

to resist and repel disease. They are attractive, spirited, and, as a rule, possessed of a good quality of bone, with well-placed legs, and strong, straight pasterns. The principal points in the standard for judging Berkshires are: Head moderately short, broad between the eyes, face slightly dishd, snout broad, neck medium to short, ear upright on young pigs, good size, inclined to droop slightly with age, brisket wide, hair fine and soft, inclined to thickness in the male. Shoulders smooth and even on top, and in line with sides; skin smooth and pliable; back moderate width, strong, and straight or slightly arched; side moderately strong and deep, and of nearly even thickness above and below; flank and low down on leg; loin full and wide; ham deep, and holding thickness well down to hock; tail well set up on line with back; legs and feet short, straight and strong, set well apart, with hoofs nearly erect, and capable of holding good weight; size all that is possible without loss of quality or symmetry, style attractive, spirited, indicative of good breeding and constitutional vigor; color black, with white on lower part of legs, on face and tip of tail, a white fringe on one or both ears, or on inside of ear, a white splash on jaw or forearm, or a few white hairs on any part, is not a serious objection. In general appearance, Berkshires are of good size, fairly compact in form, regular and even in outline, and easy in movement.

Raising and Finishing Beef Cattle

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is not my purpose here to discuss in detail the question of feeding and handling beef cattle, for that has been often and ably done before now; but rather, I wish to direct attention to the method of getting these beef cattle to feed.

The question arises in the minds of some of us, what is the most satisfactory method of obtaining steers for feeding? Two ways are open to us—first, buy them; second, raise them. The first method has the advantage of a minimum of labor—no cows need be kept. But we have the disadvantage of having to depend each year on the market for our supply of cattle. We have to take whatever we can get, whether it suits us or not, and to pay for it whatever the market demands, whether there is much margin left for profit or not. And if the selling price is low, and we make but little, we have not the cow end of the business with which to pull up our average for the year. Then, we have no dairy by-products for the hogs, which is a serious drawback to success in the business.

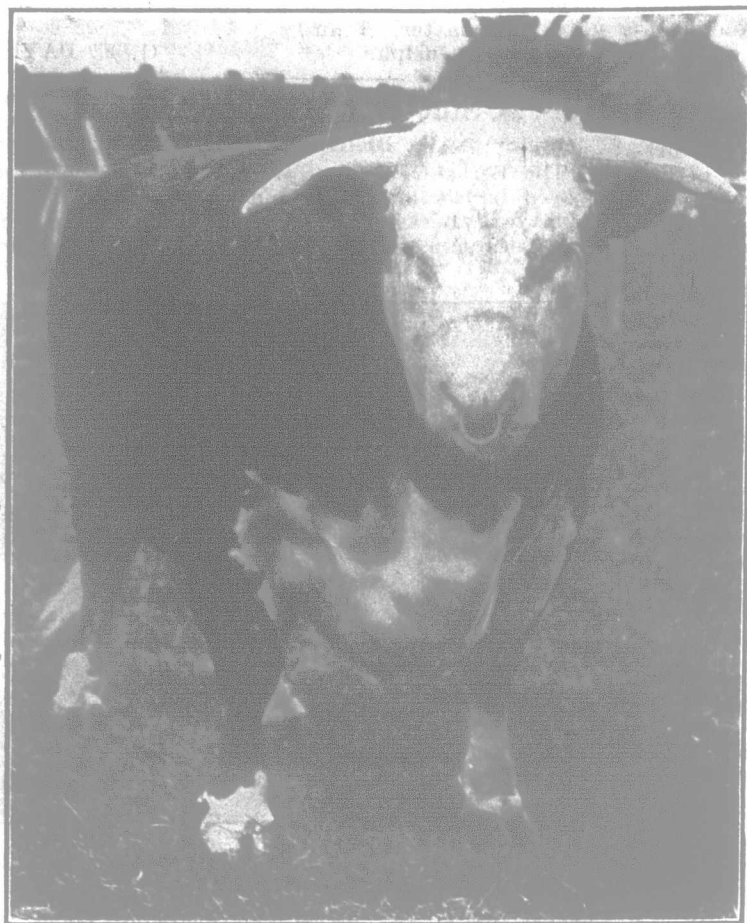
But if we raise our own feeders, while we have the disadvantage of having more work—and no doubt the work with good cows is profitable—we have many advantages. We have some dairy by-products for the hogs. As our cattle do not have to change hands until they are finished feeding, we save any loss that may occur in that way. Bringing them from calfhood up, we know their temperament, and they know their master, their mates and their environment. They have to undergo no change of conditions or treatment; they are always at home and contented. We can have their horns removed while they are young, either by the caustic treatment as calves, or by the de-horning clippers as yearlings; so that they are ready for the feed-lot without any drawback. But the greatest advantage in this system is in being able to breed our own steers for feeding. We have it in our power to determine whether they shall be first-class in quality or only medium. Having decided on the type of steer we want, we can choose our cows, then select our sire, and, as like begets like, we know very nearly what the finished article will be.

But right here, in connection with selecting our cows and sire, is where the great difficulty comes in. The problem is to get a cow that will not only give us a profitable feeding steer, but will also give us a profit herself at the milk pail. Under ranching conditions, where cheapness of feed and care makes it possible to keep a cow merely for the calf she raises, a special beef animal is all right; but, under Ontario conditions, we cannot afford to keep a cow simply for the calf which she produces. If we could get for our beef a price high enough, so that the steer would not only give a profit on his own keep, but would also pay for the feed of his mother while she is producing him, then the extreme beef animal would be all right. But as prices are to-day—and I fear are likely to be—it keeps even a first-class steer hustling to pay his own feed-and-labor bill, without having to help his mother out. So, if the business is to pay—and that is what it must do, or else eventually die—we must have cows that will not only produce good steers, but will at the same time be profitable dairy animals.

Where are we to get such animals? Certainly none of the dairy breeds will give us profitable steers; so we must look to the beef breeds. So far as I know, the Shorthorn is the only beef breed that is at all supposed to be anything but a

special beef animal. This breed owes much of its present popularity amongst Ontario farmers to the fact that it may be a dual-purpose breed—profitable producers of both beef and milk.

In the early improvement of this breed, we know that some breeders—Thomas Bates, in particular—paid great attention to the milking qualities of their cattle, and succeeded in a large measure in establishing this important propensity. Bates' great cow, Duchess, would give 28 quarts



Hereford Bull, Endale.

of milk a day on grass alone. Contrast this record with the milking qualities of many of our Shorthorn cattle of to-day, for some of which the owners have to keep foster mothers to raise their calves. I am glad, however, that some of our Shorthorn breeders are giving attention to this most important phase of their work, and are striving to maintain amongst their cattle the dual-purpose ideal. I wish them every success, as I believe that such a cow is the only profitable one for the Ontario farmer who wishes to produce beef for the export or any other trade. Could not the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association and agricultural societies do something along this line, by setting a standard of weight of milk to



Marquis.

First-prize two-year-old bull and reserve champion, Royal Show, 1905.

be given by show cows, so as to encourage breeders to discriminate between cows that will give a profitable amount of milk and those that will not.

I have simply given a few practical thoughts from the standpoint of one engaged in the business of raising export steers, and would be glad to see others interested in the same business give their views on the question.

Simcoe Co., Ont.,

A. W. P.

Notable Herefords in 1905.

Specially written for "The Farmer's Advocate," and illustrated with photos, by G. H. Parsons.

Taking everything into consideration, it is doubtful if the popular Whitefaces ever held a much sounder position in Great Britain and elsewhere than they do at the present time. The advocates of this fine old breed have been as unrelaxing as ever in their efforts to bring it to the front, and these efforts have met with a justly merited reward. The enquiry for Herefords for export has been much more marked than in previous years, and a large number of animals have changed hands at highly-remunerative prices, to leave our shore for other lands, South America, of course, claiming a large number. The trade at both public and private sales has also shown an increasing briskness, with a steady rise in prices and averages that makes the outlook for the future, on the whole, most promising.

Many animals of considerable merit found their way into the showing during the past summer, and at all the leading exhibitions the displays were well up to the high standard of uniformity that the breed generally maintains.

As most of the prominent winners came under the immediate notice of the writer, it is thought that a few notes concerning the most notable of them, supplemented by recent photos, will not be without interest.

His Majesty's "Fire King" easily claims premier position amongst the old bulls; in fact, nothing has been found good enough to lower his colors for the past three years. He was exhibited at the Bath and West, Royal Counties and Royal Shows, securing first on each occasion, and champion-ship at the latter show, which makes the third time in succession he has gained this high distinction. "Fire King," who was bred at the Royal Farms, was calved in Feb., 1901, and is by Earlsfield 19387, out of Firefly, by Lollipop (16814). He is a remarkably handsome bull, very level and deep, on short legs, carrying a tremendous weight of flesh, while his whole appearance is considerably enhanced by his beautiful and typical head. He is not quite perfect at the tail-head, but, with the exception of this, it is hard to find a fault in him.

Mr. Peter Coats' "Endale," another grand old bull, has met with considerable success, retaining his unbeaten certificate throughout the year. He commenced by winning first at the Royal Dublin, and was afterwards first at the Shropshire and West Midland, first and champion at the Hereford and Worcester, and first and champion at the Welsh National. "Endale" was bred by his owner at Sheep Coats, Hereford, and is four years and eight months old. His sire was Commerce 19660, and his dam Royal Luna II. He combines all the essential points of a high-class beef sire, being a wonderfully good-fronted bull, of great length, and though he is rather weak at the hind quarters, he is a formidable opponent in any show-ring.

Amongst the two-year-old bulls, Mr. A. P. Turner's "Marquis" stands out prominently. He secured first prizes at the Bath and West, Hereford and Worcester, and Royal shows, being also reserve champion male at Park Royal. "Marquis" was bred by his exhibitor, and is by Lord Lieutenant (22323), out of Madge, by Clarence (15944). He is a bull of great substance, and shows a lot of character, but he appears to be a little narrow behind when walking from one.

Mr. Allen E. Hughes' success with yearling bulls has been phenomenal for some time, nine