



The two historic Duchesses—the 8th (dark) and 10th (light) Duchesses of Geneva (Bates) sold at auction, Sept. 18th, 1871, for \$40,000 and \$15,000, respectively.
—From frontispiece in "Shorthorn Cattle," by Sandes.

The Rival Breeders, Booth and Bates—No. 3

By THE HON. JOHN DRYDEN, President Canadian National Live Stock Association.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century, there were several prominent breeders in England and later in Scotland, all of whom were producing good cattle, and from whose herds individual animals found their way into Canada, examples of which have already been noticed. The breed had now become firmly established in public favor and new men on both sides of the Atlantic were constantly embarking in the business. Choice specimens were constantly in demand, and at prices which would be considered high in our day. Up to this time the Shorthorns had held to their original record as heavy milkers, but influences were at work—silently at first and more openly later—which would have the effect of turning aside a large percentage of breeders from the dual purpose idea to the single object of producing beef. Prominent among these and gradually forcing himself to the front was Thos. Booth, of Killerby, followed by his two sons, Richard and John.

BOOTH BREAKS AWAY

With this object in view, Mr. Booth did not seek to purchase high priced females of the more fashionable blood, but made his selections from among the lower priced animals having the characteristics required, namely, robustness, form, weight of carcass and feeding quality. One of his purchases was selected in the market at Darlington and consisted of a yellow-red and white cow, which from her general appearance attract-



Thos. Bates, of Kirkclevington.

ed Mr. Booth's attention. This cow crossed with the imported Colling bull produced Young Albion (15), one of the nobble bulls of that day. Several others of Mr. Booth's great prize winners, including the twin cows "Necklace" and "Bracelet," trace to this cow. It turned out a most fortunate purchase. From another breeder he selected five heifer calves, and one of these became the foundation of another of Mr. Booth's great families. Upon these selected females he used the strongly bred bulls of Messrs. Colling and others of that time. Whatever of extra milking properties some of these individual females may have possessed, Mr. Booth did not seek to perpetuate it, paying attention only to the production of the carcass for beef; nor did he ascribe great importance to some of the minor points, such as the turn of the horn, delicacy of the head. Some of his cows are said to have presented rather a stery appearance. He was, however, a skilful breeder, and continued his work with much success. Some would say his ideal was wrong, otherwise all admit he was among the most noted breeders of his time and made a high reputation for himself. Many of his females were successful as showyard winners, and within the writer's recollection, their descendants when matured were beautiful animals. It is easily seen that the success achieved could not have been reached in so short a time had it not been possible to use the imported bulls from the herds of Messrs. Colling. These were followed by bulls from his own herd, which had in other hands proved themselves as superior sires.

A DIFFERENT IDEAL

While the Booth cattle were being developed, another breeder, with an ideal somewhat different, was endeavoring with slightly different material to work out his idea to a successful issue. This man was Thomas Bates, the originator of the Bates' Shorthorns. Judged by the values reached for individual animals, his success was a quite beyond that of Mr. Booth. He clung tenaciously to the thought that the dual purpose idea should not be lost, and boasted of the strong milking propensity of his cattle throughout his entire course. The foundation of his herd was different from that of Mr. Booth. Instead of selecting his early purchases in the market or from some breeder not at all famous,

as Mr. Booth did, he purchased what he declared to be the best cow in Mr. Colling's herd. This cow was "Duchess by Daisy Bull" (presented in our last issue) and cost 100g. Some years afterwards he bought her granddaughter "Young Duchess," sired by the \$5,000 bull "Comet" (155) for 185 g. These were the foundation of the Duchess tribe, which, after Mr. Bates' life was ended, became the most fashionable family of Shorthorns ever known.

THE HIGHEST PRICED COW

of the breed ever sold at auction belonged to this family. The writer was present at the great sale at New York Mills, U.S., in 1873, where "80th Duchess of Geneva" was knocked down to an English buyer at \$40,600.00. Four others followed at \$19,000, \$15,600, \$13,300 and \$25,000 respectively. Four more followed at \$19,000, \$15,600, \$13,300 and \$13,000. The highest priced buyer was \$12,000 for "2nd Duke of Oisida." It was worth going a long distance to witness this sale. We have only seen one and never shall see another. The excitement was most intense. It is surely not too much to say that no one expected such high prices before the sale started. The purchasers were driven forward far beyond their original intention by force of circumstances which could not be controlled. It was surmised that one syndicate had thought of \$30,000, as it was a matter of rumor that \$50,000 had been provided for the purchase of three individuals. It was the evident surprise of every individual purchaser, as well as every spectator, which gave such intensity of feeling to all present. Talk about the excitement of a horse race! Such an event is not in it at all. On several of the animals the excitement grew as the bids rose, until with the vast audience assembled not a sound could be heard. The stillness of death prevailed, interrupted only by the quiet voice of the auctioneer repeating the bid. J. R. Page, the noted artist, wielded the hammer, and for that crowd and that occasion no better could have been selected. Perfectly calm throughout the greatest strain of the excitement among others, and with that dignity which seemed to say, "I am dealing with gentlemen," he held the crowd under entire control. No one talked but himself, until the last bid was in and he declared the animal "sold." Then the re-action came, and cheer after cheer arose from the onlookers. It was a great day and a great sale, and a great



Thos. Booth, of Killerby.