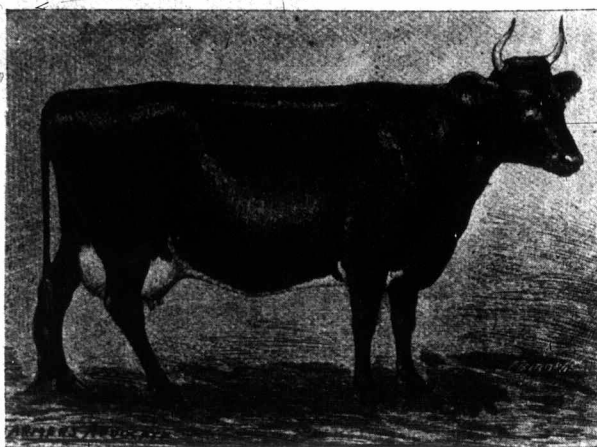


Society, created, perhaps, as much interest as all the sheep exhibitions put together. Their "wildness" used to be urged against them, it being humorously said about them that when you appeared over one hill, they disappeared over the next. They are now, however, as tame and as



A TYPICAL KERRY COW.

gentle to handle as any of the other breeds. The writer believes that for our northern conditions, say for Muskoka and New Ontario, they could be made simply an ideal sheep of great value to the settlers.

The Cheviot Sheep takes its name from the Cheviot Mountains, situated partly in Scotland and partly in Northumberland, and they occupy almost all the hill pastures in the south of Scotland, and in the north large flocks are kept in Sutherland, Ross and Caithness.

The Cheviot is without horns, although occasionally a "snig" appears in the lamb; head and legs white, with an occasional dun marking; eyes bright; ears fine and lively; body long; legs clean and fine; mutton of excellent quality; full-grown sheep average about 20 lbs. per quarter; wool about 6 lbs. Professor Wilson describes the Cheviot wool as "a small-haired wool of medium length, suitable for worsted and woolen purposes." It is a soft, rich wool, and is liked by the manufacturers. As a commercial beast it ranks with the Roscommon breed, being midway between the Backfaced and the heavier-fleshed English breeds of sheep.

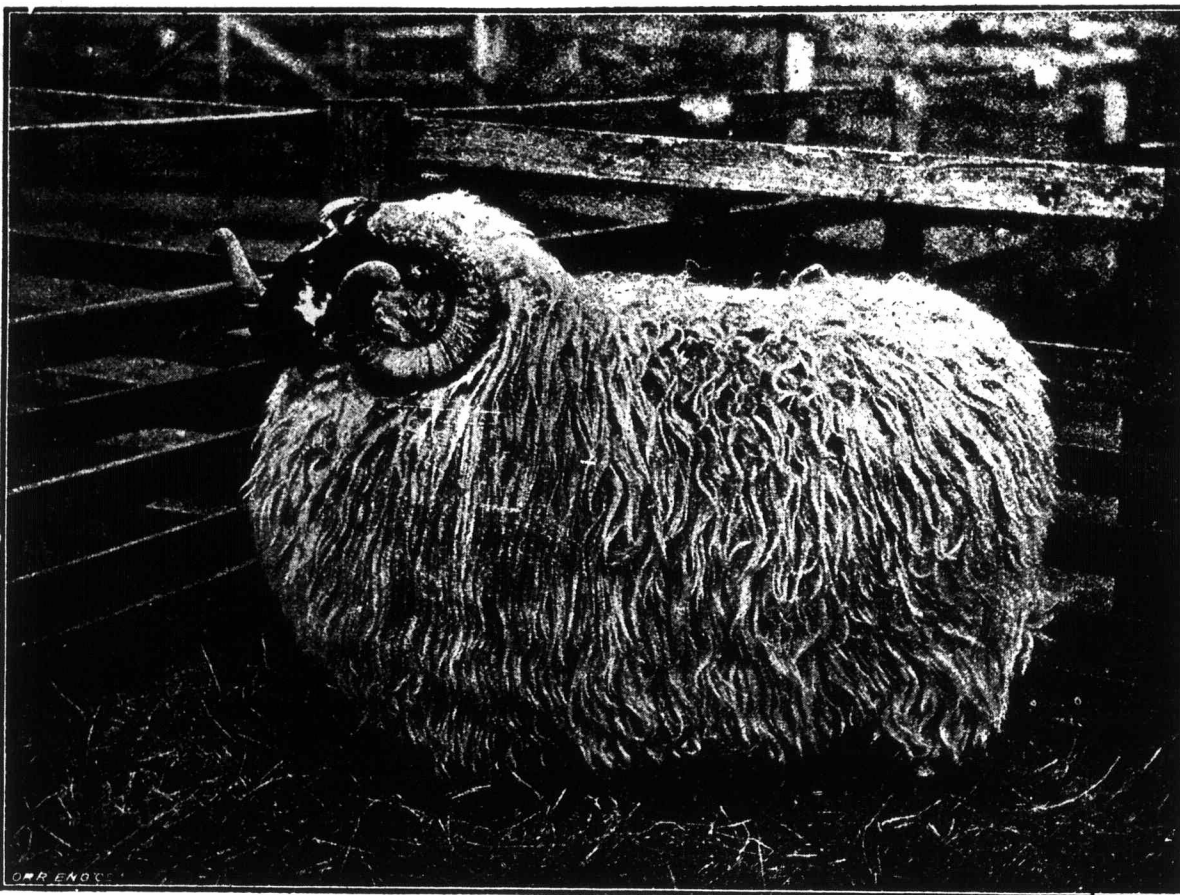
We come now to the third variety mentioned above, the great Roscommon sheep of the west of Ireland. It has been claimed for them that they are the heaviest and the largest sheep in existence to-day. Be this as it may, the writer can testify that on and under natural conditions, viz., grass in summer, with the addition of a little meadow hay in winter, no breed can equal the Roscommon in growth of carcass and wool. On the above fare lambs can be made to weigh 200 lbs. when fat, and their wool is long in staple and fine in quality. At the great fair of Balinsloe they can be seen in all their glory. It is said that they owe their present fine form to crosses on the Leicester, but it is beyond dispute that many choice flocks have been bred for over fifty years with no foreign admixture, and these are to-day the leading types of the breed in the west of Ireland. The ewes of this breed make excellent mothers, and very prolific, and can be very easily flushed for the ram. They can be fattened on turnips and hay, quite up to the top notch, and they put on less tallow than any other breed, with the single exception of the Blackfaces.

Kerry and Dexter-Kerry Cattle.—Coming now, with your kind permission, to the cattle classes, we have in the Old Lands two breeds of dairy cows which could not fail to be of great value to this favored country. They are the Brittany cattle of old France and the true Kerry of the Emerald Isle.

It was the writer's good fortune to have in Ireland the experience of both breeds. The late Lord Avonmore having at one time lived in Brittany, he was struck with the great value of the little cow on the broom-covered hills of old Bretagne, and on returning to his fine estate of Belleisle, on the banks of the beautiful Shannon, he brought with him a number of the choicest cows to be found

in the country. They had been for some years in Ireland before the writer saw them, and the magnificent pastures and high feeding given them on His Lordship's home farm had almost entirely changed their original appearance. They had been crossed by the Shorthorn, Hereford and Angus bulls of the district, and through His Lordship's kindness the writer had every opportunity of examining the produce, besides being presented with some of the calves as they came. The crosses showed in a very distinct manner the value points of the breed, especially as regards their milking qualities.

The original cows were all of one type, white and black, with an occasional brown or dark red marking. They were low-set, broad and deep, having the pelvic arch high, well-formed udders, and rich yellow skins. Horns upright and turned back, eyes very prominent and gentle, with square muzzle and broad between the eyes. The quality of their milk was especially rich in butter-fat, and beautifully colored. As above stated, the cows had been crossed by neighboring bulls, but at the time spoken of His Lordship's gardener had imported a cow for his own use, and the produce, as luck would have it, turned out to be a bull calf. It is needless to say how his growth was watched by those of us who took an interest in the little fellow. He was an exact reproduction of a well-bred true Kerry bull, showing clearly that the black cattle of Wales, the Brittany cattle and the Kerries had all the same origin. This type, then, is what may be considered the most valuable characteristic of the Kerry and Brittany cattle, and a cross of, say, the Shorthorn or Hereford on either breed produced exactly the same result, an exact counterpart of the present-day Dexter-Kerry.



HIGHLAND BLACKFACED RAM.

This would seem to indicate that the original Dexter-Kerry was the result of a cross, although there is no authentic history of this being the case.

This much, however, may be said, that taking the outward conformation of the present-day Dexter-Kerry as a guide, we may safely hold that to the Shorthorn belongs the credit for the change in type from the true Kerry, because when the color of a Dexter-Kerry happens to be red, the animal, if a good one, is simply a miniature Shorthorn.

Senator Drummond has the credit of having brought into the country perhaps the choicest herd of Dexter-Kerries in existence to-day. We believe also that the Brittany cattle have been to some extent introduced into Lower Canada, but so far as we know the true Kerry has yet to be imported. This beautiful animal does not in the least resemble any of our improved breeds—perhaps an old-fashioned Guernsey has most points in common.

The following are the true Kerry points: Head very fine; face long; muzzle thin and tapering, giving the head a great look of breeding and refinement; eyes lively, projecting, full of fire and animation; horns white, tipped with black, and turning back with a gentle sweep; neck slight, clean, and perfectly free from loose skin; rump narrow; legs rather long and deerlike, with very fine bone; color velvety black, also an orange shade of red. General appearance very beautiful, having the erect carriage and elastic step of a deer; tail fine; udder well formed; skin soft, unctuous and of a fine orange color, which is visible about the eyes, ears and muzzle; quality of milk excellent, from eight to ten quarts a day and up to a thousand pounds a year

has been obtained from a fine specimen of this valuable breed. The beef is tender, well marbled, and commands the highest price in the market. This fact gives the Kerry such a high standing among the dairy breeds, that along with their value at the pail, they produce besides the choicest quality of prime beef. They are also the only breed in existence that resemble the prehistoric cattle or *Bos Longifrons*. Their length of face is clearly a point in favor of their long pedigree. The bulls of the breed are unique of their kind, cat-hampered, with thick neck and high shoulders, but the females produced by this stamp of bull have many points of great beauty, long fine heads, thin muzzles, with no loose skin under the neck or jaw. In conclusion, we can with confidence claim for the little "mountain blackberry," that, weighing only some six or seven hundredweight, she can give from 500 to 1,000 gallons of very rich milk a year, and when fattened can be made to yield a choice round and roast of beef.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

J. G. DAVIDSON.

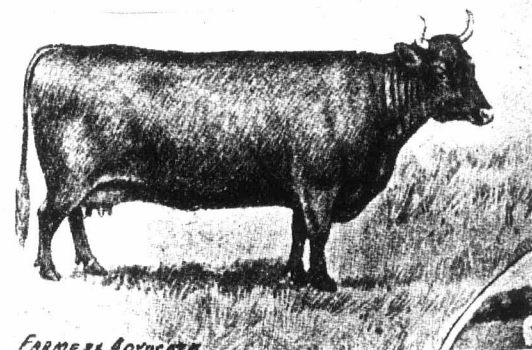
Roaming Dogs and Mangled Sheep.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have read in the *ADVOCATE* the communications on the above subject, but fail to see in them any remedy for the evil. My observation is that we must remove the desire to roam before we may hope to effect a cure. How is this to be done? is the natural question. The only permanent cure I know is to castrate the dogs, the same as other domestic animals, and thus remove the desire to roam. But will this keep dogs at home? I will answer the question by asking one. If all our young male stock—colts, calves, lambs, and pigs—

were left entire for a few years and allowed access to the highways the same as dogs are, would we not soon have a worse plague than we have with dogs? If castrating keeps these other animals in subjection, why will it not keep dogs. Nature has placed this sexual passion in every living creature. To those writers who recommend feeding dogs better to keep them at home, I would ask why do some rich men in our cities go roaming into houses of questionable repute? Is it because they are half fed at home, or because they are too well fed? I fancy I hear some of your readers ask, If this is the cause, why, then, do not all dogs roam? I believe for the reason that this passion is stronger in some animals than in others. It may be asked, Will a dog be as good for hunting and watching after castration as before? I claim that they are as good grit and a great deal more useful in every way, for they are at home when wanted. I could give the

experience of several in our section who have castrated their dogs during the last year or two who now would not keep an entire dog on any terms. There is no danger in castrating a dog at any time of the year. I have known it to be done in the heat of summer and in midwinter, with no



DEXTER-KERRY COW.

IMPORTED AND OWNED BY SENATOR G. A. DRUMMOND, HUNTERWOOD FARM, POINTE CLAIRE, QUE.

injury to the dog. Now, if our Governments would pass a law compelling owners to castrate all dogs, except those needed for breeding purposes, sheep breeders would derive more benefit in one year than from all the tags and taxes collected in a lifetime.