

rather opportunists who have aimed to take advantage of a special market of a present time. Perhaps they have shown wisdom in their day and generation. There have been, however, some interesting results of their work, where judicious breeding has been practiced. When a smooth, shapely English cow was mated to a high-class beef-bred bull, a really good first-class calf might be expected. I saw two bulls in Cumberland, the result of such crossing, that would grace any herd. Of course, the progeny would be of no use for the dairy, but the English mother invariably gave a stimulus to milk secretion, which should be considered a decided advantage in even a beef-bred animal. And, further, the English blood had a tendency to fine down somewhat the occasional grossness of too highly-bred beef cattle, and worked itself out in the progeny in perhaps a greater shapeliness and elegance of form that was very attractive to the eye. This is a fact that Scotch breeders have already taken advantage of in their own breeding practice, and should furnish food for thought for all engaged in the business.

I saw some results of this mating, however, that showed anything but good judgment. The fault had been in the selection of the English dam. Many of the English cows are of large size, kindly enough about the head, neck and shoulders, but rough at the hooks, patchy about the rump, and somewhat ungainly in the body throughout. To me they appeared the result of English line and family breeding run to seed. When these were mated to Scotch bulls, the faults of both were exaggerated in the calf, and I spare to describe some of the offspring I saw. It seems a dangerous business to regard pedigree as the only object of merit and to forget that individuality counts. And, if a Canadian may judge, it would seem that even English breeders make mistakes. It occurred to me also, if I may make a further comment upon this particular policy of breeding, that it was a pity to have impaired the milking qualities of what had been excellent dairy herds by the introduction of so much beef blood. There is a growing demand for milking cattle in England, and it is commencing from abroad as well. It would seem that there is a big future for the dairy Shorthorn. However, the breeders have their present reward in tangible Argentine gold, and perhaps that is what concerns them most. Still the latest regulation of the Argentine Government has shaken the confidence of many. We have yet to see what the end will be.

The third class of breeders mentioned did not awaken an admiration for the work they were attempting, from the fact that in the matter of purchase and sale, utility did not seem to be a measure of value. Pure-bred Bates cattle have a money value in England among some men that, in my judgment, far and above exceeds their actual worth as breeding animals. That fact in itself puts them beyond the consideration of men who are required to regard the possession of cattle as a business proposition. The ordinary man cannot afford to pay for pedigree unless it represents utility, and, generally speaking, most men do not care to do so. I do not think that the majority of the cattle of which I speak represent to-day, in themselves, any particular asset to the English breeder. No one can estimate the good these same strains have accomplished in the past, but past achievement does not represent present virtue. Even yet, individual cattle are among the best, but equal merit can frequently be obtained elsewhere at less cost. Except where breeders have used their own initiative in selection and mating, in which case they should be included in class four, the types most in evidence reminded me of pictures of cattle that were in vogue a century ago, and no essential improvement seemed to have been made since then. They recalled again, vividly, the thrilling accounts of the struggle for eminence in the contests between Bates and Booth, and awakened a memory of all the Shorthorn lore gathered together so carefully in Mr. Sanders' fascinating book. But the interest they arouse is of the past. The problems of to-day are of greater moment and concern in the business of the breeder and stockman.

Those included in class four are, I think, working most truly for both the present and future improvement of Eng-

lish cattle, reasoning, as we do, from the importance of the dairy industry in the financial interests of the English farmer. The fact remains that while the Shorthorn is the dairy cow of England, much has yet to be done, looking toward her improvement, both as regards her form and her ability to yield profitable returns. Greater smoothness and shapeliness of body is being sought for, greater levelness and capacity of udder, more regular and uniform placing of the teats, and, perhaps most of all, a higher standard of milk production. As in our own country there are the good and bad, herds that pay, and those that do not, and one must pick and choose, if he would find the kind he seeks.

THE THOUSAND-GALLON COW

seems to be the ambition of those who are working toward a standard. There are a few cows which have records of eleven, twelve and even thirteen hundred gallons for a single year, but they are rare. The great majority have yet far to go to reach the thousand-gallon standard. The calves from the best cows, particularly the bull calves, are eagerly sought after, because of the value they represent in the breeding herd. Among the men who have achieved the highest reputation in England through the cattle that they own and breed are: Mr. Richardson Carr, Lord Rothschild's agent at Tring Park Farm, Hertfordshire; Mr. Geo. Taylor, of Cranford, Middlesex; F. N. Webb, Mr. Adeane's agent at Babraham, Cambridge; Messrs. Robt. Hobbs, and Wm. Arkell, of Gloucestershire; Lord Henry Bentinck, of Westmoreland, and Messrs. A. Ritson and J. Hope, of Cumberland. There are some among these whose names and cattle will be recorded in Shorthorn history in years to come.

Of the management of these cattle, I need scarcely speak. It differs not essentially from the management of other dairy breeds elsewhere. The feeding of the heifer and bull calves may be likened to the best practice that prevails, as with Ayrshires in our own country. The heifers are bred at about the same age. The rich, deep pastures (the best have lain for twenty, thirty or more years continuously in grass) furnish abundant food in the summer-time. In the winter, the cattle are housed according to season and locality, and are fed hay, grain, cake and roots. The English feeder is very fond of cake, but I could find practically no evidence that silage was grown or fed. Differences of environment, country and climate necessitate some peculiarity of system and management, but cattle-feeding in England is an art which foreigners must have some timidity to criticise, but from which there is much to learn.

Of the English farmer himself, of his genial hospitality and substantial life, I wish that I might write a word, but that I must keep for some future time. I must not pass, however, without this mention of their goodwill and courtesy, which added much to the enjoyment of a brief sojourn among them.

GOSSIP.

Geo. Keith would like you to have his 1908 seed catalogue. His specialty is farm seeds. Drop a card to 124 King St., E., Toronto.

Scott Bros., Highgate, Ont., write: "We have recently sold the following Shorthorns: To Mr. J. H. Lampman, Palmyra, Ont., the beautiful red heifer calf, Cloris B., sire Lord Lieutenant (imp.), dam Cloris (imp.); to Mr. Jno. Skinner, Rutherford, Ont., the grand roan yearling bull, Lieutenant's Choice, sired by Lord Lieutenant (imp.), dam Jean Campbell, a grand good cow."

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