

The Four Great Beef Breeds.

IV.

SHORTHORNS.—Continued.

The names of Booth and Bates were prominent in connection with the improvement of the Shorthorn breed from about 1790. The elder Booth (Thomas), as well as Thomas Bates, followed, with remarkable success, the system of in-and-inbreeding which the Collings had inaugurated, and for more than half a century there was keen rivalry between these men and the partisans of these competing families and types for public favor. The Booths and Bates were discriminating judges of quality in cattle, and founded their herds upon the best cows they could procure, and on the produce of these, using intensely-inbred bulls of high-class individual character, and the cattle bequeathed by them were certainly of the highest order of merit, the Booth cattle representing a type distinguished especially for substance and flesh, and the Bates tribes a class of the dual-purpose sort, possessing much refinement of character and undoubted quality, the cows being generally heavy milkers, a point to which Thomas Bates gave much attention and to which he attached great importance.

Thomas Bates, the founder of the tribes which bear his name, began his work at Killerby prior to the year 1790. He had strong faith in the potency of the blood of Hubback (319), and in the Bakewell system of in-and-inbreeding, but, unlike Bates and many other breeders of his day, he did not deem it essential to go to Ketton and Barmington for females to carry on his work, but chose rather to use moderate-sized, strongly-bred Colling bulls upon large-framed, roomy cows, with good constitution and an aptitude to fatten; and the outcome revealed that he possessed much skill and independence of character, as the prizewinning record of the Booth cattle of his day and that of his sons, Richard and John, and other breeders of that cult in England for many years, amply attests. They were certainly a grand class of cattle for constitution, broad, strong, thickly-fleshed backs and superior handling quality, but many of them were inclined to become patchy at the rumps, and their flesh to roll on their ribs, while their great fattening propensity frequently resulted in barrenness of the females at a comparatively early age. The females of the Booth tribes were generally much more attractive than the bulls, which, as a rule, had strong and somewhat coarse heads and horns, but were extremely prepotent; so much so that the Booths, especially John, of Killerby, claimed that four crosses of bulls of their breeding was sufficient to fix the type of cattle of indifferent previous breeding, and he was not careful to trace the pedigrees of his cattle back further than that extent on the female line, though, of course, he was discriminating as to the quality of the cow, individually, on which the families were founded. Those who remember the great cows of Booth breeding which swept the prize-lists of the Royal in the fifties and sixties of last century—the trio of Brides, the quartette of Queens, Vivandiere, and others—will not admit that better ones have been produced since their day, and the writer, who was privileged to see Lady Fragrant in breeding condition after her show-yard career, is firmly of the opinion that she was far and away the best Shorthorn he has ever seen, and it has been his privilege to see many of the leading lights of the breed in an experience of over fifty years of fair-going.

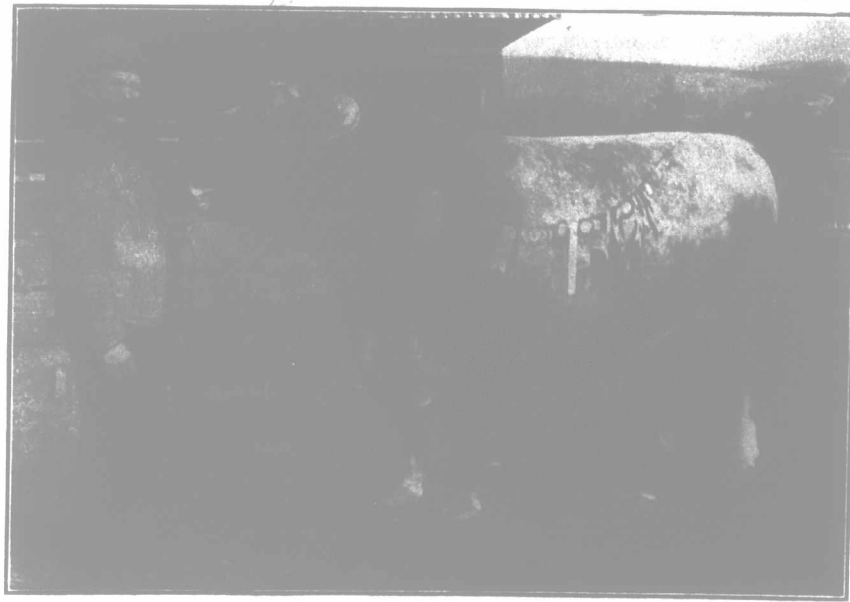
Thomas Bates, who was born in 1875, and who, at about the age of 25 years, began to take an active interest in the improved breed of Shorthorns, was a remarkable man, and achieved great distinction by his skill as a breeder. He was a keen observer, and had carefully studied the work of Bakewell and the Collings, and at a fair in Darlington, in 1800, he was attracted by a roan heifer of the Duchess blood, shown by Charles Colling, which realized his ideal more nearly than any other he had seen, and in 1804 he bought her, then a cow named Duchess, by Daisy Bull (186), for 100 guineas. In Duchess he claimed to have secured the best cow in England, and the only one then living running direct from Hubback to Favorite. She was always a deep, rich milker, giving, on grass alone, 14 quarts of milk twice a day, making as high as 14 pounds of butter per week, and when fed off at 17 years of age, is said to have made an excellent carcass of beef. At the Ketton dispersion, in 1810, he bought Young Belvedere, a granddaughter of Duchess, sired by the

1000-guinea bull, Comet (155), at 183 guineas. She was not one of the best, but Bates relied on her breeding, and, under the name of Duchess 1st, she proved the ancestress of the far-famed Duchess family, which ultimately became the highest-priced in Shorthorn history. Bates continued the practice of breeding bulls to their own dams and daughters, weeding out the misfits. He had long had great respect for the old Princess strain in Robert Colling's herd, the original cow of which carried a



Thomas Bates.

double cross of Favorite on top of Hubback. Hearing of the bull Belvedere (1706), of this breeding, he went to see him, and, passing the stable where he was kept, and seeing the head of the bull as he looked over the door, and knowing his descent, he expressed a positive determination to buy the bull, which he did, for the modest price of £50. Belvedere's sire and dam were own brother and sister, and his mating with his own daughter, Duchess 24th, gave Mr. Bates his greatest bull, Duke of Northumberland (1940), in whose tabulated pedigree the name Favorite (252) appears no fewer than fifteen times, twelve of which are on the side of his sire, Belvedere; yet Bates' greatest bull really carried only 25 per cent. of Dutchess blood, and his dam, who had 50 per cent. Princess blood, was said to be a better beast than most of her



Squire Wimple = 33006 =.

Champion Shorthorn bull and winner of grand championship as best bull of any beef breed, Dominion Exhibition, 1905. Property of W. H. Ladner, Ladner, B. C.

predecessors of the female line of that family, the merit of the earlier Duchesses having been largely lost through excessive inbreeding. Duke of Northumberland was the acknowledged champion bull of England in 1842. Writing of him in 1839, Bates had said: "I can state from measurements I took of Comet (155), that the Duke was nearly double his weight, both at ten months and at two years old. I selected this Duchess tribe of Shorthorns as superior to all other cattle, as great growers and quick grazers, with the finest

quality of beef, and also giving a great quantity of very rich milk." The live weight of the Duke at 3 years and 8 months was 2,520 pounds.

While the system of inbreeding was successful in improving the breed in its early days, the continuance of that system beyond reasonable limits eventually proved fatal to the Bates tribes when good and had individuals were kept for breeding purposes and pedigrees were regarded as of more importance than personal merit, resulting in sterility, weakness of constitution, hard handlers and slow feeders, and great damage to the reputation and character of the family and of the breed, the popularity of Bates blood having become so widespread that the blood was sought for and used in a very large percentage of the herds in Great Britain and America. This evil was greatly intensified by the craze for red color in America, which was carried to such extremes that roans and whites were greatly discounted in price, and inferior sires were, in many cases, used in preference to better bulls, simply because they were red and of Bates breeding. However, many of the most useful Shorthorn cattle of the present day have pedigrees founded on Bates blood, and having been judiciously built up in the top crosses, they have mixed well with the approved type of the present period, and are doing much to save the reputation of the breed for good milking qualities, while carrying high-class feeding and fleshing propensities.

Mr. Freeman's Compliments to Mr. Davies.

As a farmer who has had considerable interest in the hog industry, I would like to reply to Mr. Wm. Davies, in defence of the farmers who feel they have a grievance. He is kind enough to acknowledge that some years ago they made an appeal to the Government at Ottawa which made the bonding privileges a little less stringent. Then they rebuilt, and started on a missionary campaign. The farmers responded nobly, and they obtained a sufficient supply in Canada, since which time they have not imported an American hog to Toronto. If Mr. Davies has not imported an American hog, why need the packers be so alarmed about the American hog being shut out? The packers were sending their special dispatches to the papers, saying they would have to close because they could not get enough hogs. The farmers said nothing; they watched very closely to see if the packers would come out ahead. He says their business increased by leaps and bounds, and that, on the whole, they have been prosperous. Now, what is the trouble? One would naturally suppose he should be perfectly satisfied, but, from the tone of his letter, one must suspect there is something wrong. Well, by reading his letter over very carefully, the papers, the rest of the pork-packers, and Mr. Dryden, are his grievances. First, some years ago, he says one of the papers told the farmers that they were being robbed, that there was a combine, and that the "iron heel of the oppressor" was upon them! Then he says the pork packers are at each other's throats (I have great sympathy for them). Then, he has a crow to pick with Mr. Dryden. I might say he has not raised himself any in the estimation of the farmers by his uncalled-for attack on that gentleman. He speaks of some of his competitors; tells how some have made failures, the most notable ones being the farmers' co-operative ones. Is there anything strange in that? The wonder would be if they had succeeded. I have known business men start in farming and make miserable failures. I shall show you later on that the farmers received a better price for their hogs the two years these concerns were in existence. Whether they were being forced out or not, I do not pretend to say. Before giving him a few facts to show him there must be something wrong, I must say that farmers are not lacking in common sense. My neighbors and myself have never seen the paper alluded to, nor been influenced by it in the least. He speaks of the money invested in packing-houses. I think I am safe in saying more money has been invested in hogpens the last few years than packing-houses. Am I right?

Now, as to evidences of something wrong: From one shipping point, I have known three double-deck cars a week to be shipped; now there are never more than one, and more often a single than a double deck, at that. If Mr. D. could take the time to come up here, I would drive him to Mr. R. W. Hawkin's home, a gentleman who farms 465 acres, and keeps a dairy of 80 to 100 cows, and we would ask him why he has converted his large hogpen into a stock stable, and filled it with steers this winter. Then we would drive to Mr. A. R. Fitcher & Sons, who farm 300 acres, have a herd of 40 pure-bred and high-grade Holstein cows, besides 60 steers, in the winter. We would ask them why they have gone to the expense of raising the building two feet higher, and made his fine hogpen ten feet in the clear, converting it into a breeding stable, and into it. If you will pardon me, I might mention my own pen, which is 210 feet long, with a root