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GOSSIP

Shorthorns are the "Eclipse" of Irish stockbreeding. It is a case of the Shorthorn first and the other cattle breeds nowhere. In 1901 the Irish Department subsidised 24 bulls, and expended £4039 in cattle premiums. In 1907 the Department subsidised 60 bulls, and expended £12,250 in cattle premiums. Last year the subsidies for bulls went to 611 Shorthorns, 124 Aberdeen-Angus, 61 Herefords, 7 Lincoln Reds, 17 Galloways, 2 Keries, and one Red Polled. It is obvious that if other breeds gain a footing in Ireland, it is not with the consent of the general run of farmers. The Shorthorn is everywhere, and the other breeds are localised. Aberdeen-Angus find their home in the South-East and Queen's County, Herefords are restricted to the grazing lands of Meath and West Meath, Keries are at home, and Galloways find patrons in the humid areas of the West and North-West. Sometimes they suffer through injudicious patrons palming off their black calves as the produce of Aberdeen-Angus bulls. This policy, in the end, does not pay the Galloway breeders.

COAL FIELDS OF THE WEST.

At the last meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute, J. B. Tyrrell, the well known geologist and explorer of Toronto, read a paper dealing with the mineral resources of northern Canada in which the following allusion is made to coal in Manitoba and other western provinces:

"An interesting possibility of the existence of beds of bituminous coal of Carboniferous age in Manitoba and the provinces to the north and west was suggested by the writer some years ago. In Iowa, about 400 miles south of Manitoba the geological formations extend upwards in orderly and conformable series overlapping each other from east to west, from the Cambro-Silurian up through the Silurian and Devonian to the Carboniferous. The latter terrain contains extensive beds of coal from which millions of tons are mined every year. North of the state of Iowa in Minnesota these Palaeozoic formations are very largely covered and hidden by sandstones and shales of Cretaceous age which overlie them unconformably. In Manitoba the lower portion of the Palaeozoic series is again exposed, and the rocks can be followed upwards from the Cambro-Silurian through the Silurian to the Devonian, but at this point they are again covered unconformably by Cretaceous sandstones and shales. In north-western Manitoba the Upper Devonian limestones can be seen close to the edge of the underlying Cretaceous beds.

"Whether the Carboniferous formation, which should follow the Devonian in ascending order, is present under those Cretaceous beds, or not, is not known. It is possible, though hardly probable, that it may have never been deposited in that region, or if it was deposited it may have been removed, partly or entirely, by erosion in the long period between the close of the Carboniferous age and the beginning of the Cretaceous. But on the contrary, it is not improbable that the Cretaceous formation may be present overlying the Devonian in regular sequence, beneath the covering of Cretaceous shales. If such should be found to be the case, and that the formation here, as in so many other places, should be found to be rich beds of coal, the question of fuel for a large portion of central Canada would be solved for many years to come. The possibility of the existence of such an adequate supply of fuel, when it is so much needed, should be thoroughly investigated in the very near future. Lignites of Cretaceous age are known to outcrop in many places from the great plains northward down the valley of the Mackenzie river."

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