

The balance of the winners will be found in the Gossip column.

Taken altogether the show was a success, the association is thriving, it reports a membership of over 300 and has a satisfactory balance.

Dairy Shorthorns Popular.

A movement which is calculated to do more for the ordinary average farmer than for the recognized breeders of Shorthorns is on foot in England. It is to develop and perpetuate the milking strains of Shorthorns. The situation is aptly discussed by a writer in *Farmer and Stockbreeder*, as below:

Ever since the period when Thomas Booth the elder, according to Carr, pointed to the well-covered pin-bones of one of his breeding cows and asked a bystander if "that was not worth more than a few pints of milk," the dairy properties of Shorthorns have been neglected in search after what has been deemed the more valuable characteristics of flesh affluence, rare style, and grand conformation. The theory that deep milking can be combined with the superfections has not received general belief, although the Rev. Henry Berry gave every assurance of the possibility. The bulls of Richard Booth created a peaceful revolution in Ireland, and Irish cattle breeders in consequence have ever since been able to supply Scotch and English graziers with the greater part of their raw material. The supposition must by no means be entertained, however, that in the old days when Shorthorn breeders were divided into two hostile camps the Booth men alone neglected dairy property. Thomas Bates himself, with his contemporary Whitaker, appreciated and cultivated dairy properties, but their successors neglected it just as much as other breeders for fashion and the showyard. Nature would not be mocked with impunity, however. The families which relied on nurse cows for the rearing of their young soon dwindled to virtual extinction. Wisely has it been ordained that lacteal secretion and breeding prolificacy shall develop together.

There are

GREATER INDUCEMENTS NOW

to breed for form, perfection, and flesh affluence solely than there were from the fifties to the eighties of the last century, when this folly became so noteworthy. The remarkably high prices paid for young bulls of grand conformation for export to Argentina affords the strongest temptation to sacrifice anything and everything to get the showyard character which ensures the three figures. Scotch Shorthorns are now all the rage, because their young bulls exhibit such marvellous early maturity, with heavy, rich flesh and grand showyard character. Their constitutional robustness also naturally carries great weight in the eyes of foreigners, the agents of whom never inquire whether they come of deep-milking stocks or not. Under these circumstances apprehensions are entertained that the same error will be repeated which undoubtedly led to the Bates and Booth tribes declining in popularity. Mr. Richard Stratton and his followers who have always advocated breeding the true general purpose Shorthorn, deem the danger sufficiently great to form a society, the special function of which will be to promote dairy property in Shorthorn herds. This is by no means a rival institution to the original Coates Shorthorn Society, but a kind of imperium in imperio within its limits to promote the breeding of pedigree dairy Shorthorns, the modus operandi being chiefly that of offering prizes at shows for them.

If there are extraordinary influences prevailing calculated to favor the more general breeding of Cruickshank Shorthorns, the section devoted to the sustenance of dairy property is not wholly devoid of them. There has been in recent years quite a strong demand from ordinary non-pedigree dairy herds for pedigree bulls, and an indispensable qualification for them in such cases is that of being from deep-milking dams. Very probably also the buyer would have to be satisfied that the sire of the bull about to be bought belonged to a family reputed for milking property. Hence the owners of herds possessed of dairy character are not disqualified for bull-breeding, although, it is true, the prices ordinary dairy farmers can afford to give are not high.

Owing to the latter demand several tenant-farmer breeders have taken advantage of the condition in Coates Shorthorn Herd Book permitting the registry of any animal which owns four successive crosses of pure blood to raise fresh families of deeper milking character than any of the older long lineage ones. The father of Mr. Richard Stratton commenced doing this a great many years ago. Mr. G. F. King bred ordinary dairy cows, and more recently Mr. R. W. Hobbs, of Kelmscott, has registered several short-pedigree families thus bred. With such new blood influences actively working there can be no danger of milk being entirely pedigreed away from Shorthorn herds, or even to an extent affecting the vital interests of the breed universally. The danger is alone confined to herds and strains bred solely for the export market, and conspicuous for females elephantine and attractive in appearance, with small udders and defective milk veins. Some of the most fashionable Cruickshank families are as yet by no means devoid of some milking property at least; and very much is it to be hoped that it will not be pedigreed away to anything like the degree of sacrifice permitted in the latter part of the last century. Some of Mr. Richard Stratton's utterances, however, warrant the assumption that this invaluable attribute of the bovine

nature is not appreciated so much as it ought to be by breeders who seek only to distinguish themselves in showyards or to breed animals attractive to export agents. In fact, if no serious danger existed of the breed sustaining vital injury by the trend of things, where would be the necessity to incur the mangitudinous labor and cost of creating an entirely new national society to stem the torrent of degeneration?

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL DAIRYING.

There is another view to take of existing developments and future prospects, however. The foreign and colonial demand as yet has been almost entirely for bulls of grand outlines, constitutional vigor, and heavy flesh, and when females have been sought for they have been selected from the herds which have showyards. The great need of the Argentine as yet has been to regenerate its own teeming native herds, that beef may be returned in big ocean cargoes to the country from which the pure-blooded bulls have been taken. But ere long the Argentine estanciero will apply his energies to the sending of big consignments of dairy goods no less than meat to British markets, and then his agents in this country will be likely, if not to inquire for bulls bred in pedigree dairy Shorthorn herds, to be a little more particular than they are now as to the young bulls they buy being from cows that yielded enough milk to nurse them.

According to Mr. Herbert Gibson, the vice-president of the Argentine Rural Society, when, about five years since, the British ports had to be closed against live stock from the Argentine, it was a blessing in disguise to that Republic, leading not only to the development of its now gigantic dead meat-trade, but to the establishment of dairy herds and butter factories in the Buenos Ayres division of the country. "The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, and its effect on the live stock trade," he states, "was incentive to the estanciero to study the profitability of the dairy business. Central butter factories, receiving cream either by direct purchase or on the co-operative system, were established in many districts. In 1898 the production of butter barely exceeded the local consumption. In 1902 over 4,000 tons were exported, almost entirely to the United Kingdom. In 1903 Argentine butter obtained a price second only to that of Denmark and Sweden." By the Board of Trade returns it appears that the imports of butter from Argentina increased from 22,787 cwt. in 1901 to 82,568 cwt. in 1904.

Extremely difficult is it to form any adequate conception of the vast resources of Argentina and the capabilities of its vast fertile provinces to feed Europe as cultivation of wastes and improvement of flocks and herds gain progressive development. The demand for the very best bulls and rams Great Britain can supply is more likely to increase than diminish for generations to come. But most likely it will prove more cosmopolitan in future, than ever it has been yet. In other words, pedigree dairy Shorthorns may be included.

A Tip to Cattle Ranchers.

In swimming cattle, one of the first things to guard against is having the sun shine in their eyes, as they will not swim against the glare; in other words, they will not swim where they cannot see. It is also of the first importance to keep them away from the water they are to cross until they are very thirsty, otherwise it is impossible to force them beyond the edge of the bank. When really thirsty, they rush in deep, and the others following behind, force them out of their depth. Another important thing is to find for the crossing a place where the bank shelves gradually on either side of the river, that the herd may enter and clamber out easily. Cattle, when they find themselves swimming, always try to turn back, and to guard against this men in boats are ready, armed with tin pans, with which they make a deafening din and frighten the cattle into heading or the opposite bank.—*Live Stock World*.

The Problem of Pork Production.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The agitation for the establishment of pork packing plants in the West and especially in Alberta seems to be gaining strength as the days go by. It is well that it should be so. It shows that the farmers are alive to a forward move in the methods of distribution of the products of the farm. The principle of co-operation is imminently sound, but is it well to remember that in such work as pork packing economy and efficiency of management are the prime essentials of success, and if packing houses are established in many towns there will be the hampering restrictions of small product and therefore greater expense in handling. To be successful co-operation should be on a fairly generous scale.

There is also this feature to be kept in mind: It is quite probable that in its inception such a plant would have difficulties to overcome. The farmers have not always shown a willingness to stand closely together on this or on any other question. A few years ago several packing houses, owned and operated by the farmers, were started in the Province of Ontario. Where are they to-day? All in the hands of packers. And why may I ask? Simply because the farmers

were united in name only, because they started with insufficient capital and failed to stand by their own factory when such action meant the loss of a few dollars. I do not wish to be understood as opposing this effort but I only want to point out the troubles that have always existed in such organizations. Unless the farmers are in earnest they had better hang their harps on the willows, and cease to offer objections to the existing evils, great as such evils may be.

There is no doubt that prices are low when the farmer has anything to sell, and high when he is out of the market; but how can you expect otherwise? The German maxim, "Run when everybody else stands, and stand when everybody else runs" is particularly applicable to hog raising. It is such a simple matter to become a large hog producer that the tendency is to rush into the business whenever the price barometer shows indications of a rise. The natural result follows; over production and prices tumbling to the bottom. If the packers could rely on a steady production, if they could be certain of a reasonable supply the year round, they would be in a better position to pay the prices they should pay to make the business profitable alike to farmer and to packer. The farmer can rely on the fact that the packer is not in the business for the glory or the squeal. It is a cold-blooded, dyed-in-the-wool, bred-in-the-bone, dollar-for-dollar deal for him and he is going to make all he can out of it. At the same time he naturally desires to pay a fair price and thus tend to increase production and improve his own business. Such a desire is seriously interfered with when the farmers of the country are either overloaded with hogs or else hog free the greater part of the time.

There is also a possibility, nay more, it is already in evidence, that the farmer has talked markets and co-operation but has failed to look after the quality of his product, and in endeavoring to get the highest price has ignored, in a good many cases the fact that lowering the cost of production is also a factor towards increasing the profits. There is no doubt whatever that we have in Alberta far too many of the short, thick, fat type of hog—the kind that is really not worth the top price on the market. There is room in this country for a good breeder of pure bred hogs, one who could help to establish the true bacon type and fill the country with a better class of rooters. There is also a strong tendency to ignore all efforts to lower the cost of production. There are few farms where summer pasturage is provided other than the time honored, cattle trodden lot near the back yard. The growing of a small patch of rape or clover and the use of roots for winter feeding would work wonders in increasing the profits. There is around the best of farms a certain amount of grain that can best be utilized for hog feeding and if the dairy by-products are made to form a part of the ration his porcine majesty can be made to pay, and pay royally, even when the prices do not appear to be in favor of the producer.

All this is a matter of study. The pig is worth a deal of thought and attention from his earliest days until he reaches his final resting place on the consumer's table, and if I have managed to convey to the many readers of your paper the one idea, that all the problems of money making in the business, do not lie in the marketing alone I shall be more than satisfied.

L. E. CARR.

The "Athenia" of the Donaldson line recently sailed for Canada with twenty one Clydesdales and about seventy head of Ayrshires. About the same time five vessels left Montreal with 3,002 cattle and 900 sheep bound for British ports.

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Big averages were made at the recent sale of Shorthorns at Ruddington Hall. Thirty seven bulls averaged \$756.00 the highest figure being \$5,500.00, forty four cows and three-year-old heifers averaged \$682.00; seventeen two-year-old heifers averaged \$831.00 and sixteen yearlings made an average of \$442.

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In recognition of the work done by newspapers women in Canada, the Western Canada Immigration Association has offered the Canadian Woman's Press Club a trip over the C. P. R. to Banff and other western points. The trip will be taken at the close of the Press Club's annual meeting which will be held in Winnipeg, June 8th and 9th.