

regulated by numbers from a given centre, that centre being also established by a given average obtained from the actual figures sent to the compiler. This is now my subject with cattle.

The Shorthorns—I wish people would go back to the fine old name, Durham—in Ontario are nine-tenths of all the pure-bred bulls, and six-sevenths of all the pure-bred cows; their great centre is a point near Elora, in the County of Wellington, from which the radiation is comparatively regular—very uniform indeed when compared with the isolation of other breeds of cattle. Starting from Hamilton as the nearest point on the southern boundary of the Shorthorns, the lake shore is followed eastwards to Whitby in the County of Ontario; from that the line takes a north-easterly direction through Ontario county and embracing the most of it, striking Victoria county at Woodville, running along the boundary line between these counties, partly into the Township of Mara, thence to Orillia and Tay into the village of Stayner. This is the only part of the Georgian Bay touched by our Shorthorn circle, as from Stayner it strikes westwards, bending slightly southwards through the counties of Grey and Bruce to Southampton; from Southampton the shore of Lake Huron is followed all the way to Lambton; thence between Middlesex and Lambton to the shore of Lake Erie; from this latter point an almost straight line is maintained eastwards through the counties of Elgin, Oxford, Brant and Wentworth to Hamilton.

This is the present warm ground of the Shorthorn—all outside this boundary is weak in the same thing; not that there are not several herds, and good ones, but numbers are so few as to be unable to draw the line aside from the stronger average of others. Take an example or two: The counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton are outside of this circle, because Kent is particularly a non-Shorthorn section, as it is, by-the-way, in any other class of cattle; but Lambton and Essex stand fairly well on the average, and would be entitled to representation were Middlesex not so strong. Middlesex is so strong that but a slight divergence of the boundary is allowed into Lambton, and Essex is, by its position, cut off by Kent. Then, again, take a southern example of weakness in Shorthorns, as represented by the counties of Welland, Simcoe, part Wentworth, Haldimand, part Brant, Norfolk, part Oxford and part Elgin. Neither Elgin, Lincoln, Norfolk, nor Welland are up to the average—are very weak, indeed—and thus pull down the standing of all that district of country, which, but for Brant, Wentworth and Oxford, would be still more conspicuous in its isolation. In this I must except Haldimand to some extent, for it, of itself, stands well.

In this manner much more could be said of Shorthorn centralization, but the map will guide the enquirer better than any elaborate description. Is it not a sad blot on our escutcheon that the greatest beefing cattle of the world are practically unrepresented east of the County Ontario? No fewer than fifteen of these counties cannot ask for even a passing notice, but a good deal could be said of Durham, Northumberland and Victoria, as taken together they would equal York county in this regard, though not sufficiently strong to draw the line east of Ontario.

The great central district of Shorthorns is Wellington, second is Brant, which may thank the Bow Park Herd, third is Middlesex, fourth Waterloo, fifth Ontario, sixth Perth, seventh York, eight Oxford, ninth Bothwell, tenth Simcoe, eleventh Huron, and Bruce 12th in order of merit by numbers.

Another point demanding notice in such a public report as this, is the relative influence, apparently, of certain herds upon the cattle of the neighbourhood. One or two marked examples only: How is it that no fewer than five counties immediately south of the finest herd of Shorthorns on the American Continent are practically non-patronizers of the breed? It must be want of interest in the special line, because, taking it for granted that Bow Park prices are on an average