

At the time of my visit, August 6th, the Hemp was from two to three feet in height. A patch of flax was adjoining on the same kind of soil, about three feet in height. J. B. CALKIN.

LUNENBURG, Sept. 27th, 1870.

Agreeably to your desire, I visited New Ross on the 13th of last month to inspect and report on the Hemp sown by John Pratt, Esq. Hereto annexed is a sketch of the grounds covered with the crop, which I measured, and which you will see covers an acre, from two bushels of seed sown. I will send you by first opportunity some of the stalks then pulled up by me, which are about seven feet in length. About one-third of the whole acre was of that average; the rest was shorter, ranging down to three feet. Mr. Pratt anticipated better promise from the experiment, and attributed the disappointment to the unusual dry weather.

I forget whether Mr. Pratt desired me to send what I gathered as a sample of the crop; but I will do so in order to avoid any mistake.

I would have waited until the meeting of the Board next month to make this Report; but should the Board meet earlier than the 26th, I will be unable to be present, owing to the sittings of our Court here.

I had to travel thirty-seven miles and back—in all, seventy-four miles—for the express purpose of inspecting the crop.

I think I have mentioned everything that is necessary. However, if there is anything more that is required in the matter, and within my knowledge, I will be pleased to communicate it to you, upon your again addressing me on the matter.

Please make report, and present the sample I will send to the Board.

H. A. N. KAULBACK.

HISTORY OF SHORT HORNS.

(From the Canadian Herd Book.)

What are, and whence came, the Short Horns? We do not propose to enter into any lengthened disquisition on this subject. Suffice it to say that, in our view, the Short Horns are a most valuable breed of cattle, which have existed from time immemorial in the northern counties of England, particularly in York and Durham. Their central location may be said to have been on the river Tees, flowing between these two counties, whence they were formerly called the Teeswater breed of cattle. How they got there—how they came to preserve the characteristics they were found to possess about the close of the last century, when the breed began to obtain great celebrity—are questions we do not propose to discuss at length. They doubtless came from the Continent of

Europe at some remote period—possibly many hundreds of years ago; and having gained a footing in the north of England, retained it, in the same way that other local breeds and local customs held their place in other parts of the island. But they were not left to propagate merely by chance. For perhaps a hundred years before the first volume of the English Herd Book appeared, a greater or less number of breeders, amongst whom might be found resident noblemen and wealthy country gentlemen, had been in the habit of bestowing great care and attention upon the selection and breeding of their Short-Horned Cattle, and of preserving their pedigrees in manuscript in a more or less complete shape. About the year 1730, the Messrs. Colling (Chas. and Robert), whose names will be always eminent in Short-Horn History, commenced business as breeders, and gradually obtained a very distinguished place in the profession. Short Horns, about this time, from their well-ascertained superior feeding and milking qualities, began to obtain a high popularity; and when Mr. Charles Colling's sale took place (1810), on his retirement from active life, as a breeder, with an ample fortune, his herd, consisting of forty-eight animals, amongst them the Bull Comet (155), sold for £7,115 17s. sterling, realizing the astonishing average of £148 5s., or about £740 each. This, we believe, is a higher nominal average than had been obtained at any large sale at that date, and shows the demand that had arisen for the breed.—But this was at a period of enormously inflated war prices for every description of agricultural produce; and large sales have since taken place which produced within a fraction of as high a figure, and which, under the different circumstances, may be considered as in reality higher. The Short Horns now began to be distributed far beyond their original centre. A demand arose for them in foreign countries; and early in the present century some importations began to take place to this continent, and have continued, with more or less variability of demand, till the present time, when the number of high-bred animals which have been imported direct from England count up many hundreds. In referring to the Messrs. Colling specially, we must not be understood as ignoring the claims of other eminent breeders, contemporary or nearly contemporary with them, and who occupied in many cases nearly or quite as distinguished a place. Amongst such names may be mentioned Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Wetherell, Sir H. V. Tempest, Earl Spencer, Major Budd, Mr. Mitton, Mr. Mason, Messrs. Jobson, Sir H. C. Ibbetson, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Gray, Mr. Chrisp, Messrs. Charge, Mr. Cattley, Mr. C. Champion, the Messrs.

Booth, Mr. T. Bates, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. G. Coates, the Messrs. Culleys, and a long list of others.

In the year 1822, after the breed of Short Horned Cattle had long established for itself a distinguished reputation, Mr. G. Coates, himself an eminent breeder, published the first volume of his Herd Book. That work, continued in successive volumes to the present time, has tended to perpetuate the characteristics of the breed. The first volumes probably contained the pedigree of but a small proportion of the thorough-bred Short Horns then in existence. Three of the Bulls inserted were probably of such as had attained a local eminence as Sires. Of many of these Bulls, but a brief account is given; in fact, in a large number of cases, nothing but the mere name and number. But it is to be presumed that, in all such cases, Coates possessed such information as to authorize him to consider the animals as true Short Horns. In the absence of a previous systematic record, such a course in many cases became unavoidable. But the case is very different now. The Bulls, whose names and pedigrees are recorded in Coates' first volume, became the ancestors of the modern Short Horns; and no existing animal can be accepted as of pure blood unless its descent can be traced from that source. There may, it is true, be many pure-blood Short Horns in existence, of which no satisfactory pedigree can be given, simply because no record of the breeding has been kept; but in such cases the fact does not admit of proof, and therefore the animal cannot be accepted as of pure descent. The pedigree must be produced, or the point cannot be officially established.

In 1846, Mr. Lewis F. Allen, of Buffalo, N. Y., published the first volume of his American Herd Book, containing the pedigrees of Short-Horned Cattle imported to or bred in the United States. He has also continued the work to the present time, having now published seven volumes; and the important position that Short-Horned Cattle have gained on this Continent may be judged by the fact that these seven volumes contain the pedigrees of more than six thousand Bulls, and probably ten thousand Cows. This work has rendered most important service to the American Short-Horn breeder.

What are the characteristics of the Short Horns? They are noted for beauty of form and color—have a beautifully soft elastic touch in handling—are possessed of admirable feeding and milking qualities—come early to maturity for the shambles, with great weight of carcass in proportion to the apparent size, and are remarkable for proof or inside fat. We are indebted for the following brief description to Mr. Allen: