding they proved, as a rule, prepotent in improving the type and quality of the herds of miscellaneous breeding in which they were used, both in Britain and America. If Mr. Cruickshank had been a younger man when his herd had reached the stage at which it stood at the time of its dispersion, his superior judgment might have guided him to a successful solution of the problem which it is known perplexed him, namely, the choice of new blood from outside

sources for the maintenance of the vigor of his favorite families, but, fortunately, their character has been saved through the blending of their blood with that of many other excellent Scottish herds, notably those of Mr. W. S. Marr, of Upper-mill, and Mr. Sylvester Campbell, of Kinellar, and in the wider field they have since found for their development in the hands of other skillful breeders and in more varied environment.

Mr. Freeman Makes a Proposition.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Since writing you in reply to Mr. Davies, I have seen a letter from Dr. Smale, of the Davies Packing Co., to which you have replied very fully in your editorial. But, in behalf of the farmers, I beg a little more space in your paper.

In the first place, he says the average price for the last six years was \$5.70. Why does he not go back another year, to 1899, when they bought thousands of hogs for \$3.25; that was when the hog business received its death blow. It has never fully recovered since.

I will give the average price paid for the last three years: 1905, \$6.00; 1904, \$5.00; 1903, \$5.48; yearly average, \$5.49. While this is the average quotation, it is not a true average of the price per cwt. received by farmers, because the great bulk of the hog crop is marketed in the fall when prices are lowest. It is only when hogs are very scarce that the price is higher than \$5.49. This cuts a little off the \$4,000,000 profit.

Now, sir, what annoys me most is the opinion Dr. Smale has of the intelligence of the average Canadian farmer. We are getting from 32 to 75 per cent. above the value of the grain fed, clearing \$4,000,000 a year, and because of you, sir—"A meddling mischief-monger"—we are going out of the business. I say with him, "I cannot imagine anything more foolish." Can farmers afford to give up such a bonanza for the sake of a "mischief monger"? No, sir. Will he and Mr. Davies never learn to look to some other source for the shortage in hogs?

With regard to the cost of production, he quotes Prof. Day. Well, we will look into the Professor's experiment. What were those pigs fed on?—blood meal, tankage and skim milk. How many farmers feed blood meal, tankage and skim milk? If they wished, where could they get enough to feed the pigs in this Province? It is nonsense. Prof. Day's experiment was never intended for universal hog-feeding.

It may increase the sale of the "Davies'" blood meal. As for skim milk, I value it at 25 cents per hundred pounds, but it is impossible to get it at that price. I should like to have heard from the groups that were fed exclusively on meal, as check groups. I will give an instance of the cost of a batch of hogs that A. R. Fierheller & Sons fed. I may say it was their last. They bought 120 from Mr. C. Dance, ex-M. P. P. for E. Elgin. I am giving you the names of men who know quite as much along their line of business as Dr. Smale does. Why Mr. Dance sold those pigs so cheap, when he could have made 75 per cent., I cannot make out. Mr. Fierheller's son, a young man who had attended Guelph College and learned how to feed hogs, bought the pigs, and gave \$220 for the lot. Some of the best weighed from 70 to 80 pounds; there were 20 culls he took at \$1 each. They bought \$900 worth of shorts, fed a lot of roots besides grain—cost of roots not included in cost of feed. They sold a large number of them for \$6.00, and lost \$40 in the whole transaction. The young man said: "Father, we have had enough of this; what shall we do with the little pigs?" He said, "Put them in the wagon and take them to Ingersoll, and sell them on the market for what you can get." And they did so. What they did not sell one week they brought home and took out the next Saturday, until they got rid of the lot. They then fattened their sows and killed them, saving one fine pure-bred Berkshire sow, which has a fine litter of pigs now. They told me this winter they wished they had got rid of her too.

I do not wish to paint too dark a picture, but one must bear in mind that times have changed the last few years. Some years ago I bought 2,300 bushels American corn for 37c. per bushel, and oats for 25c. In late years corn has been 60c., oats 45c., which makes a wonderful difference in the cost of production of pork. I do not know how much the packers can afford to give. I know we have to pay 18c. per pound for bacon and 14c. per pound for lard. Everything belonging to the hog is converted into money but the squeal; that the packers seem to have got just now.

In conclusion, I wish to make a proposition. If Professor Day will get three sows under nine months old, due to farrow between now and the first of February (any breed, as the time is somewhat limited, or, perhaps, Dr. Smale could furnish them), shut them in a pen and keep them there until they are turned out on grass. The small pigs are not to be let out of the pen until they are sold. They shall be fed any kind of millfeed or grain, no milk or slops of any kind but water;