

Middle, and Western States, and have generally given the highest satisfaction to the purchasers. As evidence of their growing popularity, it may be stated that from 1873 to 1876 nearly all of the bull calves of the herd went to the butcher for veal, there being no demand from the farmers of the country for a breed of which but few of them had any knowledge. But through some notice by the agricultural press, and exhibiting at agricultural fairs during those years, quite a number of the calves were, later, introduced into various sections of the East and West, where the stock has proved so entirely satisfactory and desirable that there is now an active demand for it from all stock-growing sections of the country, at good prices. Prices in England have doubled since the importation of 1873, and English breeders, prizing the stock more highly than ever before, are not disposed to name a price for their best animals.

Mr. Taber having been the first to introduce these cattle to the American farmer and breeder, is naturally much pleased by their rapid advancement to popularity more especially from the fact that having had so long an experience with them he knows that they fully merit their success as a breed eminently adapted to the use and treatment of the average American farmer, and that they are destined to become more popular with time and more extended trial.

In size they are classed as medium, but individually they differ much in this respect. Some of the heaviest milking cows of the breed are but little larger than the average Jersey, while others equal the weight of large Short-horns; hence it is within the power of the breeder, by selection and care in breeding, to form a herd of the size he may prefer. This fact is noticeable in some of the English herds. With few exceptions the cows have good udders, with good-sized teats, the latter point being particularly noticeable in comparison with some of the popular milking breeds. The milk is unusually rich in cream, and well-made butter from Red Polled cows will please the most fastidious customers. When not giving milk the cows, as also the steers, will make flesh very rapidly and can soon be converted into a prime beef animal.

Mr. A. B. Allan, the veteran agricultural writer, says of these cattle. "This beautiful race of animals has been long bred in England, of the same color and general characteristics as at present, and has consequently become one of the most fixed and distinct breeds of that country. They are now rapidly spreading into the neighboring counties, and are beginning to be exported into foreign countries, where they are much liked. They are of medium size, and a handsome red color, varying in shade, like the Devon. Their merits may be thus briefly stated: First, hardy and thrifty; second, quick feeders, or, in other words, they mature early and fatten kindly; third, beef of the best quality; fourth, very docile in disposition and consequently easily herded and handled; fifth, the most highly improved are good milkers, equalling in this respect the best

Ayrshires; sixth, deer-like head and limbs, with smooth, well-rounded form; seventh, fine style, and a dash rivalling that of the Devons."

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THE RECORD SYSTEM.

Old country horsemen and breeders have been in the habit of ridiculing the system that prevails in this country, and on this side of the Atlantic generally, of preserving records of performances. Horsemen have told us again and again that the trial horse and not the watch is the true test of the race horse, while our butter tests have been made light of. As long as Great Britain retained such an acknowledged superiority in race horses and live stock as to render competition from this side of the Atlantic a thing not to be thought of, we were not in a position to speak authoritatively on this subject. For all that, however, we held to our tests and records and have been breeding accordingly, and the result has been the production of such race horses as Parole, Ten Broeck, Foxhall, Iroquois, Luke Blackburn, Hindoo, Miss Woodford, George Kenney, and a host of almost equally good ones; while among our butter cows Mary Anne of St. Lambert, Ida of St. Lambert, and other first-class animals bred on this side of the Atlantic, give evidence as to what we can breed, while the unparalleled record of Princess 2nd tells what an Island-bred calf will mature into on American soil and with the American system of treatment. Without the record system the trotting horse of America would have been comparatively unknown, though now he constitutes one of the leading features in the live stock trade here. The *London Live Stock Journal* in its "scraps for breeders" pays the following tribute to the American record system, which, coming as it does from so prominent an English journal, will be duly appreciated by breeders on this side of the Atlantic :-

"The American practice of recording exactly time-races and registering milk returns are throwing light on several obscure points in

breeding. Those interested in trotting horses have already regular tables from which they may see at a glance which sire has most produce under a 2.30 record, and at what age animals of a high rate of speed are most likely to be produced by mares; and Jersey breeders for butter in America are not less well-informed. And obscure as these questions appear, they are lucidity itself compared with another problem which now stands revealed—i. e., that inherited powers, and the capacity for transmitting them, may, and often do, lie quite latent for a generation. Certain sires, which never obtained a high rate of speed themselves, beget many which do; and other flyers have hardly a colt or filly worth training. Rysdyck's Hambletonian is an instance of the former; and many English Derby-winners are cases of the latter. It is generally found that these are cases of atavism. Mr. Hammond, a Vermont breeder of fine wool sheep, pointed out to an interviewer a special tup, which, to the eye, was the worst-looking in the flock; yet it had proved year after year to have begotten the bearers of the finest fleeces. Merino breeders examine the staple of their wools with the strongest glasses; and will tell you to the ten-thousandth part of an inch the diameter of each separate fibre. Oh, that our agricultural societies would learn the truth. 'Accurate statistics, not astonishing objects to the eye, are the real guides to improved practice,' and that they would at least help to utilize the gatherings in the summer show yards by providing trustworthy observations made by competent and unprejudiced people."

THE DRAUGHT-HORSE CROSS.

The propriety of crossing the draught horse and thoroughbred blood for the production of a hack, hunter, or coach horse is just now being thrust forward as though it were an entirely new suggestion. There are dozens of people who have tried it in Canada and probably hundreds in the United States. Occasionally a thoroughbred horse has got a good useful animal when crossed upon a heavy draught mare, but the almost universal testimony of those who have tried it is that the cross is altogether too "wide," that the parents of such colts represent two classes that are too violently opposed to each other in all their leading characteristics. If we could be certain of combining the size and substance of the Clydesdale with the courage, style, and quality of the thoroughbred, then, of course, we should be accomplishing wonders, but unfortunately as the results of such violent and unnatural crosses we are more apt to combine the size and substance of the thoroughbred with the courage, quality, and style of the draught horse.

The Hon. C. I. DOUGLAS in discussing this question even advocates the crossing of the thoroughbred stallion upon the Clydesdale or Shire mare. Now, whatever might be the prospects of a cross of the thoroughbred stallion upon the Suffolk Punch, Norman, or any other clean-limbed strain of draught horse, surely he must be an enthusiast who would strive to introduce a race of hairy-legged saddle or carriage horses. The long hair of the half-bred Clydesdale's legs renders him nearly useless for street-car pur-