

bilities. They all run in the practical line, where the farmer with one brood mare, can secure as much advantage as the breeder with twenty.

Remarks.—The above from the Maine Farmer sets forth clearly the value of the fast walking horse, but like others they find it a difficult matter to give much that is definite as to the methods of training colts and horses to walk fast. One reason for this is the lack of experience in this direction. This valuable trait in horses has not been important. We may venture a few suggestions. Years ago we experimented some with young horses in teaching them to walk fast. We may urge a horse to walk fast and gain considerable, but the better way is to seek opportunity when the horse of its own will walks fast, such as driving home when he is hungry or late in the evening. If he is not permitted to change from the fast walk to the slow trot, so that he learns the will of the driver, and this be repeated and finally practiced when ever the horse is driven, the horse will become a fast walker if he is adapted to it. This trait as well as the trotting ability may be bred into horses.

THE FUTURE OF SHORTHORNS.

READ BEFORE THE ILLINOIS SHORTHORN BREEDER'S CONVENTION AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL., JAN 16, 1889,
BY HON. D. W. SMITH.

The subject which has been assigned to me is one in which fancy or imagination may find a wide field; a field rosy or sterile, bright or gloomy, as the individual predilection may determine. Whichever view may be entertained can be supported by facts and figures that will argue strongly for either the hopes of the optimist or the forebodings of the pessimist.

The rational predictions as to the future must be based largely upon the experiences of the past and present, yet it is well to always bear in mind, the utterance of Napoleon that "Circumstances do not always make the men; men sometimes make circumstances." Then there is a wise old proverb that we should bear well in mind, namely, that "All winds are favorable to a skilful navigator." I am therefore inclined to argue that the "Future of Shorthorns" depends largely upon the men who breed Shorthorns, and that no matter what adverse winds may blow the skilful breeder will always be able to steer his craft through stormy waters and rocky channels into safe harbors of profit and honor.

How much depends upon the breeder was forcibly illustrated at the Dexter Park sales at Chicago in November, where one day a draft of cattle from a fashionable bred herd of Shorthorns sold at prices ranging from \$5 to \$35 per head and on the next day ten Shorthorns sold for \$25,000. Both breeders had sailed through the same waters, had encountered the same adverse winds which have been so persistently blowing against all of us for the past five years; yet how jauntily one steered his craft into port, and how sadly was the other one wrecked against the rocks of the channel.

The Shorthorn is unquestionably the oldest established of the improved breeds of cattle, their type is the most firmly fixed, their prepotency the most certain and their quality most superior. Should there be a reasonable doubt as to the future of a breed embracing all these excellencies? The Shorthorn is everywhere the standard and test of bovine merit. Did anyone ever hear the claims of the Hereford pitted against the Angus, or the Holsten against the Devon, or the Sussex against the Highlander? Certainly not; the advocate of each breed compares the merits of his favorites with the acknowledged and undisputed merits of the Shorthorn. Each one dwells upon some particular breed, but each particular merit of each particular breed is embraced in the Shorthorn. The big girth around the heart of the Hereford, the hardihood

of the Angus, the activity and docility of the Devon, the fineness and handling quality of the Highlander, the milking quality of the Holsten—admit them all—and you will find them all and more embraced in the Shorthorn.

Three years ago I spent considerable time in the western range country. The Hereford bovine was then at its height, and Hereford bulls were costing from \$500 to \$1000. Each had been, and were then, being used upon many range breeding herds. The results derived from the use of these high priced and in many cases imported bulls, was being contrasted with the results from past use of \$40 and \$50 grade Shorthorn bulls, and of course the comparison was not always favorable to the so called Shorthorn bull. It was manifestly an unfair comparison, and I made careful inquiry to learn if a \$500 or \$1000 Shorthorn bull had ever been used upon a herd of range cows, and could not learn of a single one, and it was a rare thing to find one that had cost as much as \$100 in the States. Since then I have watched with much interest to learn if the progeny of those high priced Herefords sold for any more in the Chicago markets than did the progeny of the low priced and very ordinary Shorthorn bulls usually bought for the ranges. For every sale of Hereford rangers at an unusually good price I have found twenty sales of Shorthorn rangers at equally good or better prices. The Hereford has steadily lost ground on the ranges for the past three years, the famous Hereford ranch near Cheyenne has gone into bankruptcy, and the Shorthorn is not only holding his own but is rapidly regaining the favor that it had temporarily lost. I am satisfied that "The Future of the Shorthorn" upon the ranges is an assured success, and that in another year there will be a largely increased demand at increased prices for Shorthorn bulls for the range country.

Don't let this prediction however, my friends, prevent you from castrating about one third or one half your bull calves. There is probably no one third or one thing more conducive and necessary to the prosperous future of Shorthorns than a free and judicious use of the castrating knife and the spaying needle.

The following figures are encouraging as to the future, viz: In 1884 in Scotland, the seat of power of the Pollé cattle, the average price of the Polls sold at public sale was \$43.80 per head higher than the average price of Shorthorns so sold. Since then there has been a gradual and steady change until in 1888 the Shorthorns averaged \$6.76 higher than the Polls. There seems to be encouragement for the future of Shorthorns in Scotland.

For more than a hundred years we have a history of the triumphs and reverses of Shorthorns. In 1784 Charles Colling bought Hubback for 8 guineas or \$42, and Duchess, the progenitor of Bates, Duchesses, for £13 or \$65. In 1810 he hired out his bulls at \$250 to \$500 each per annum, and refused \$2,500 for one cow. In the fall of that year he sold 47 cows, bulls and heifers at an average of more than \$750. Robert Colling, of equal note as a breeder, sold in 1818, 61 head at an average of \$640; yet only two years later at his closing out sales embracing all of his choicest and best, the average of 46 head was only \$245. Prices gradually depreciated from that time on for many years, until in 1831 we find Mr. Bates buying the best bull he could find in all England, Belvidere, for £50 or \$250, and in the same year he bought the Matchem cow for £11 or \$55. Then came another boom in Shorthorns, when prices ran up into the thousands of pounds, followed by depression in 1850, when Mr. Bates' entire herd sold at an average of only \$327. The 68 animals embraced in the sale bringing \$22,240; twenty-five years later a single bull of the Bates families sold for more than his 68 head, and at the New York Mills sale in 1873 one Bates cow sold for nearly twice as much. About