

Shorthorns and Holsteins.

BY SMITH BROS.

You will please allow us space to answer and correct some of the misleading statements made by "Observer" in the December issue of the *ADVOCATE*. He makes several admissions, and when he thinks he has gained the confidence of the public he makes remarks now and again that are not in accordance with truth. He begins by saying that Mr. James Long, from whom we quoted, is a "well-known authority," but, as a saving clause, adds, "he could have no personal knowledge." Mr. James Long became a well-known authority by giving reliable reports, and what he says he says only after the most thorough collecting of facts. He is not alone by any means, but there are scores of good authorities who fully agree with him. We will quote from two of them. Prof. Law, an eminent English authority, in 1840, wrote: "The district of Holderness early obtained cows from Holland, and became distinguished beyond any other part of England for the excellence of its dairy stock," and adds, "it (the mixture) was known as the Shorthorn breed." John C. Dillon, Massachusetts Agricultural College, says of Holsteins: "They appear to me to possess the qualities which distinguished their descendants, the Shorthorns, before that breed began to be raised for sale rather than practical usefulness." The Holsteins have had for centuries the power of strongly impressing their own qualities on their progeny, hence the improvement in Yorkshire and Durham a long time ago, and the improvements that are going on in several parts of Canada just now. History is indeed repeating itself.

Mr. O. feels the shoe pinch in another place, and cries out: "In beefing qualities they are below the average!" In this he is again trying to make your readers believe something that he should know is not in accordance with the facts. We have it from several persons who lived in England, and several who have travelled there, and everyone says that they have always understood that the quality of the beef was good. Moreover, there are found in the British Official Statistics for 1884 the following facts: Preserved meat from Holland brings 17½ cents per pound in England, whilst preserved meat from Canada brings only 11½ cents, and from the United States 11½ cents. Further on it is found that 41,350 calves were imported into England from Holland, the average price being \$23.14 per head. Now, it goes without saying that such quantities of meat and such prices simply means that the quality suits the English, else they would not get so much and pay such a high price. One of the leading Brampton butchers says of a Holstein heifer: "She is the best animal I have butchered since I came to this country, three years ago, and I have killed some good ones. The beef was of excellent quality, and she butchered well. I do not want any better, and I cannot get as good."

Mr. John Scott, one of the leading cattle dealers of Ontario, in speaking of the same heifer, says: "Her beef was of excellent quality, for I had some for last Sunday's dinner, and can speak from actual experience. Send anyone to me and I'll convince them that Holstein beef is first-class." A Port Huron butcher, of ten years experience, says: "They are very meaty, and the quality of beef is excellent."

The Journal of Independence, Iowa, says:

"R. Campbell shipped three car loads (54 head) of fat Holstein steers to Chicago. These were mostly two year-olds. The lot brought \$3,826.84, forty cents a hundred more than any other from Buchanan county this year—an average of over \$70 per head." The Breeders' Gazette says of the Holstein heifer, Spot, at the Fat Stock Show this year: "She is remarkably smooth, neat and deep fleshed, and should make a very handsome carcass." She weighed 1,450 lbs. on the show ground, and was shown in the yearling class. Mr. O. speaks of the Holstein men's hearts failing them after entering for the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* milk test. Surely this is not so bad as to be afraid to enter. However, we will give results of a test where Shorthorns and Holsteins competed this year. Before doing so we may add for Mr. O.'s benefit that Holsteins competed in the milk test at Ottawa and defeated the herd that took 1st prize at Toronto Industrial this year.

Two Shorthorns and five Holsteins competed in the butter test at the Illinois State Fair this year. The Shorthorns averaged .89 lbs. a day, the Holsteins 1.786 a day, or a little more than twice as much; that is, it required ten Shorthorns to make the same amount of butter as five Holsteins. At the Iowa State Fair there were two Shorthorns and three Holsteins. The Shorthorns averaged .96 lbs. per day, the Holsteins 1.77 lbs. per day; that is, it would require eleven Shorthorns to make the same amount of butter as six Holsteins; and these results generally hold good in public or private tests. In regard to further proof we will give our own experience. Thos. MacFarlane, the Dominion Analyst, analyzed the following:—Siepkje 3.82 fat, other solids 9.86; she gave 13,021 lbs. of milk in a year. Dina of the Pines, 5.54 fat, 11.29 other solids; she gave in 253 days 9,740½ lbs. of milk. Onetta, 3.87 fat, 9.10 other solids, and gave 10,607 lbs. of milk in 10 months. Siepkje 3rd, 3.69 fat, 9.02 other solids, and gave over 9,000 lbs. of milk in 10 months. Cornelia Tensen gave 19 lbs. of butter in a week, and 14,184½ lbs. of milk in ten months. Marian, 19 lbs. of butter in a week, and 10,769½ lbs. of milk in 8 months, and so on; but this is sufficient to show what the Holsteins as a breed are doing and can do. Then to sum up their qualities, we say the cows are large, weighing from 1,200 to 1,700 lbs. each. The quality and quantity of beef is perfectly satisfactory, and they rapidly take on flesh, and are very thrifty growers. For milk production they have no equals, producing on an average from 8,000 to 12,000 lbs. per year, and several have more than doubled that quantity. During the past five years they have scarcely been beaten at any of the exhibitions in North America. For butter productions on the show grounds, they have averaged three out of four of the first prizes in North America during the past three years. So that for milk and butter they take the lead, and for beef they have shown the most satisfactory results, and thus most nearly approach the farmers' and breeders' idea of a general purpose cow.

At a recent meeting of the directors of the Sherbrooke Farmers' Club, it was decided to take the necessary steps towards inaugurating a Dairymen's Association for the district of St. Francis, and it was proposed to hold a two days convention at an early date in Sherbrooke in connection with the same, to which lecturers from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa are to be invited.

Britain as a Produce Market.

The following figures will afford readers of the *ADVOCATE* some idea of the vast and increasing consumption of food in Great Britain:—During the ten months ending October 31st the value of live animals imported for food was £9,656,977, against £8,639,143 in the same period last year. The value of the corn imported was £44,547,383, against £41,754,223. Of dead meat the value was £17,372,746, against £15,211,473. The value of butter imported was £3,794,377, against £3,566,033 last year; margarine £2,486,283, against £3,026,377; cheese £4,127,098, against £3,754,966. Eggs came of the value of £2,822,073, against £2,634,972.

Smithfield Fat Stock Show.

(Specially Reported by Mr. J. T. Gibson.)

Here I am in Old London attending the Smithfield Club show. The Queen got champion with a Shorthorn heifer. She also got it at Birmingham with the same heifer, which is very good, though a little bare in front of shoulder, and not over large. About the first thing that a Canadian notices is the different way the cattle are brought out—so much more hair, and that brushed the wrong way. Taking the show as a whole they had a large entry of useful cattle—not any extra or outstanding winners—and I think a number of mistakes were made in making the awards. They appeared to give a large, rough animal the prize in preference to a smooth, small animal with little waste. This, I suppose, is to be accounted for to a large extent by the fact that the judges were all breeders, not butchers. The Shorthorns took the prize for both the best cow and steer in the show—both, perhaps, right; first certainly so. If a Shorthorn was entitled to it for the best steer, in my opinion the steer that took the prize in the older class, a far smoother one. Here size counted before quality and symmetry. In the Herefords there was not many good ones. Some very thick ones were brought out with their thick, waving coats brushed and curled. In this class they gave a very thick, well-grown steer the championship for his class, but his rib was rolling, his shoulders sticking out, the one placed second to him in his class was a better show beast, in my opinion. Among the Devons there were some very nice, smooth little cattle—too small, to get right to the point. The champion Devon steer, if he had but been larger—in fact as far as he went I considered him about the best butchers' steer in the show—even from end to end, firm as a rock, very small offal. I was disappointed in the Angus. A good cow, very thick, firm and well fed; not a first-class steer in the lot. Nothing extra amongst the cross-bred ones. The Down sheep were a marvel. They have made wonderful improvement in them the last twenty years. The Hampshires got the cup as the best Downs, and rightly so. They are a wonderful sheep, and still more wonderfully brought out. I think the shepherd has quite as much to do with getting the prize as the owner and sheep combined. All Down sheep are colored, which I think wrong. The Shropshires made a great show. They are, perhaps, as good a rent-paying sheep as any. The Oxforda are carved out too much—too many with very short wool on the back and long on the sides. I did not notice as much improvement in the long wools.

Let the cows be saved from annoyance and worry. Any harsh treatment that excites a cow lessens the quantity and injures the quality of her yield.