

aggravates the trouble—makes the horse worse than ever. Half the men in this world are not fit to drive a spirited horse.

THE AYRSHIRES.

Next to the Durham, the Ayrshire blood is the most numerously represented among the farm cattle of Ontario. The cheese industry sprang into existence just as the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty gave a blow to the trade in cattle with the United States, and milk being thus the first consideration, meat was left for the time rather in the background, for, granting the excellent character of the Ayrshires as milkers, no one pretends to say that, except in a few rare and exceptional cases, they will make any show as beefers. The question that presents itself is, whether their quality in the former case is so remarkable as to counterbalance their shortcomings in respect of the latter requirement. And here it may be remarked that, whatever the original and inherent point of excellence in any breed, it is by the skill with which a particular quality has been cultivated and encouraged by careful selection and judicious breeding, that quality is developed to its full extent and capacity. So, on the other hand, even if no single extraordinary merit be inherent in the breed generally, the observation and shrewdness of the skilful breeder will often discover it in individual animals, and by selection bring out and establish a strain or family that will permanently retain the characteristic which has first attracted attention. It is clear there are milking families among the Durhams, and, had they ever been sought for, beefing families might have been found among the Ayrshires. It is none the less a fact, however, that the Ayrshires have been bred almost exclusively for milk, and where an Ayrshire bull has been used in this country it has been with an eye to the dairying, not to the feeding and beefing branch of the farmer's operations.

In his evidence taken by the Commissioners, respecting the Ayrshires, Mr. Jardine, of Saltfleet, one of the leading breeders of Ayrshire cattle, said: "We claim that the Ayrshires excel every other breed of cattle in the quantity of the milk they give, and that their milk contains more caseine for cheese-making." He goes on to say:—

"I have crossed them with the native and Shorthorn cattle. In crossing an Ayrshire bull and a thoroughbred Shorthorn cow, we get a fine, large-framed animal, and a good deep milker—what I would consider a good animal for all purposes. We consider that this cross is an improvement on the Ayrshire for the shambles, and an improvement on the Shorthorn for milking qualities. We have been crossing Ayrshires and Shorthorns in that way for the last five or six years, and our experience has been very profitable. Several breeders of Shorthorns in our neighbourhood cross their cows with our Ayrshire bull."

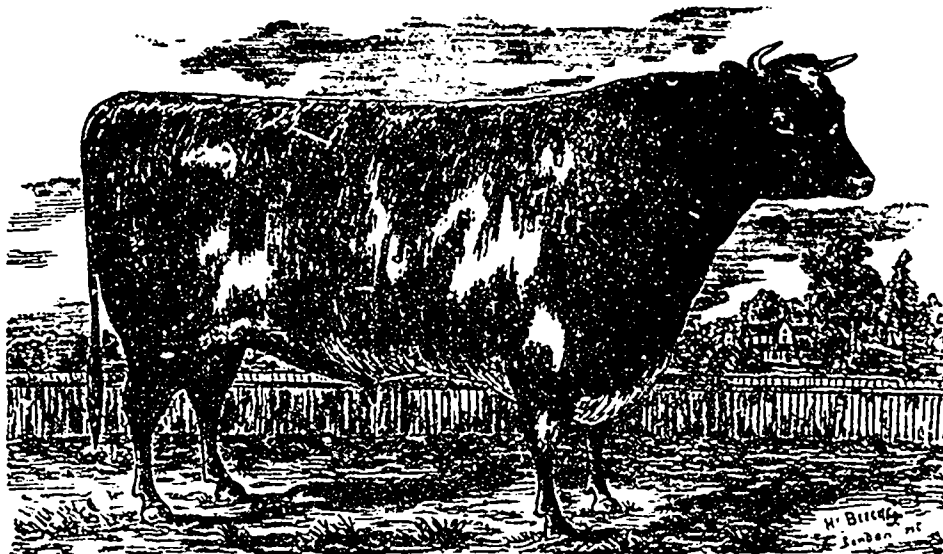
In regard to the yield of milk, Mr. Jardine says that he considers 24 gallons a day (ten quarts), the year round, a good average, that individual animals will give three or four gallons, and that one cow gave five gallons for eight or nine months. That was, however, a very exceptional instance. As to the richness of the milk, Mr. Jardine says: "The richness I have not tested much." It would have been satisfactory if a gentleman so largely interested in the breeding of

Ayrshires could have supplied some accurate information on this very important quality in a dairy cow. Grade steers, Ayrshire and Shorthorn crosses, will, he says, reach a weight of from 1,200 to 1,500 lbs. when three or four years old. He says further:—

"In point of hardiness I think the Ayrshire is equal to the Shorthorn. In point of feeding I think it will live where the Shorthorn will starve; that is my experience of both breeds. The Shorthorn is the more dainty feeder, but it has more capacity than the Ayrshires, and I don't know but that, under the same circumstances, it would improve faster. Considering milk and beef together, I would recommend ordinary farmers, for general purposes, to substitute Ayrshires for Shorthorns. I think our native cattle, improved by Shorthorns, would perhaps be better for milk and beef combined than they would be if improved by the Ayrshires, especially for beef. I am aware that some families of Shorthorns give good quantities of milk, and there are some families of Ayrshires that give less milk than others. We do not, as a rule, raise much stock from the poor milkers. We have never had any very poor milkers."—*Report of Ontario Agricultural Commission.*

THE WALKING HORSE.

The country would reap incalculable benefit if the walk of its ordinary horse could be accelerated



AYRSHIRE BULL.

a single mile per hour beyond what is now general. It would put millions of dollars extra into the national pockets every year. We might have horses which would walk five miles per hour, just as naturally and easily as three to three and a half, and rarely four, as is now the rule. All the farm, and much of the country road and town street horse-work is done at a walk. It costs no more to feed a smart walker than it does a slow, logy one, and frequently not so much. Now, let anyone calculate the profit and advantage of using the former in preference to the latter. Let the farmer see how much more land per day he can get ploughed and harrowed; how many more loads of hay, straw, grain and vegetables he can take to market: and how much more rapidly he is able to accomplish all his other work, and he will have little patience in keeping a slow-walking horse any longer. It will be the same with the expressman, the teamster, and the truckman.

Bellfounder, got by the celebrated imported trotting horse of this name, out of Lady Alport, was not only a fast trotter, but had a natural, easy walk of five miles per hour. He was kept by our family several years, and nearly all his stock, out of quite common mares, proved excellent walkers. This shows how easily and rapidly an increased fast walking stock may be bred by all farmers, if they will only take due pains to select the stallions to which they may hereafter

nick their mares. A fast walking horse commands a considerably higher price with those who care for the pace, than a slow walker, and such buyers are constantly on the increase now, and that day will come by-and-by when a slow walker will hardly get a bid. The fastest walk I have yet seen exactly timed and put on record was that of the English horse Sloven. He made, without extra effort, 5.69 miles per hour. All agricultural societies ought to give good premiums to fast-walking horses, the highest prize to be awarded to the one which walked five miles per hour, the second to four and one-half miles; the third to four miles. This last should be the least time for which to award a prize, and all breeds should be allowed to compete.—*A. B. Allen.*

BUYING UP THE HERDS OF SCOTLAND.

Under the title of "A Word of Warning to Polled Breeders," the *North British Agriculturist* has the following:—

"In the Royal English show-yard at Reading, one day last week, a south of England 'Shorthorn man' informed us that he had heard on pretty good authority that the Americans were seriously contemplating something like 'ring work' with the Polled cattle of Scotland. That is to say, they had the purchase of whole herds in

their eye, and failing that, the purchase of every animal that would be put on price. We have no means of testing the accuracy of the proposed 'ring' work, but when we consider that as yet the Polles are, from a national point of view, in comparatively few hands, the accomplishment of it might not be very difficult. Of one thing we are quite certain, and that is, that there is to be a heavy American drain this summer and autumn on Scotch Polled herds.

"The object of this short note, however, is to put Polled breeders on their guard. If they in any con-

siderable numbers, through the allurements of gold, allow themselves to be 'bought up,' or nearly so, we cannot help thinking they would be acting foolishly. It should not be their interest, or the interest of Scotland, to assent to a much greater curtailment of the native breeding Polled races of stock, however tempting at first the offers of wealthy and enterprising foreigners may be. While any attempt at the purchase of an entire herd should, by the owner thereof, be viewed with disfavour, it should be good enough policy to yield to high prices for all that can possibly be spared from a herd without impairing its reproductive resources. But 'ring' work on the part of purchasers should be looked upon with suspicion in this country. It would be a dark day for Scotland, or at least a considerable portion of it, if the flower of the Polled races were secured for exportation, as was the case a quarter of a century or so ago with the highly prized Bates Shorthorns."

STOCKMEN throughout the country will find the *RURAL CANADIAN* a good paper to take. Subscribe now.

To keep flies from horses, procure a bunch of smart-weed, and bruise it to cause the juice to exude. Rub the animal thoroughly with the bunch of bruised weed, especially on the legs, neck and ears. Neither flies nor other insects will trouble him for twenty-four hours.