

Hereford Cattle.

[A paper read by F. A. Fleming before the Dominion Hereford Association.]

Mr. Wm. Marshall, an eminent agriculturist and writer on rural affairs, in his Rural Economy of Gloucester, in 1788, more than 100 years ago, gives the following description of Herefords:—

"The Herefordshire breed of cattle, taking it all in all, may without risk, I believe, be deemed the first breed of cattle in this Island. In general appearance the Herefordshire cattle resemble very much those of Sussex, except in their superior size. The frame is altogether athletic, with limbs in most cases sufficiently clean for the purposes of travelling. The form of many of them as beasts of draught is nearly complete. Besides their superiority as beasts of draught and their being eligible as dairy stock, the females at least *fat kindly at an early age*, the strongest proof of their excellency as fattening cattle."

In another section of the book Mr. Marshall gives a description of the qualities of the Herefordshire ox intended for grazing in that country:—

"The general appearance is full of health and vigor. The countenance pleasant, cheerful, open, the forehead broad, the eyes full and lively, the horns bright, tapering and spreading, the head small, the chop clean, the neck long and tapering, the chest deep, the bosom broad and projecting forward, the chin full, the loin broad, the hips standing wide and level with the spine, the quarters long and wide (at the reach), the rump even with the general level of the back, not drooping or standing high and sharp above the quarters, the tail slender, the barrel round and roomy, the carcass throughout being deep and well spread, the thigh clean and regularly tapering, the legs upright and short, the bone below the knee and hoof small, the feet of middle size, the cod and twist round and full, the flank large, the flesh everywhere mellow, soft, and yielding pleasantly to the touch, especially on the chin, shoulders and the ribs, the hide mellow and middle thickness, the coat neatly haired, bright and silky, its color a middle red, with a bald face, the last being characteristic of the true Herefordshire breed." This, then, is the picture of a typical Hereford as the breed existed about 100 years ago.

Another authority, Mr. I. H. Campbell, Charlton, Kent, a contributor to the "Annals of Agriculture" in 1790, in a paper treating on breeds of cattle and sheep, and speaking of a certain ox of "the true Herefordshire breed" that had been exhibited, says: "That the opinion of many who viewed this animal alive was that they never saw so much beef under a hide of the size, and upon so small a proportion of bone." He also stated that he knew from experience and through trials of various breeds of none that would become *fat on less food*, few that would not require more food, and that most sorts would require much more than the true Hereford race.

The earliest definite record of Herefords that may be considered reliable in regard to prizes is found in the Smithfield Club reports. The Society was formed in 1799. At the first meeting Mr. Westear took the first prize with a Hereford ox. This ox was seven years old, eight feet eleven inches long, six feet seven inches high, ten feet four inches girth, and sold for 100 guineas.

At the same show Mr. John Ellman, another Hereford breeder, took the prize of the best ox fattened with grass and hay only in the shortest time from the yoke.

From the formation of the Society in 1799 to 1851 all breeds were shown in competition, with the following results as to oxen and steers:

Herefords.....	won 183 prizes
Shorthorns.....	82 "
Devons.....	41 "
Scotch.....	43 "
Sussex.....	9 "
Longhorns.....	4 "
Cross-breeds.....	8 "

The Herefords winning within five as many as all the other breeds. It has been the aim of Hereford breeders to breed with a view of pro-

ducing the best steer. The result as above shows they have been reasonably successful.

A pure-bred steer won the sweepstakes of \$500 for best carcass of any breed at the Chicago Fat Stock Show in 1892.

A GREAT DAY FOR HEREFORDS AND SOUTH-DOWNS.

The lottery of the show yard is nowhere more strikingly exemplified than in the dressed carcass competition at the fat stock show. The judging on foot at the exhibition just closed was reasonably satisfactory, but when it came to the carcasses last Friday the lightning-rod reputation of the dressed beef class was well sustained. Just where the judicial spark will strike in this department of the show is a thing the knowing ones have long since ceased trying to foretell. Now and then it is attracted to the most satisfactory body of beef, but on the whole no section of the show has been the scene of so much bad work. Mr. J. H. Bunn, of Peoria, officiated upon this occasion.

Beginning with the three-year-old carcasses, four in number, Mr. Wm. S. Van Natta's Hereford, Bendigo, was awarded the prize.

In two-year-olds the carcass of the champion grade of the show, Mr. Elmendorf's Charley, was chosen.

Yearlings, as usual, presented the most inviting appearance of the lot. Mr. Bunn was taken with the excellent carcass of Mr. Earl's Hereford, Sultan, and named it for the prize, although that of Makin Bros. Spot was in every way its equal. Indeed some thought the latter quite entitled to the ribbon. However, there was no such room for caustic criticism here as in the two-year-olds. There was not a bad carcass in the yearling class, but Mr. Earl's was probably the richest.

To Mr. Stautz, a Bloomington, Ill., butcher, was assigned the task of picking a grand sweepstakes carcass from the three winners, viz., Bendigo, Charley and Sultan, all Herefords. The three-year-old was too big and the yearling too little, we suppose, and so the lucky Elmendorf (two-year-old) crept in between.

The ribbon for carcass showing greatest percentage of edible meat fell to the very meaty entry of Tom Punting, the fourth victory of the day for the "white faces".

HEREFORDS ON THE RANCH.

The recent arrival at Liverpool of 500 head of ranch stock from the ranch owned by Hon. Senator Cochrane has excited considerable interest in British live stock circles, owing to the high finish and quality of the cattle. In 1881 this ranch was stocked by the purchase of a large draft of well-bred grade Shorthorn females, and on these were used choice Hereford bulls of high breeding, some of them being sired by the famous Hereford bull Lord Wilton. The Canadian Gazette, commenting on the draft, says: "The shipment just landed shows conclusively the enormous benefit which has been conferred on the territories by the introduction of such valuable bulls. The steers now arrive are of exceptionally fine quality. Indeed it is admitted by American and other importers that the quality has never been equalled by the cattle from any of the other ranches in the United States or Canada. This opinion is borne out by the fact of their being immediately snapped up at the highest market prices. The venture must have proved a profitable one; and we are informed that next year, and each succeeding year, the quality will improve further. A prominent dealer remarked to Mr. Cruett, of Messrs. Pritchard, Moor & Cruett, the cattle salesmen, that when these cattle left the range they must have been equal to the best Scots." This is a practical instance of the importance that is attached to quality in export cattle. If beeves of such a character made up the greatest portion of our export cattle the beef industry, with all its annexments, would prove more profitable as well as progressive. It is unwise, it is folly, to seek to foster and build up an industry of any nature with Great Britain without making quality the first object to be obtained. Their markets demand it, and they willingly pay for it. This incident also forcibly endorses the merits that friends have claimed for the "white faces" as rustlers on the range.

The Farm.

Experiments with Grasses at Ottawa.

BY JAMES FLETCHER, BOTANIST TO DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

There are, I judge, few subjects connected with agriculture at the present time which are of more importance to farmers, but particularly to dairymen, than a critical knowledge of the many varieties of grasses with which they feed their stock. The celebrity certain districts have gained for the excellence of their dairy products, is, to a large measure, due to the grasses which grow there. Grasses of some kind, suitable as food for cattle, and enabled by nature to withstand the climatic conditions where they grow, are to be found in every habitable portion of the globe. There are said to be over 6,000 different species of grasses known to botanists, and we have more than 300 distinct kinds growing wild in Canada. There is no doubt that the grasses form by far the most valuable part of the vegetable creation, and they vary in size from the low tufty fescues which grow on the summits of high mountains to the gigantic bamboo which raises its lofty stems over 100 feet in the air. Their importance, too, will be seen when it is remembered that all the grains, as Indian corn, wheat, barley, oats, millet and sugar cane, and many others are all true grasses. The kinds of which I wish to write now, however, are the various fodder grasses which have been found either suitable or unsuitable at Ottawa for cultivation as hay or pasture. The experiments from which these notes are drawn have now been carried on for four seasons, and the grasses tested include most of the highly esteemed English varieties, as well as many promising native species. Each kind is grown separately, and notes are taken of the time of sowing, flowering, cutting and aftermath, the weight of hay per acre, the chemical value as food for stock, and whether eaten with relish, also whether they are able to stand the colds of winter. About 150 different varieties have been grown, and from what has so far been seen, it is clear that many of the varieties, of which the seeds are included in the permanent pasture mixtures sold by seedsmen, are quite unsuited for profitable cultivation in this climate. It must not be forgotten, that in a country presenting such a large area and diversity of climate as Canada, many plants which do not succeed in Ottawa may thrive in other districts.

EUROPEAN GRASSES.

Timothy (*Phleum pratense*, L.).—No grass is better known or more highly prized by farmers than this. On the whole, it is, perhaps, the most profitable hay grass which can be grown. Its great advantages are: It makes a vigorous growth, produces many stems, is heavy, easily cured, and stands handling and pressing without waste. It is well known to every one, and therefore meets a ready sale. The seed is freely produced, easily saved and cleaned from weed-seeds, and is easily handled by the farmer, who can also always obtain it easily. There are, however, some defects which must not be overlooked. It starts late in the spring, and is not at its best when clover is ready to be cut. When cut too early the bulbs at the base of the stems