

three islands, but a few miles distant, form part of Guernsey, and are ruled by one and the same laws. Cattle upon or from these are admitted to register in the Guernsey Herdbook, the same as if bred on the Island of Guernsey. Therefore, it is safe to say the Guernseys of to-day are the Guernseys of a century ago. Whatever change has taken place is owing to feed, handling, and climatic influences, also to greater care and intelligence in selecting and breeding.

The ruling prohibiting the importation of foreign blood to the island must have seemed very arbitrary to many of the islanders when first put into execution, but it has brought to the little island of Guernsey (17 square miles) millions of dollars. Between the years 1870 and 1890 they exported 512 bulls and 12,761 females. The arbitrary ruling of our Agricultural Department at Washington, compelling cattle to remain 90 days in quarantine, has put a check on importation to this country. It seems to me that Channel Island cattle should be exempt, as never in the history of the islands has any contagious disease been known among their cattle. Two years ago I made a thorough and most painstaking examination of the cattle for tuberculosis on the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, and went from farm to farm and questioned and cross-questioned the farmers as to the symptoms of any cows that had died in their herds. I also tried the veterinarians on the island, and they all affirmed that they had never had a case of consumption, or found it in post-mortem.

Guernsey is a little island (17 square miles), but it contains 35,000 population. The principal industry is agriculture, cattle, and hothouses for growing grapes, tomatoes, potatoes, etc. Of late years the hothouse craze has so taken possession of the island that the cattle must now be placed as secondary in importance, and in many cases they have been driven from the farm altogether or quite neglected. Land is worth from one to two thousand dollars an acre to build hothouses on. Keeping it to pasture cows on seems like an expensive luxury, although butter is worth about 50 cents per pound, most of it going to France and England to private families. Guernsey butter is seldom seen in market in town. Land rents from thirty to fifty dollars per acre for growing early potatoes, which is, perhaps, the principal exported product.

The root crop forms from 75 to 80 per cent. of the cattle's feed summer and winter; about the only exception is that the cows in milk in the summer are tethered in a field. They begin staking them out in this way in February, when the weather is nice. They begin at one end of a

field and stake them along across the field, and then begin over again. They are generally cared for by the women and girls. Some of the young stock are not turned out until they are in milk. The islanders take the greatest care of their cows when fresh in milk. They are blanketed, and only allowed to go out of doors during the middle of warm sunny days in springtime, and for days are kept blanketed out doors and in. They are milked several times a day. The dread of a Guernsey farmer is milk fever, hence this unusual precaution. The cows are not forced there as in this country. Why milk fever is more prevalent there than in this country I am unable to say. Besides roots they grow a tree cabbage for a soiling crop, which grows on a slender stalk from four to seven feet high, the leaves resembling and tasting like those of the cabbage. They strip off the leaves, and the stalks become an article of trade as canes, and are sold mostly to tourists as souvenirs of the islands.

One of the most noticeable things in the herds on the island is the large number of very old cows, cows from fourteen to twenty years old, with forms wonderfully well preserved. I once asked the price of a grand cow that looked about eight or nine years old. "Oh, you don't want her; she is nineteen years old. She is not for sale at any price. She is the best of the lot." The farms are from five to twenty acres, the average about eight. On a ten-acre farm there will be ten to fifteen head of Guernseys and four to six horses; from two to three acres will be devoted to pasture, followed by roots, the balance to hay or oats. The land devoted to farming carries nearly two head of full-grown stock per acre. From three to four and even five head of stock are supported a year from the product of a single acre.

The tide about the islands rises from 22 to 23 feet every ebb and flow, and during the winter, when it is out, the farmers gather great quantities of the sea weed that each tide brings in, which they either compost with manures or spread broadcast upon the fields.

There are no special families on the islands; nearly every farmer has some two or three grand old cows, the descendants of some favorites that have come down from father to son. One or two of these cows are crossed with the best bull in the neighborhood, with a view of getting a bull calf. The bull from that particular cow is used in turn by the neighbors, but each farmer has a strain he wants to keep. They know little or nothing of pedigrees. They record their stock because English and American buyers demand it. They only know that a certain cow or calf is the