

HORSES AND CATTLE.

POLLED ANGUS AND HEREFORD HERDS.

The Lindsay Post, of a recent date, had a lengthy article descriptive of Mr. Mossom Boyd's Stock Farm, near Bobcaygeon. After making reference to Mr. Boyd's enterprise as a lumberman, the extent of his operations, his saw-mills, and the stabling for horses, our contemporary conveys his readers to

AN ISLAND PASTURE GROUND.

Across from the mills in Pigeon Lake is Big Island. Years ago, when the lumber interest was at its maximum, there was to be found on the island some fine pine. In process of clearing off the timber many roadways were cut through and across the island. These speedily were covered with an extraordinary growth of grass, making a splendid pasture for the horses coming out of the woods after a hard winter's work. Turned loose on the island for five months the stock grew fat and glossy with good living. From horses to cattle stock is an easy transition, and a few head were turned loose upon the island. The experiment was a signal success, and to-day the island is the principal grazing ground for Mr. Boyd's stock farm. There are twelve hundred acres of land on the island, four hundred acres of which are fenced in and a good part of it cleared. Realizing the advantages of the locality for breeding purposes on account of its isolation and splendid pasturage, Mr. Boyd two years ago set about procuring some of the best breeds of cattle. Reliable and competent breeders in the old country were applied to and many head of the best and most popular breeds of cattle were purchased by Mr. Boyd and brought to Bobcaygeon. A number of very fine Aberdeen or Polled Angus cattle selected by Mr. Geo. Wilken, of Scotland, by instructions from Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, were despatched to Bobcaygeon on their arrival in Canada. Several fine head were purchased from Mr. Hunter, an importer of thoroughbred cattle, while the animals were in quarantine at Quebec, during the summer of 1881. From Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph, eighteen head of pure bred Herefords were bought. These were transferred to the island, where the precautions to preserve the purity of each breed are very strict. The bulls of each class are kept confined, while the cows run at large. Bull calves are taken from the island to the mainland at an early age. There are now on the island forty head exclusive of the

POLLED ANGUS CATTLE.

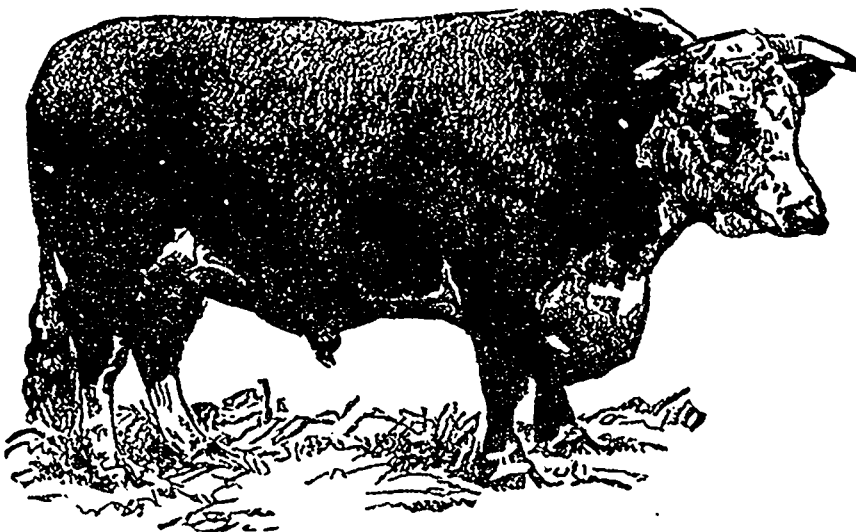
These are Mr. Boyd's last importation, and with the exception of those at Port Perry, owned by Messrs. Adams, and at the School of Agriculture, Guelph, the only ones in the province. In Point of value they rank very high. Hon. Mr. Cochrane recently sold two heifers of this breed at \$1000 each. Several of Mr. Boyd's cattle are worth about that figure, while a number cost as high as \$750 each. As our readers are no doubt aware, the Polled Angus are completely black, and as the name indicates are without horns. [This breed was described, with engraving, in the RURAL CANADIAN of the 19th January, 1882.] They are not quite so large in frame as the Shorthorns, but mature early, and being of small bone and symmetrical in appearance, they reach at two years a size and weight that render them a most desir-

able breed for beef. Many cattle breeders in fact prefer the Polled Angus, and predict that it will be the most popular fattening breed among farmers. In milk-giving qualities the breed is also very good.

A number of bulls picked from each herd are kept for service at the farm. The neighbouring farmers have made a fair use of this opportunity to raise the quality of the stock in the neighbourhood.

THE STOCK FARM

is located east of the village about one mile. Four hundred acres are under cultivation or in fallow. The land is of an exceptionally good quality. During past years an impression seems to have been formed that the land in the vicinity of Bobcaygeon is upon the average of a rocky character. This is highly erroneous, and the farm of Mr. Boyd while good is only the counterpart of many others in the township. Improvements of a large and substantial character are in contemplation. During this autumn large stables will be built to shelter the stock on the island when it is no longer tenable during the winter. These stables will be after the most approved system, conducive to the comfort of the animals and to economy of labour in attendance. In the stables at present standing on the farm are housed



PRIZE HEREFORD BULL.

the bulls for service. A fine Durham bull, three years old, is a superior animal of its class. Two Herefords of pure breed, and a Polled Angus bull of two years were almost faultless. The Herefords, with their white faces and white legs, seemed odd to those not accustomed to that style, but a herd of them all close alike as so many peas looked very pretty. They are smaller than the Durhams, and are popular with cattle-breeders.

HEREFORD CATTLE.

In this country the Herefords have many warm admirers: and among the largest breeders of this class of cattle Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph, stands foremost. His opinion is that Herefords have not been used in Canada to the extent that they ought to be. As to their hardiness, early maturing qualities and weight, on the same food at a given age, he considers the Herefords equal to the Durhams. As to their milking qualities, he alleges their milk is richer than the Durhams', and as plentiful in a given period, if not at one time. In his evidence before the Ontario Agricultural Commission, he goes on to speak of their being the best grazers of any existing breeds, and says:—

"If I had a three-year-old Durham grade, and a three-year-old Hereford grade in the spring, and they both weighed 1,500 pounds, and if I put them out at pasture on the 1st of May, I think the Hereford grade would come out on the 1st of October in better condition than the Durham.

The Hereford would give more prime beef and less offal. When they went to the shambles the Hereford would give better cuts."

No one can pretend to say that the Herefords are not, in such a country as Canada, a most valuable breed. If it should be found, as it may be that, not in Muskoka alone, but in large tracts of country lying still farther to the northward, there are lands suited for grazing in the summer months but not available for other purposes of agriculture, the value of the Hereford will become even more apparent.

CARROTS AS FOOD FOR HORSES.

A correspondent of long experience calls our attention to the following extract from the *London Live Stock Journal*, adding that he has himself fed carrots to cart and other horses for thirty years with good results, as hundreds of others have also done throughout the Eastern States, and that he has never heard of any injury from their use:

"We do not entirely agree with those who maintain that the carrot is the most wholesome and nourishing food which can be given to horses. The carrot, says *L'Aviculture*, is excellent when employed as a tonic for old horses, in order to purify and strengthen the blood; but its use is

dangerous for young horses, and especially for stallions. It gives them too much blood; makes them nervous, irritable, spiteful, or vicious when at work, and predisposes them to apoplectic fits if they do not take enough exercise. Geldings and mares might not be particularly liable to inconveniences of this nature; nevertheless, in all cases carrots should be given with the greatest moderation to horses of less than ten years of age. For horses past this age they may be harmless; and with oats, may constitute a valuable article of food. Horses eat them with avidity, especially when they are mixed with coarse bran. This diet gives horses new blood, which seems to restore their youth.

"Unfortunately, the carrot is not to be had all the year round. We need not regret this, however. An article of food, the effect of which is so powerful, is only valuable when employed for a time. Its prolonged use is of no good; for the body can get accustomed to everything, even to the most violent medicines. The carrot might be very appropriately called the regenerator of old worn-out horses. A horse which has been improperly treated, is fatigued, thin and exhausted, improves visibly when fed upon this generous diet. But if those who have the care of the animal are not careful to let it take regular exercise, or to take a little blood from it, or, better still, administer a strong purgative, they will find that, just when the embonpoint and vigour begin to be noticeable, the horse is seized with apoplexy, and perishes when it appeared to be completely made over again, and fit for work."

AGAINST HORSE-SHOEING.

Colonel M. C. Weld's noteworthy views on the abuse of shoeing horses, as lately expressed in the *Tribune*, have attracted deserved attention abroad as well as at home, and called out one striking statement of favourable English experience, the points of which we quote from the *Mark Lane Express*:

"About three years ago I was led to give the non-shoeing system a fair trial, commencing with a pony constantly driven, and extending the ex-