

STOCK.

Red Lincolns as Dual Purpose Cows.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of February 25th appears an article on "Breeding of dairy cows." I would like to endorse the writer's statement, where he says good milking Shorthorns in large numbers exist in many parts of England, particularly a strain known as the Red Lincolns (red in color). These have been bred along dairy lines for some years, and have a distinct registry and herdbook. Now, to my mind, an enterprising importer who would introduce the Red Lincolns into Canada for pure-breeding or crossing with Ayrshires or our common dairy stock, would have solved the dual-purpose cow question, and conferred an everlasting boon on the farmers of this country, besides reaping a handsome reward himself.

The Red Lincoln would give greater size to our dairy cattle, without impairing quality or quantity of milk. I should like very much to hear through the "Advocate" all or anything that is known about this breed. G. DEERY, Montreal.

A Disastrous Muddle.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I read with considerable interest an article in your last week's issue, over the signature of D. C. Flatt, which I think was a very modest condemnation of the management of that very important subject, the national live-stock exhibit from Canada at St. Louis. Mr. Flatt thinks that most of the obstructions that stood in the way of Canadians showing at St. Louis were matters that should have been considered with the United States Government, and not with Mr. F. D. Coburn. Many live-stock men think, after reading the remarks of the Dominion Live-stock Commissioner at the Shorthorn breeders' meeting on the 19th of January, that it is just possible that some petty personal offense between subordinate officials has been the cause of the whole disaster. The Live-stock Commissioner's bitter remarks would indicate more than a square business difference of opinion. If the Hon. Mr. Fisher and Hon. Mr. Dryden had gone and reasoned with the United States Government and the management of the World's Fair, and not have sent irresponsible officials, with such a lack of diplomacy as displayed in this case, different results would have been attainable. It does appear to a few of the breeders of live stock that it is a presumptuous sin on the part of the other few to tell the Government that aid is not wanted for any one, because "we" are not going. FAIR PLAY, York Co., Ont.

Hon. John Dryden's View.

At the inaugural meeting of horsemen, in connection with the Spring Show in Toronto last week, referring to the proposal to transfer the live-stock records to Ottawa, and under Government control, Hon. John Dryden said: "In your own interest you ought to be the guardians of your own records. (Applause.) There ought to be no other controlling body in reference to these records than the men who handle and own the animals themselves. I am prepared to take strong ground with reference to this one particular point. I do not want it to get into the hands of any department or body of politicians. I don't care who they are." (Loud applause.)

Mr. William Smith, ex-M.P., Columbus, one of the Minister's old-time political opponents, joined in Mr. Dryden's view, and added that the latter's address was as good as a Tory could have made.

"I do not think that is a very good recommendation," replied Mr. Dryden, laughing.

"It is the best recommendation I can give," responded Mr. Smith, amid general laughter, before moving a vote of thanks to the speakers.

Milk Fever.

Parturient apoplexy—better known to cattle-breeders by the name of milk fever, or dropping after calving—has been the subject of much discussion in the veterinary press of recent months. Mr. R. J. Sankey, South Hill, Ashford, Kent, now writes to say that if owners of dairy stock will follow the natural order of things a little more closely, neither they nor their cows would suffer much from milk fever. The best plan is to leave the calf with its mother for the first three days, and not to touch her, unless she is a very heavy milker, in which case take only small quantities of milk from her beyond what the calf sucks at small intervals. If the owner objects to the two being together, but prefers to remove the calf at birth, then let him make quite certain that the milk is drawn from the cow a little at a time, and often, just as the offspring does in a state of nature. If the udder is never emptied until the calf is at least three days old, there is but little or no risk of dropping after calving. The foregoing was told Mr. Sankey many years ago by a large dairy farmer in Leicestershire, who assured

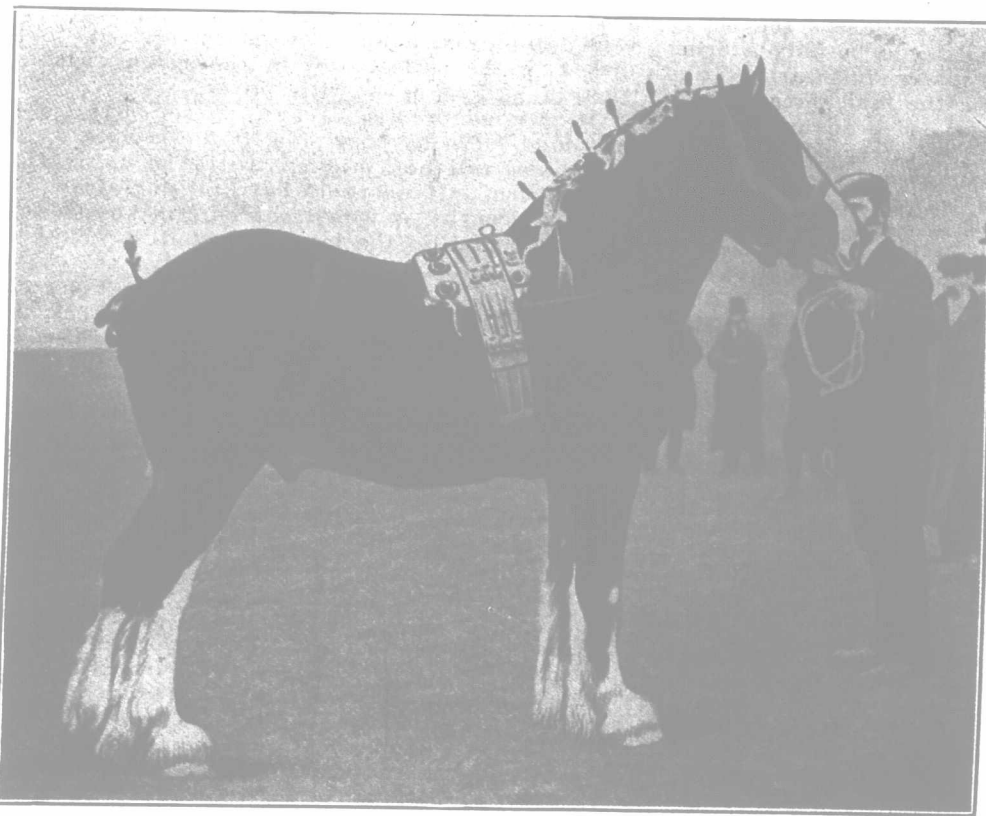
him he had not lost a single cow since adopting that system, although he had previously lost several every year, and Mr. Sankey's own experience is similar.—[Scottish Farmer.]

The Experimental Farms and the Live-stock Industry.

The appropriateness shown in the selection of the speaker, Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist at the Central Experimental Farm, was amply borne out by the intensely practical address delivered by him to the meeting of stock-breeders in Convocation Hall, Wesley College, Winnipeg, Tuesday, February 23rd. The experimental farms and the live-stock industry formed the text for a discourse on the various experiments being carried out by these institutions, supported by the people of Canada, through the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

The speaker, in the following terse sentences, "No cattle, no agriculture; some cattle, some agriculture; more cattle, more agriculture," gave in a nutshell the key to up-to-date farming. The experimental farms were established with the sole object of helping agriculture, which scheme is furthered by the publication of bulletins and reports and the giving of addresses by the staff. Bulletins are only supplied to those asking for them.

Mr. Grisdale mentioned the staff of the Central Farm and the special vocation of each, showing the useful work being done by them, but, as the agriculturist of the institution, assumed that he was closest in touch with the farmer. He then detailed the following experiments, performed or under way, and indicated the results obtained.



Revelanta (11876).

Winner of first prize in three-year-old Clydesdale class at 120 lbs. champion cup, Glasgow Stallion Show, 1904. Sire Baron's Pride.

With horses, they had found that a saving of twenty per cent. of roughage was had by supplying it cut to their horses, and ten per cent. saving of grain by crushing it and mixing with the cut feed. With pure-bred stock, it had been found that, properly handled, the breeding of such animals, despite the times, was always remunerative.

He had found that ground barley, oats, shorts and bran were the most economical feeds for the production of beef, and sternly deprecated the idea that the production of beef could not be carried on successfully in the West.

Experiments with mill and other by-products, and the oil, gluten and other meals, including one with beet-sugar pulp, were referred to. The beet-sugar pulp had been found a good substitute for roots and ensilage, ten pounds of the dried pulp being practically equal to one hundred pounds of roots. This by-product of the beet-sugar factory was not as satisfactory as a substitute for meal.

In the experiment referring to the cost of producing beef, he had found that in the animal up to one year old it cost 2½ cents per pound, the prices of feed being as follows: hay, \$7.00 per ton; roots and ensilage, \$2 per ton; meal mixed, 1c. a pound; pasture, at \$1.00 per month; the manure being reckoned to meet cost of labor, etc. Two-year-old beef increased in cost, the cost being 4½ cents a pound, three-year-olds being still more expensive at 6 cents per pound, increasing to 7½ cents for four-year-old stuffs.

The experiment in the production of baby beef was then referred to, Prof. Grisdale saying that the butchers were keen for this article, which has the effect of tickling the palates of their customers so

effectively. He had found it possible to produce a beeve at two and a half years weighing, finished, 1,350 lbs., at a cost of five cents a pound, with foods at the prices mentioned, and he considered it remunerative business. The market would pay for baby beef from one-half to one cent a pound above the price paid for ordinary beef.

Next, the experiment of feeding cattle loosely versus tied was touched upon. It was found that groups of two to ten cattle did as well, or better, with a floor area of forty square feet than with eighty square feet. Those fed loose gave greater and cheaper gains than those tied up.

An experiment has been tried at the Central Experimental Farm with a view to demonstrate the number of stock that could be carried successfully on forty acres. After some work, the experiment showed it possible to carry twenty-five head.

In the east, an attempt to demonstrate the most economical feeding of beef cattle had shown that cattle could be carried along and finished well whose diet had been entirely of a succulent nature, with no meal added until the last six weeks, when a finishing ration of seven to eight pounds of meal per day had been used.

Experiments with the Shorthorns, Ayrshires, Guernseys and Canadian cattle, with a view to determine their economic uses as dairy animals, had shown that, omitting the calf from each in the calculation, 100 pounds of milk cost to produce 65, 50, 55 and 49 cents from these breed, respectively, the butter costing 16, 11, 13 and 9 cents per pound. In arriving at the cost, the prices for feed were as noted above.

The lecturer gave his experience with foods for bacon breeds of swine, mentioning as such the Berkshire, Tamworth and Yorkshire. He enumerated as the economical feeds: barley, oats, shorts, peas and some bran.

Mr. Grisdale considers the Western farmer in a favored location re the feeding of high-quality bacon, with the feeds out here, it being practically impossible to produce soft pork.

Referring also to the climatic conditions as a factor in the economical production of pork, he stated that he preferred, even in the cold weather, that the pigs should be outside frequently to obtain the necessary exercise, without which their appetites would flag. They had found at Ottawa this winter, where the weather had had been very cold, that although it cost a little more in grain, the pigs outside were more thrifty and made better gains than those inside. He spoke of the little inverted V-shaped cabins used, the entrance to which was partially obstructed by a curtain of sacking, which allowed the pigs to go in and out at will.

They had also found at Ottawa, pasturing of hogs was the greatest help to cheap pork production, and that the rape plant ranked first as the plant on which to pasture the hogs. A bulletin is now to be had on the rape plant, its uses and cultivation, from the Department for the asking.

Sheep-breeding at the Ottawa Experimental Farm was briefly referred to, the use of good blood being demonstrated by grading up the scrub, by the use of Shropshire and Leicester pure-breds. Two crosses resulted in very great improvement. Their experience with sheep at the Farm had taught them three important things, viz.: Avoid keeping sheep in too warm or close a place, let them be outside a great deal. Do not allow the sheep to graze over the same pasture continually; and limit the amount of roots used, especially to in-lamb ewes.

Dr. A. S. Alexander, V.S., in an address before the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture, said: "Go to Toronto, Canada, and watch the teams as they pass. Their uniformity of breed type, color, conformation and quality, shows that one breed has been used from start to finish through long years, until to-day the average horse is a creditable representation of that breed. To such a breeding center the buyer may go, confident that there he will find a full supply of the kind of horses he wants. Such knowledge creates confidence on the part of the buyer, and a standard price and appreciative market for the salable horse product of the district."