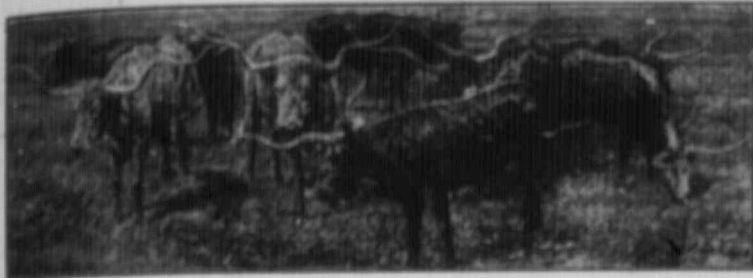
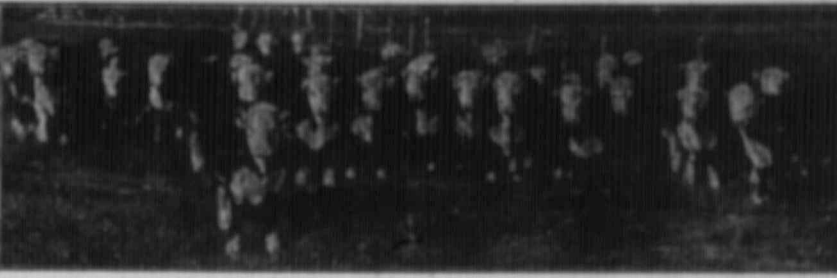


n Development of the White Faces



The Long-Horns of the Texas Plains in the Early Eighties.



Texas-Bred Herefords of the Present Day. An Evidence of what can be accomplished by judicious breeding.

THE famous "Whiteface" breed of cattle now so popular and well known all over the world, had its origin and derived its name from the County of Hereford, situated in the western part of England on the borders of Wales.

From time immemorial the county and district adjoining Herefordshire has been famous for the size, hardiness and general excellence of its cattle. As early as 1627, Speed, a noted writer on agriculture in those days, wrote with reference to Herefordshire, "The soyle of the county was so fertile for corn and cattle that no place in England yieldeth more or better conditioned." Later, in 1788, William Marshall, a Yorkshireman, in one of his letters on British Agriculture, wrote: "The Herefordshire breed of cattle, taking it all is all, may, without risque, I believe, be deemed the first breed in the island." There are numerous similar references in the history of English agriculture to the wonderful qualities of the cattle of the county of Hereford and it therefore may safely be assumed that the Hereford breed had for its foundation stock of undoubted merit and it is mainly on this account that the breed as it is today is so renowned for its hardiness of constitution and ability to withstand hardships and disease in every country where they have been tried.

Until about the close of the eighteenth century the cattle of Herefordshire were especially noted as draught oxen and on account of their exceptional size and strength were eagerly sought after all over the country. About that time, however, began the great transition in British agriculture—industries were growing, the population increasing at a rapid rate and the consequent demand for beef awoke breeders to the fact that it was a far better paying proposition to breed and feed their cattle for beef at from three to four years old than keep them for draught purposes up to eight and ten years old as was the general practice then. Hereford cattle showed to even greater advantage under the altered conditions than they did under the old system and quickly became famous for their capability to produce beef on less rations and at an earlier age than other breeds. The establishment of the Smithfield Club Fat Stock Show in 1799 proved of great benefit in raising the general standard of all breeds of cattle in the country and also gave the Herefords an opportunity of demonstrating their superiority over other breeds in the matter of beef production. A Hereford bullock, fed and

The Original Draught Animal of Herefordshire has been Developed into a Rugged, Easy Feeding Breed, Particularly Adapted for Grazing

By W. G. C. Britten

Secretary, The Hereford Herd Book Society, Herefordshire, Englands

shown by Mr. Westcar, won first prize at the opening show and was sold for £100 (a very big figure in those days). Another bullock of the breed, exhibited by the then Duke of Bedford, won the prize given for "the best ox, fattened with grass and hay only, in the shortest time from the yoke." It was the custom then and for many years afterwards for all breeds to be shown in competition at the Smithfield Club Shows, and during the years this system was in vogue Herefords won 185 prizes as compared with Shorthorns 82, Devons 44, Scotches 43, Sussex 2, Longhorns 4, and Crossbreds 3.

Early Improvers

To one "Benjamin Tomkins," who farmed at Kings Pyon, Herefordshire, towards the end of the eighteenth century, history attributes the honor of

mottled face, grey and light grey. Each color had its own group of admirers, and for many years the "color fight" was waged. Even as late as 1846, when Mr. Eyton established the Herd Book of Hereford Cattle, a feud existed between the admirers of these four colors and cattle of each type were entered in the first volume. In course of time, however, the champions of the "red with white faces" gradually gained complete ascendancy and by means of selection and resort to the process of "in and in breeding" this color marking became indelibly fixed and is today what may be termed "the hallmark of the breed."

As has been mentioned before the foundation stock of the Hereford-bred animals possessed great size, strength and hardiness of constitution and breeders throughout the whole course

pedigrees of their animals, which naturally was not conducive to the spreading of the "improved" breed and in order to assist matters in this direction a Mr. T. C. Eyton, of Wellington, Shropshire, determined to commence the compilation of a Herd Book of Hereford cattle and in 1846 issued the first volume containing the pedigree of 551 bulls.

Other volumes were published later at varying intervals, and breeders slowly but surely recognized the great benefit derived by themselves and the breed generally, by the careful keeping and publishing of herd records and without which it would have been impossible to have continued breeding on any scientific and methodical principle.

In 1878 the breeders of Hereford cattle formed themselves into a corporation named "The Hereford Herd Book Society," which body has since that date studiously encouraged the improvement and advancement of the breed both at home and abroad.

In 1883, when 15 volumes of pedigrees had been published, it was decided that in order to maintain the purity of the breed, no cattle should be entered in the Herd Book in future except those whose sire and dam had already been registered. Thus from the year 1883, no impure blood has been allowed to be used in the breed and now, after a period of 34 years careful breeding and selection the Hereford breed can claim to be "the purest breed of cattle in the world."

This question of absolute purity of blood is of the utmost importance to new breeders establishing a herd and also to graders of native stock, because they can safely rely on the "Hereford" producing calves of correct type and character and not be subject to the annoyance and disappointment of having from time to time a number of "throw backs" or mongrels as is often the case when animals are the offspring of graded or "pure by crossing" parents.

General Characteristics

The color and markings of Hereford cattle are most striking and impressive and impart a uniform appearance to herds seldom seen in the case of other breeds. The body color is a rich deep red, head, crest, brisket and under parts of the body pure white. A little red round the eyes or red eyelids are often preferred by breeders of Herefords in the hottest climates, the reason for this being that

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Judging Herefords at Regina Summer Fair, 1918.

being "first improver and founder of the modern Hereford." To his untiring efforts, sound judgment and skill in breeding, the proud position of the breed today is undoubtedly due. His splendid example was soon followed by many other breeders, notably John Price, of Ryall, William and John Hewer, Edward and Thomas Jeffries, to mention only a few, all of whom devoted their lives to the work of improving, strengthening and fixing the type of the breed.

The earliest improvers very wisely adopted the policy of selecting and breeding from animals that exhibited the most important characteristics of a beef breed, viz.: hardiness of constitution combined with ability to put on flesh at an early age, ignoring almost entirely such minor and unimportant points as color markings. Later, however, when these essential characteristics had been fixed in the breed, there arose a spirited controversy as to the ideal color and markings that should be adopted. The four colors most in favor were red with white face, red with ticked or

of the "improvement" period consistently retained these most important characteristics in their cattle, so that today the modern Hereford is equally as hardy as his ancestors but has been vastly improved in the matter of early maturity, which is so important and is going to be even more important in the future as the demand for beef becomes greater.

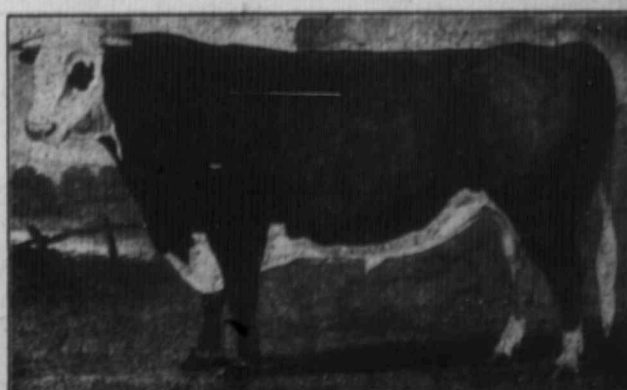
All these qualities have, by the systematic methods adopted by breeders for over a century, become thoroughly fixed in the breed and the claim that "the Hereford sire is by far the most prepotent sire of all races of cattle" is amply justified by the extraordinary influence he has had in the grading up of native stock in practically every country of the world.

Herd Book Established

For many years the improvement of the cattle of Herefordshire was entirely in the hands of various individual breeders or groups of breeders, many of whom jealously guarded the secrets of their particular system of breeding and the



A Typical Two-Year-Old Bull of today. Weight, 2,100 pounds at this age.



The Type of Hereford Bred One Hundred Years Ago.