

STOCK.

HOLSTEIN CATTLE.

J. M. STAHL, TEXAS, "FARM AND RANCH."

These cattle are often called Holsteins, and while Friesians is the more proper name, both are allowable.

For years stockmen have been talking and writing of the "all purpose breeds." Some breeds were specialties, as the Jersey for butter, the Durham, Devon or Polled Angus for beef, and the Friesians for milk. The excellence of a breed of cattle is to be found in its beef, milk or butter; and while some breeds distinguished themselves in some departments so much more than in the others as to give them a reputation relating to but that one department, none was sufficiently productive of beef, milk and butter, as to give it the reputation of an all purpose breed. In fact, it was claimed that no breed could be distinguished in the production of all three, and that breeds must always remain specialties. The search for an all purpose animal was denounced as silly and chimerical. The erroneous assumption that beef production and milk production are antagonistic was made and accepted as truth. As a result, it was one of the tenets of stockraising, that the better an animal was for the butcher, the worse it was for the dairyman. Some breeders of Shorthorns claimed that this breed was a near approach to the one of general excellence sought, being an undisputed beef breed, and also yielding large quantities of milk, of good quality. But it was shown with much flourish of trumpets, that those strains of the Shorthorn breeds which were noted for beef were poor milkers; and those noted for milk were inferior beef animals.

The breeders of fancy animals thus discouraged, rather than encouraged, the introduction or development of an all purpose breed. But the farmers, the "common herd" of stockraisers, did not give up the quest. They were greatly desirous of finding the all purpose breed. The farmer wanted a cow that would produce a calf that, if a steer, would grow into profitable beef; if a heifer, would yield a large amount of milk, and when the time came, would fatten into profitable beef. And when he chose, this cow was to yield an abundance of milk, and then, like her female and male progeny make good, profitable beef. It is neither convenient nor profitable for him to keep a breed that yielded only beef or milk alone. And it was troublesome and expensive to keep two or more distinct breeds upon the same farm. What he wanted he failed to obtain by crosses, and if the all purpose animal is found it must be of a recognized breed. The scrub may be said to be a no purpose animal as often treated.

That a strictly all purpose breed is found I am not ready to say. But some facts lately brought to light would give the Friesians by far the best claim to the title.

That the Friesians were entitled to the first place as milk and cheese animals has never been disputed. Their yield of milk has never been surpassed, and is peculiarly well adapted to the production of cheese. Their average period of milk giving is 300 days—as long as desirable—and it may be continued longer. In fact, it is frequently difficult to stop the flow of milk as the season for calving approaches. In one of the three great divisions of production, then, they hold the first place.

But, while the quantity of milk was acknowledged, it was held that in the

butter elements it was so sadly deficient the the Jerseys, which gave far less milk, were the superior butter cows. Lately the butter production of Friesian cows has been published, and all parties were surprised to find that in this point they had surpassed the Jerseys. This stimulated to other tests, and these have demonstrated that in butter production the Friesians are the equals, if not the superiors, of the Jerseys. It was claimed by some that the butter made by the Friesians was not so good as that made by the Jerseys; but at several prominent fairs, where the breed represented by the butter was unknown, that made of milk from Friesian cows has taken first premium. In fact, it would be hard to understand how any difference in the quality of the butter could exist if the cows received the same quality and kind of food, the milk being set in water at the same temperature, skimmed, acidified, churned, salted and worked alike. Thus, in the second grand division of production the Friesians are unexcelled, if they are not unequalled.

But how as to beef? Here is the weakest point of the Friesians. We can say that for milk, cheese and butter, they are not surpassed, in any particular, by any breed; but I do not think it correct to say that they are fully the equal of the Shorthorns or Devons, in beef production. I know that some enthusiastic breeders assert that in the production of beef they are unexcelled; but I think this is putting too high an estimate upon this quality of the Friesians. For the first eight or nine months Friesian calves gain in weight equal to the Shorthorn; but their growth does not continue so long and steadily. The Friesians weigh, on an average, about 1,200 pounds. They fatten easily, and their beef is of good quality. Yet they will never be the best beef breed, though always a good one.

Their first use is for the dairy, and their value and desirability is enhanced by the fact that the males can be profitably fed for the butchers' block, and that the females, when no longer wanted in the dairy, can be made into profitable beef.

The Friesians are not dainty animals. In this respect they are far more desirable than the Jerseys. They will eat coarse, rough food which the Jerseys would not touch. They are also more hardy and less affected by vicissitudes of weather. In the hot summer time they will browse steadily along while the Jerseys will huddle under some tree. They are good eaters, and good eaters make good milk and beef producers.

The Friesians have been carefully bred for five hundred years, and therefore are a well established breed, and such a long line of decent makes them true and strong breeders. The offspring of a Friesian and other animal always partakes more largely of the characteristics of the Friesian, though that other animal be a Jersey.

VICIOUS HORSES.

Vicious horses are not desirable anywhere, but if there is one place more than another where they are not wanted, and where they should not be found, it is on a farm. In the different work that horses have to perform in farming it is often the case that horses have to be handled by several different persons; during the season, and often by boys or men who incompetent. A horse with a bad disposition is not slow to understand whether he or the one who handles him is to be the boss, and when the least opportunity is afforded

they are not slow to take advantage of it. Reports of men or boys being killed by such animals are quite frequent, and other mischief that they do is as often heard of or experienced. It is generally taking great risks of personal injury or of injuring others by keeping such animals on the place, and unless they have some redeeming qualities it is far better to part with them even at a sacrifice. The best place for a horse that is not perfectly gentle and reliable is in teams in the cities where they have constant work, and where they have the same master day after day, and the sooner they find their way to such positions the better it is for them and all concerned.

THE SHORT-HORN STILL.

The following paper was read before the Fulton Co., Ohio, Shorthorn Association by W. D. Crout, an authority upon the subject:

It must be admitted that the Short horns present themselves to notice under circumstances of peculiar interest, possessing in an eminent degree qualities which have generally been considered almost faultless, combining fine forms, fine color, early maturity and compactness, and giving the greatest weight in the smallest superficies. As milkers, they were primarily considered most excellent, and where bred to milk exclusively, can produce as fine records as any breed, combining both quality and quantity. Indeed, the point of excellence which first brought them into such favorable notice was their extraordinary milking qualities, combined with fine, mellow skin and flesh and great aptitude to fatten. It is a noteworthy fact that in the animal economy those which possess an excessive secretion of flesh and fat should also be productive of other rich secretions. Wherever any of the milking strains of Short-horns have been crossed with other cattle their superiority is equally manifest in respect to dairy qualifications, as in every other, and they have successfully pioneered their way into every country known where agriculture has attained any advanced standard.

That animals which have been bred pure are much more excellent than any alloy, we have indubitable evidence, and many attempts have been made by breeders to produce something, if, possible, superior to the Short-horn, which attempts have ever been signal failures. Calley, an English historian, tells us that an attempt was made by an importation from Holland of the Dutch cattle which are playing so prominent a part in the recent American cattle "booms," and many were led astray thereby, but says also "that there were some intelligent breeders who steered clear of this evil, and from them the pure Short-horn breed have descended to the present time." Mr. Bailey, another English historian, says in his Agricultural Survey, that as far back as 1740 "an attempt was made to improve the Teeswater breed, more in regard to size than anything else, by a Mr. Michael Dobison, of the Isle near Sedgfield, and brought home from Holland a complete spotted or pied animal with immense buttocks which did a 'deal of mischief,' but some intelligent breeders steered clear of the evil." History seems to make it plain that any attempt ever made, other than by a close confinement to purity, has always resulted disastrously. That for many centuries they have been bred and held the most prominent position of all cattle, we think that none can candidly doubt. Of their great antiquity, a

prominent English historian says: "At what time the Short-horns were brought to these Danish counties in England is unknown, but it is probably as many as seven or eight centuries since. There is a cow sculptured on the west corner tower of the eastern transept of the cathedral of the city of Durham, commemorating a tradition as to the cathedral, and in every respect the effigy represents a Short horn cow." As to quality of beef, none at this date do otherwise than concede to them the greatest point of excellence which combined with their great weight of carcass and small offal, renders them superior to all other breeds for the butcher's block. As regards some of the great weights anciently, Mr. Youatt says: "The circumstance which brought the Short-horns into the most extensive notice was the production of the Durham ox, an animal which speaks volumes in favor of this blood, which at five years old was on exhibition near Bedale, and whose weight reached the enormous sum of 3,024 lbs., and was computed to weigh of dressed meat 2,362 lbs. "Mr. Robert Colling's heifer, which was exhibited as a curiosity, was estimated to weigh at four years old 1,820 lbs. That from time to time other breeds have attempted to rival them is well known, and the fact of their standing today without a rival for general purposes, is accounted proof positive of their general appreciation by the public at large.

Coming down to more modern times, the verdict of to-day among breeders in all the best localities, such as Illinois and the Kentucky blue grass regions, is that the Short-horn as a beef-producing animal is in no fear of yielding the palm to any other breed. Taking this in connection with the shortage of English beef production, which shows a falling off of 162,011 head from 1876 to 1882, it is plain to see that the demand upon the country must continue and rapidly increase, and that means good prices in the future for the cattle raisers in this country. That the prices of Short-horns continue to hold well and not depreciate, is evidenced by the public sales of the past summer; the one of Pickrell, Thomas & Smith, of Harri town, Ill., where sixty females averaged \$550 per head, and fourteen males, \$310.

In conclusion, let me say to my brother breeders, let us maintain this standard of excellence by every means in our power, and in no case depart from a pure and undiluted line of breeding. As to pedigree, be as exacting as you please, but be careful that the animal possesses those qualities demanded by the rush and push of the age, and success will ever be ours.

Rumors it is said may be founded by feeding them rye. When ground and fed with oats, it is not so injurious.

Our flocks of sheep must be improved in two ways, first, by good feeding, second, by the use of good males. Raise sheep for wool and mutton. Either will pay.

Food for hogs should not be diluted too much. If it is the hogs take in so much water that there is not room for nutriment. Sour milk is in a sufficient state of dilution, and a farmer who feeds his hogs nothing but pure sour milk will have good hogs; but one who feeds his hogs on slops will have big-bellied, poorly nourished, poor-producing hogs. A hog ought to live without drink, but he wants food without so much water.