

## EDITORIAL.

## Kerries and Dexter-Kerries.

The cattle represented on our first page, although not introduced into Canada, are the only pure-bred native breed of cattle in Ireland that possess much merit. They have been bred pure for a great number of years; but only in an aimless way until within a comparatively recent period. For a considerable time their excellent dairy qualities have won for them much favor in many parts of Britain, as well as in their native home. In general outline they are small but handsome, possessing finely-formed limbs. Their average height is about forty inches, and dressed weight of bullocks is from 400 to 500 pounds, and the average live weight of the cows is from 500 to 600 pounds. They are exceptionally hardy,—will live and thrive in almost any ordinary climate. The Kerry is known as "the poor man's" or the Irish cottier's dairy cow, especially in cold and inferior districts; but the breed also possesses the power of beef production in an eminent degree.

**Points.**—The true Kerry colors are orange skin with black hair, though specimens with red-brown hair do occur in the purest blood, but more frequently, perhaps, in the Dexter variety than in the others. White patches also appear from time to time. The head is small, fine, tapering, and well-balanced; cheeks lean; muzzle fine; nostrils high, well-placed, and rather open; eyes mild, full, and lively; horns well-sprung, rather upstanding, and smooth, rather thick at the base, but gently tapering and tipped with black; ears small, fine, and of rich orange color within. The neck is straight and fine. The body is well-rounded, the back being straight and even and the ribs well-sprung. The chest is fairly deep and broad; shoulders sloping and withers fine; hind-quarters proportionately large, but narrow at the rumps and high at the thighs; udder well-rounded, full, and capacious, in line with the belly and well up behind; teats large, well-placed, and rather far apart. The fore legs are short and straight; hind legs squarely placed and well-proportioned.

Mr. James Robertson (England), who has done a great deal to advance the interests of the Kerries, makes the following observations: "I have made no extended experiments and am unaware of any having been made; but my experience of an average Kerry cow is that she will yield twelve quarts of milk per day, and ten to eleven quarts of milk will make a pound of butter. My herd is kept on prime old pasture which has been most judiciously 'laid down.' The part the Kerry plays most prominently in the agriculture of the country is that they are bred by small farmers in the Kerry Mountains, where they have a temperature and climate much resembling that of the Welsh Mountains. They are kept in and about that district until they are from two and one-half to three years old, when they are bought up in the local fairs in Kerry and elsewhere for the richer lands of surrounding districts; in fact, the popular idea is that if land is not good enough to fatten Shorthorn cattle it will be occupied by Kerries.

"Considering the utter neglect with which the Kerry has been treated—no method whatever being followed in their breeding—it is a wonder that they are not extinct long ago. They are very easily kept. Two will consume very little more food than one large Shorthorn, and when crossed with it make both good dairy cows and butchers' beasts. The Kerry cattle are extremely hardy, not liable to disease, are handsome, docile, pretty in the park or paddock, and excellent butter-makers. My champion bull, Busaco, who has never been beaten in a show-yard, and who obtained Royal prizes, measured 68 inches in girth, 36 in height, and 34 from tail to top of shoulder."

The Dexter variety, or Dexter-Kerries, though now distinctly, in all senses of the term, a pure Kerry, whatever may have been its origin, is a much more compact, more substantial and lower-set animal than the Kerry proper. The leg bones are shorter and more substantial, the neck thicker and shorter, and the horns heavier, not so elevated and airy, and the head heavier and not so deer-like as in the case of the original Kerry. It is claimed by some authorities that they contain Devon blood; others are of the opinion that their difference is due only to selection. The name Dexter comes from the name of a man who was the founder of this variety.

**Our Illustration.**—The Kerry bull, Gay Lad, the property of Mr. James Robertson, The Firs, Hatton, near Warwick, Eng., number in Herd

Book, 288, won first prize at the Oxford Shire Show, first at Bournemouth, and also at the Royal at Darlington, and has, therefore, an unbeaten record. As regards symmetry and style, this bull leaves but little to be desired, whilst his exquisite touch and quality cannot fail to captivate. Our engraving has been re-engraved from the English Live Stock Journal.

The Dexter-Kerry bull, Tommy Dodd, also the property of Mr. James Robertson, is of the miniature type. He has several first prizes to his credit, and with luck cannot fail to add further honors to his list as time goes on. He is very refined in bone and very true in character and quality. This bull was sold on July 11, among 52 others of Mr. James Robertson's, for fifty guineas, to the Prince of Wales.

Mr. Robertson has held two previous sales. At the one recently held, the animals (all females but Tommy Dodd) averaged £2 a head more than at former sales. The highest price paid for a female was forty guineas for Gilia, sold to A. N. Cookson. The average for the 53 head was £18 2s. 11d., making a total of £961 16s., which shows the high value set upon the breed where well-known.

## Speeding Horses at Agricultural Exhibitions.

SIR,—Several applications having been made to this Department by various Agricultural Societies for an interpretation of Section 29 of the Agriculture and Arts Act, 1895, the following decision is given to the officers and directors for their guidance, as being the evident intention of the Legislature when passing the Act.

By Section 9 of the said Act, the object of such Societies, as relating to live stock, is confined to two things: (a) the purchase or importation of valuable animals, and (b) awarding premiums for excellence in the raising of stock, etc. Sub-section 3 of this Section declares that none of the funds shall be expended for any purpose inconsistent with the above.

The opinion of the Legislature, as expressed in Section 29, was that horse-racing, as ordinarily conducted, is inconsistent with the objects above set forth. It is presumed therefore, in awarding premiums for light horses of any class, that form, soundness and style shall always be considered as well as speed, and that no horse shall be placed first for speed alone. If, in the judgment of the officers or judges, it is deemed desirable to test the speed of the contesting horses, it is competent under this clause to do so; but the prizes must in every case be awarded on general excellence, as possessing the above characteristics. Neither is it intended that purses shall be prepared of offerings from owners of contesting horses, but that premiums shall be offered in the ordinary way.

It is hoped that the operation of this clause will do away with the professional racehorse at our agricultural shows, and tend to promote the development and encourage the breeding of sound, stylish, right-stepping horses, so much in demand in the great horse markets of the world.

JNO. DRYDEN,  
Minister of Agriculture.

Toronto, Aug. 7, 1895.

[NOTE.—Section 29 of the new Act referred to above reads thus:—

"It shall not be lawful to carry on any horse-racing other than trials of speed under the control and regulation of the officers of the Society during the days appointed for holding any Exhibition by any district or township Society at the place of holding the Exhibition or within five miles thereof."

Evidently, the purport of the Minister's letter interpreting this Section is that the Agricultural Department—very wisely, we think,—seeks to discourage the professional racing class of "attractions," and lead the people, so far as possible by these Exhibitions, to produce the class of horses that just now commands the highest price in the market. Horse-racing, so called, does not accomplish this object.—EDITOR.]

In the last issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE we gave in popular phraseology an account of the principles observed and practice pursued in originating new varieties of grain by cross-fertilization. Considerable work of this nature has been carried on at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, under Prof. Saunders; and we are pleased to state that Mr. C. A. Zavitz, the well-known Experimentalist of the O. A. C., Guelph, Ont., will soon devote special attention to this line of investigation. He recently made a tour of other leading experiment stations and seed establishments, picking up many valuable points in connection with his work.

## The Stock Feeding Problem.

Late July and early August rains wonderfully improved the barley, oat and other grain crops, so that the shortage in hay will result in the extra straw being more carefully utilized than in past seasons. The corn and root outlook is generally reported very bright now, and there is far greater acreage of the former than usual. A vastly increased area of millet, Hungarian, rape, rye, white turnips, etc., for supplementary fall feeding, was also sown this season in order to remedy the serious effects of drought. Seedsmen report the run on these classes of seed as something enormous; especially so in the case of rape, the supply of which was completely exhausted.

The stock feeding question will, however, still be a serious one in some sections during the coming winter. Mr. C. P. Goodrich writes in the Prairie Farmer that he does not believe it unreasonable to hope that the short hay crop may prove a blessing to hundreds of farmers by compelling them to adopt better methods of saving their forage, and above all to build silos, as did his son, after a tremendous flood, a few years ago, had swept away 120 acres of bottom land hay, which was being depended upon to feed 75 head of cattle and a number of horses. The young man had 90 acres of corn and 25 acres of clover on upland. It was his custom to break off the ears of corn and allow the cattle to browse upon the stalks for a short time. On this particular season, a round silo was built, having a 30 feet inside diameter, and 25 feet high to the eaves. Into this he cut 40 acres of good, well-eared corn, which was planted thin so as to be heavily eared. After he had been feeding ensilage a short time, he discovered that he had not stock enough for the food. He therefore got 25 more cows and young stock. He wintered his 100 head of cattle and his horses in fine shape, and had in the spring half his clover hay to sell at \$12 per ton. He had milked over 50 cows during the winter, and said he never had cows produce so well in winter before, besides having never fed them at so small a cost. That winter's experience taught him that silos were "all right," and he put up another smaller one for summer feeding, which enabled him to get through the summer of 1893 on 60 acres of pasture for his 100 head. They were fed ensilage twice a day, and so well did they like it that by four o'clock every afternoon they were at the gate waiting to come to the barn for their feed. They allowed the timothy and clover to grow up so well in the pasture that several tons of hay were cut therefrom. Besides this, the cows did better in giving milk than they had done in previous summers, and the butter was better flavored, because the cows had eaten fewer weeds. During the severe drought last year that summer silo caused the cows to produce about as well as if they had had the best of pasture. No other cows in that part of the county could begin to compare with them in the amount of butter they produced. "It was a perfect bonanza," says Mr. Goodrich.

## Agricultural Societies.

A circular from the Ontario Department of Agriculture, addressed to officers and directors of agricultural societies, notes that the Agriculture and Arts Act was consolidated and amended at the recent session of the Legislature, and directs attention to the following principal changes: 1. All new societies—district, township, and horticultural—must hereafter be organized in the same way, with the approval of the Department, and only in the month of January (see section 7). 2. All societies previously organized are now bodies corporate. 3. Heretofore the directors made by-laws, etc.; hereafter the making of by-laws and regulations is in the hands of the members (section 13). 4. All township and horticultural societies must send their reports directly to the Department (section 12), and applications for grants must be made to the Department before September 1st (section 19). 5. The division of grants will be made hereafter by the Department, and cheques will be forwarded directly from Toronto. In order to participate in the legislative grant the regulations of the Act must be carefully observed.

Attention is also directed by the Department to the new regulations regarding agricultural shows, a summary of which was given in the ADVOCATE for May 15th.

## Market Reports.

For the special information of feeders and stock farmers generally, we have, at considerable outlay, completed arrangements for regular reports, prepared by trustworthy parties, of the four principal centres of interest to our Canadian and United States readers, viz., Montreal, Toronto, Buffalo, and Chicago. We now devote a regular department, "Live Stock Markets," to this important subject. What we have published heretofore has met with an appreciative reception on the part of our readers, and in response to further enquiries, we have very considerably extended the scope of the department, which we believe will prove of value.

Recent advices report the English and European apple crop as abundant this season and of good quality—quite the reverse of last year.

Breed at random and you will repent at leisure.