

cows in Ayrshire were a small, shapeless, inferior breed of cattle, few of them giving more than six or eight quarts of milk per day, and when put to beef they seldom weighed over 400 lbs. In color they were mostly black with white faces and a white stripe along their back. Mr. Howard tells us that about the middle of the 17th century a gentleman by the name of Dunlop brought several cattle of the Teeswater breed from England. These cattle were large sized and great milkers. Whether the Ayrshire cow is directly descended from the Teeswater breed or whether there was any other breed imported to cross them with or whether they were crossed with the native cattle of the country is not definitely known. One thing certain is the improvement must have been very rapid, for Mr. Farrel, writing in 1775, tells us that the improvement was simply marvellous. And in the year 1788 the Laird of Dunlop presented the Poet Burns with a two-year old heifer, said to be the finest quey in Scotland. And again, Rawlin, who wrote in 1794, in speaking of the Dunlop cows says they were the greatest cows to yield milk of any breed in Great Britain or Ireland. The Ayrshire cow was introduced into Canada almost with the first settlers. They were brought out in vessels to supply the passengers and their families with milk during their long voyage and on landing were eagerly sought after by farmers living near Montreal and Quebec. I will now proceed to show some peculiarities of the Ayrshire cow which renders her the best dairy cow for the Canadian farmer. She is very docile, being easily petted. She has a very strong constitution. She is very thrifty, being able to gain a good living where most other breeds would starve. They will give more good milk from the same amount of food than any other breed. The following are five points essentially necessary in a good dairy cow, no matter of what breed she is, and I think the Ayrshire fills the bill fully as well as any other breed:—

1. A large udder is of elastic quality.
2. A soft, mellow, movable skin.
3. A large, roomy barrel.
4. Long, broad rumps and thin hips.
5. A fine, tapering neck, with clean cut face with large, prominent eyes.

I think I will be able to satisfy the most skeptical that the Ayrshire cow has fully sustained in Canada the reputation she has gained for herself in her native land. I will now try to show you how she succeeds when in competition with other breeds.

In the year 1882 W. Weld, Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, offered \$100 for the best five cows for general purpose and profit at the Provincial Exhibition held at Kingston. The owners were required to give an account of their doings for the last year. This account was taken into consideration by the judges in making their awards. This prize was awarded to five Ayrshire cows owned by Thos. Guy, Oshawa. And in the same year an Ayrshire cow owned by the same gentleman took first place at the Toronto Industrial. And in 1884, at the Industrial held in Toronto, the first prize in the milk test was awarded to an Ayrshire cow, also owned by Mr. Guy. And in the same year, at the Provincial held at Ottawa, an Ayrshire cow, owned by James Drummond, Montreal, took first for the best cow that had calved previous to the first of May. And an Ayrshire

cow, owned by the same gentleman, took first for the best cow calved after the first of May; also an Ayrshire cow, owned by Jas. Callander, North Gower, took 2nd. In 1886, at the Dominion Exhibition held at Sherbrooke, Quebec, three prizes were offered in the milk test and all three were captured by Ayrshire cows. The 1st owned by Thos. Brown, 2nd by James Drummond and the 3rd by Thos. Ervin, all of Montreal.

In the year 1887, at the Grand Dominion Jubilee Exhibition, held at Ottawa, the sweepstake for best milk cow of any breed was awarded to an Ayrshire cow owned by myself.

In the summer of 1884 Professor Brown conducted a test of dairy cows. He commenced his test with eleven different breeds, but before he concluded the test he had discarded all but three, namely, the Ayrshire, Jersey and the Holstein. For weight of milk the Holstein took the lead and the Ayrshire next, and for quality the Jersey took first and the Ayrshire second, and when it came to quality and quantity combined the Ayrshire took the lead. And to make it still plainer, so that any person could understand it, he showed the value of the different cows' milk for a certain length of time. While the Ayrshire cow gave 6,000 lbs. milk the Jersey gave 5,000 lbs., and the Holstein gave 7,000 lbs.; the Ayrshire cow's milk was worth \$47.00; the Jerseys was worth \$46.00, and the Holsteins was worth only \$22.00.

In conclusion, let me say that I could easily have collected still more evidence to show that the Ayrshire cow is not only the best dairy cow in Scotland, her native country, but that she stands unrivalled as a dairy cow in Canada. Since the year 1882 she has come out ahead no less than twenty times. What we claim is that the Ayrshire cow is the best dairy cow in the world, under ordinary circumstances, with such treatment as the Canadian farmer generally gives his cows. She is a very reliable breeder. This is a very great advantage to the dairyman when he can depend on his cows coming in at a certain season of the year. She is also very prolific. I will give you one instance: H. E. Eyre, Esq., of Harlem, purchased a heifer calf from me which gave birth to a calf at two years old and another at three, and in the spring of 1889, a few weeks before she was four years old, she presented her owner with a beautiful pair of twin heifers. Last fall, at the County of Leeds Agricultural Exhibition, the cow and her four heifers took five prizes against strong competition.

We do not claim for the Ayrshire that they are a beef breed, but if bred for that purpose their beef qualities would soon improve for they are good feeders. I will give you my experience with them as beefers: In the year 1884 I killed, "off the grass," a four-year-old heifer which proved barren. She dressed 775 lbs. beef, 120 lbs. tallow and her skin weighed 73 lbs., and last summer I milked an Ayrshire cow till June; dried her off, and fed her on grass alone, and in competition with other breeds she took 1st at Kingston, 2nd at Ottawa, 1st at Renfrew, and 1st at Almonte for beef. About the beginning of December I killed her, she weighed 650 lbs. beef, 112 lbs. tallow and her skin weighed 72 lbs. Last fall I killed an Ayrshire cow that was 19 years of age. The beef was good.

A few good sales of the produce of a stallion will do more to raise a horse in the estimation of breeders than anything else. Owners of stallions should make a note of this.

Berkshires vs. Yorkshires.

BY WILLIAM DAVIES, TORONTO.

In your July number appears an article on Berkshires versus Yorkshires by Mr. Benjafield, Dorsetshire, Eng., and I ask space to reply. That gentleman characterizes my letters on the above subject as "*mis-representations*" and my style as "*bitter*." This I deny in toto and appeal to your numerous readers, not fearing their verdict; but what shall we say of the person who thus denounces my writing, and then proceeds to characterize his opponent's statements as "*vile assertions*," "*libels*," and "*wild unscrupulous and vindictive outbursts of prejudice*." But, now, to the subject. Mr. Benjafield and other breeders of Berkshires contend that they are par excellence, the pig suited to the wants of pork packers, while we bacon curers dispute this, contending they are too fat, I presume. Mr. Benjafield will be proud to admit that pigs in all large hog raising countries are more indebted to Berkshires for their improvement than to any other breed. I should suppose from a general knowledge of the subject that Berkshire boars have been kept in the ratio of five to one of any other breed, and probably five to one of all other breeds, and as we pork packers are at our wits end to get pigs lean enough to suit our customers, is it not clear to any impartial person that we are indebted to the Berkshires for the fat hogs, the product of which we do not know what to do with, for every year, and I might say every month, consumers become more exacting and clamorous in their demand for lean. We are paying regularly a much higher price for long fleshy hogs, about 170 lbs. alive, than for fat hogs 220 lbs. Is it to be credited that we do this for fun, or as Artemus Ward would say "*pure cussedness*."

Mr. B. intimates that Messrs. Harris & Co., of Calne, Eng., speaks highly of the Berkshires, and that they and other bacon curers offered prizes for the most suitable bacon hogs, one of which was taken by Berkshires and White Cross, a pen of ten pigs, and the first prize for the pen of five by Berkshires. This I do not dispute. Neither my firm or Harris care what breed they are if they fill the bill, and without doubt some young Berkshires suitably fed can be made to meet our requirements, but you will note that the first prize for ten went to cross bred, which is just what pork packers recommend. But I have before me an article by Thomas Harris, one of the firm Mr. Benjafield swears by, in which he says:—"Years ago the Berkshires was much more valuable, but fashion has spoiled them, and breeders will have to alter the present standard if they wish the bacon curers to recommend this breed to the farmers. The middle and small Yorkshires have the same fault as the Berkshires carried to a much greater extent." Further, he says:—"The principal, and I consider the best breeds of pigs, are the Berkshires, Yorkshires and the Tamworths. The first are beautiful animals and everything that can be desired except that most important point leanness."

If I were writing as a breeder of Yorkshires only partiality might lead me to advise farmers to breed and feed the Improved Large Yorkshires, but my interests as a breeder are infinitesimal compared with my interests as a pork packer and bacon curer. Hence, I again urge farmers who read this to cross their ordinary