

good milkers, and when I have a good herd of them they are pleasing to the eye and profitable.

I have kept some nearly pure-bred Durham cows of good milking strain, and they have done well; they were larger than the Ayrshire, and they consumed more feed. The Ayrshires are smaller in size and consume less feed than the Shorthorn. The Ayrshire I have give more milk than the Durham on the same quantity of feed. They suit me better for dairy purpose. They give a good quantity of milk late in the season. My herd of twenty cows, mostly all Ayrshires, has averaged me in seven months 6,164 pounds each, beside what I fed to calves, &c., before the factory opened in the spring. I sold, before the factory opened and after it closed, 405 pounds of butter, besides milk for other purposes. The Ayrshire cows are kind, hardy and good feeders.

MR. JAS. M'CORMICK'S EXPERIENCE.

My experience with Ayrshires began in 1865 and has been continued with good results. As dairy cattle I do not think they can be excelled and when crossed on natives or other breeds, the offspring, when females, with rare exceptions, make good dairy cows. I have drawn fifty-five pounds of milk in one day from Ayrshire cows which were feeding on common pasture and received no other food. Twenty-four to twenty-six pounds of this milk made one pound of butter. In 1882 I sold a two-year-old grade heifer to Mr. Williams, ex-M. P. P., of Hamilton. When she was six years old Mr. Williams told me that he had received fourteen quarts of milk from her at one milking, and that she was the best cow he ever saw. In 1883 I sold one to Mr. O. R. Wardel, of Dundas, who afterwards told me she was the best cow that he had ever seen. In 1886 I sold another to Mr. Smith, of Sheffield, who told me he had taken fifty pounds of milk in one day from her. Mr. Adam Thompson, of Rockton, also bought one that gave about the same amount. I merely give the names of these men so that they can be communicated with at any time to prove my statements. My experience has taught me to prefer the Ayrshires. If the cost of keeping is taken into consideration, they are the best all-round dairy cows. We generally stop milking our cows about two months before calving, when we feed them straw and twenty pounds of turnips per day. With this treatment they gain in flesh; this proves how cheaply they can be fed. The profit of a cow depends largely upon the cost of keeping her. I find them to be equally as hardy as any native that I ever saw; I never lost but two, one with milk fever, which could have been prevented, the other, a bull, I had to kill on account of gravel. I might say I have thirty-six head in my stable, and a cough is never heard unless one is choked by something.

WM. STEWART, JR., MENIE, ONT., RECOMMENDS THE AYRSHIRE.

Some eight years ago I concluded to try the Ayrshires. We were then breeding grade Durhams, and previous to this we thought that there was nothing like the Durham, as we got quite a flow of milk when crossed on our native cows, and when too old for dairy purposes, they were worth something for beef. It occurred to me that if we could get as much milk from the Ayrshires as we could get from the Shorthorn grades would they not be much more profitable to keep, as the difference in cost of

keep would more than compensate for the amount realized in the extra amount of beef. Having my mind made up to the above, I concluded to give them a trial, so I purchased two heifers and a bull, with which to start my herd, placing them in the same stable with the others, and feeding the same feed to all alike. I noticed that the Ayrshires did not consume as much food as the Shorthorn grades, and that they appeared to be far thriftier and hardier. I have now kept Ayrshires for eight years, and am not sorry I made the change. With regard to dairy purposes, I think they are the coming cow; they are hardy and healthy, and will live and do well where any native stock will live. They are very quiet, and persistent milkers, at the same time giving a good flow, not for three or four months, but eight and ten months. I have cows in my herd now that have been milked for two years and not been dry a day. They are very prolific, breeding very young, and continuing to breed regularly until up in the teens. I have one cow in my herd that is now rising nine years old, and has had a calf every year since she was fifteen months old; she is now carrying her ninth calf. As cheese is one of our greatest exports it behooves the farmer to turn his attention to the raising of first class dairy stock—stock that will produce the greatest amount of casein or curd to the pound of milk. This is found plentifully in the Ayrshire's milk. This quality, coupled with their thriftiness, hardiness, docile temper and the ability to retain their flow of milk well through the season, makes them a most desirable dairy cow for the general farmer.

SOME COMPARISONS BY GEO. HILL, DELAWARE, ONT.

I am very pleased that you offer me a small space in your paper to say a word for the Ayrshires. I have had them for twelve years. I have had Durhams and Jerseys also in that time, and I find the Ayrshire by far the most profitable as a dairy cow. I find their milk, after the cream is taken off, is more nutritious than Jersey milk similarly treated. I was reading some time ago of a noted doctor of New York that had been testing the milk of these two breeds, and he said the Ayrshires was far the best as food for children, which is a great consideration. I have no doubt but there are some good Jerseys. But where is the farmer that could afford to pay up in the hundreds or thousands of dollars for one of these noted ones? I know of some that cost big money and they do not give enough milk to feed one calf well. I can get a good Ayrshire for from fifty to one hundred dollars. I only paid fifty dollars for my Ayrshire cow which took the first prize in her class at London in 1885. She was second prize cow of all breeds on the ground. I suppose some of Mr. Fuller's Jersey cows which competed cost some thousands, so I conclude the Ayrshires are the poor man's cow. I cannot close without a good word for the ADVOCATE, of which I have been a reader for about twenty years. I think it is like the grain of mustard seed. From a small beginning, it is now spreading its branches of good and useful knowledge over all the Dominion. May you be long spared to go on in the good work.

The Prince of Wales, who is President of the Hackney Horse Society, has been a very successful exhibitor of Hackneys this season. His stud of Hackneys at Sandingham has not yet been established three years and already he has begun exhibiting and winning with horses bred there.

Canadian vs. American Cattle.

The London Live Stock Journal copies the following paragraph from the Rural New Yorker of Sept. 27th:—"Some cattle owners near Grenville, New Jersey, are excited because some of their cattle have been seized and slaughtered by Government inspectors. Dr. Hawk, Chief Inspector for New Jersey, says he discovered a few cases of pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle and is determined to stamp the disease out."

Canada has so determinedly fought against the inroads of disease, by her strict quarantine, that she is absolutely free from any of the plagues that beset the cattle of other countries, and we further trust that our authorities will see to it that our vessels carry nothing but Canadian cattle, as such is the insidious nature of this disease that discredit may arise by our export cattle contracting this disease from a former shipment of diseased cattle shipped from one of the United States ports.

Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

Breaking the record on cattle receipts for two weeks "hand running" is all right for the record, and may be all right for those who have cattle to market after awhile, but it is certainly very rough on cattle prices just at present and those who have to take them. For the week ended Oct. 4 Chicago received 86,799 head of cattle, being the largest on record by about one thousand head. Last week, however, was another record breaker, receipts being 88,351 head. That is rushing cattle in at a rate that must soon make a big impression on the "cattle in sight."

Thousands of men are going on the theory that they must get rid of cattle at any cost before they are compelled to go to feeding them, and as a consequence the markets have been and are now very badly flooded with all sorts of low grade cattle. As illustrating that fact it may be stated that last week, when thousands of 1,000 to 1,400 lb. cattle, in poor condition, were going begging at \$3 to \$3.75, the few really ripe and prime cattle were selling at \$4.90 to \$5.25, or nearly as high as at any time for months.

The man who declares that the surest way of getting fifty cents for corn is in feeding it to cattle this winter may be a little over sanguine, but certain it is that the sacrifice of thin and immature cattle will either be felt in an emphatic way, or there are more cattle in the country than the most "bearish" calculators claim.

The western range cattle have lately sold at very low prices, but for the season so far prices will average about 25c. to 30c. higher than last year. Best western beeves last year, \$4.10; best this year, \$4.50. Handy fat 1,069 lb. steers of fine quality sold at \$4.60, while some good 1,750 lb. beeves sold at \$4.55.

A western sheep man predicts that good sheep will sell very high next spring. He bases it on the reduced numbers on feed and the growing demand.

Car lots of 135 to 140 lb. Dakota pigs sold at \$3.10, the shippers claiming there was nothing to feed them. It seems a shame to waste such material, but if it were not for such sacrifices the production might be overdone.

The London Farming World is in favor of abolishing the practice of offering prizes for steers over three years old at the Smithfield Fat Stock Show, and would offer prizes for steers under twelve months instead.