

Cruickshank bull. You just get the style you want without sacrificing the great block of beef which must ever be the chief characteristic of a Shorthorn of any merit. "SCOTLAND YET."

The Royal Herds at Windsor.

In a review of the studs, herds, and flocks of the British Isles the *London Live Stock Journal* refers at length to the herds of different breeds of cattle to be found at the Queen's farm at Windsor and the records made by representative animals from these herds at leading shows in the Old Country in the last ten years, and gives the following summary of prizes won within that time: 119 firsts, 73 seconds, 21 thirds, 56 specials and cups, including best Shorthorn in Birmingham and London 11 times, best Hereford in Birmingham and London 6 times, best Devon in Birmingham and London 7 times, best male at the "Royal" shows once and once reserve, best female at the "Royal" shows twice and once reserve.

The above record cannot fail to indicate in a most convincing way the extraordinary success which has attended the exhibition of animals from the Royal herds. Seeing that only the more important shows were patronized the prize records are all the more striking; and naturally the question arises, What are the parent stocks which have produced those splendid specimens successfully alike at the breeding and fat stock shows?

If, therefore, while giving up the idea of speaking of the merits of the individual animals composing the herds, we confine our remarks to a great extent to the sires that have been used in the herds in the interval between the two Jubilees, a fairly accurate opinion may be formed of the breeding pursued on the Windsor farms. Naturally, the Shorthorn herd first claims our attention, and for two important reasons. Taken one year with another, the Shorthorns number about as many head as the Herefords and Devons put together, and, much as these two latter breeds have been in evidence at the fat shows, very few males have been sold from Windsor as sires to exercise an influence on the cattle in other herds.

In the full account of the Windsor herds above referred to as written for the *Live Stock Journal* in 1896, the year before the Jubilee, we find mention of two sires, Royal Leopold 53600 and Gracchus 54386. These two bulls—both prize-winners—if not pure Booths, had been bred in herds in which Booth blood had been largely used. As, however, we find no trace of them in the later catalogues of the Windsor herd they do not claim further attention.

In the autumn of 1886 a new departure was made, and the Cruickshank bull Field Marshal 47870 was obtained. Here, however, it may be stated that three North of Scotland heifers had been bought in the spring of 1886 and are spoken of in the article already quoted as "a lesson in breeding and feeding, and a good deal besides." It is evident the lesson was taken to heart, and the result was the transference of Field Marshal from Collynie to Windsor; and there can be no question regarding the amount of good this animal exercised in the herd. At the time the bull was brought south comparatively little was known by English breeders of the Sittytton herd from whence he sprang. Breeders south of the Tweed had become accustomed to think we had two, and only two, great families of Shorthorns—the Booth and the Bates—and, while for years prior to this date the most of the sires bred at Sittytton were being taken in bulk to Canada and the United States, where their value was known, Field Marshal may be said to have been the first Cruickshank animal to open the minds of English breeders to the fact that there was a third strain of blood in the kingdom claiming to be possessed of prepotency and power in a remarkable degree. Much has been said and written regarding the Sittytton cattle since Field Marshal first crossed the Tweed, and Shorthorn breeders generally have come to acknowledge the intrinsic value of Cruickshank Shorthorns. While perhaps they may lack in some respects the style and character we were so much accustomed to in the Booth and Bates herds, no one can deny that they are strong in constitution and possessed of that important qualification which has been described as thrift.

It is interesting to look back upon the doings in the Windsor Shorthorn herd during the Jubilee year. Brought from the far north-east of Scotland, Field Marshal was mated with cows of Booth blood, mixed blood, and three females bred in the extreme south-west of England, to produce stock to become champion prize-winners at our great national shows. Amongst the females referred to were Ruth 201st, Ruth 205th, and Ruth 210th, bred in a large herd of Shorthorns in Cornwall, the descendants of one foundation cow. At the same time as Field Marshal stood at Windsor, a bull of mixed breeding, but of extraordinary individual excellence, was used and shown. Those who attended the Windsor meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society will remember this animal winning easily in a strong class of yearling bulls. As the property of Her Majesty, this bull, New Year's Gift 57796, was shown six times, and won six first prizes and four championships. He was sold at the Windsor sale in 1882 for 1,000 gs., and since then has been champion at the "Royal," the Yorkshire, and the Highland shows. At Windsor he was freely used for two seasons, and at the same time several home-bred sons of Field Marshal were also in service. One at least of those home-bred sires did

good service, and to-day a large number of the young stock in the herd bear evidence of his value as a sire. We refer to Fairfax 60792, a Windsor-bred bull, a first-prize winner at the "Royal," where he was also reserve number for the male championship. Volunteer 63501 and Gael 60855, two pure Cruickshank bulls, were then used. Both afterwards found a home at Sandringham. It is interesting to note that Volunteer was the sire of a Windsor-bred heifer that won in prizes in 1895 a grand total of £770 in money and plate; while Gael at Sandringham was the sire of a bull that, after winning as a two-year-old at the "Royal" in 1896, was sold to go to South America for 1,000 gs.

As a sire to follow Volunteer and Gael, Count Lavender 60545 was hired from Mr. J. Deane Willis, and at the same time Nobleman 65908, a home-bred straight Cruickshank bull, was also used. At the present time the two stock bulls are Christmas Gift 66837 and Prince Victor, a yearling bull bred by Mr. J. Deane Willis from an Uppermill Princess Royal cow and by the famous prize-winning bull, Count Victor 66877.

From what has been said it will be gathered that the Scotch element is in strong evidence in the herd, seeing that there has been a continued use of pure Cruickshank sires. While this is so, there has been no blind following of what may be termed the "fashion" for Scotch blood. None but sires of high individual merit have been used, and, as has been seen, Fairfax 60792, got by Field Marshal from a cow bought at Sandringham, of Booth-on-Gamble breeding, coming after the Sittytton sires, reinforced a strong dash of English blood into a large number of the younger females. Reference has been made to the Ruths from Cornwall, a family that will be a lasting credit to the genius of the late William Trethewy, whose herd had on more than one occasion been drawn upon for females. Mention must also be made of females from the late Robert Thompson's herd at Inglewood. These have been mated with Sittytton and home-bred bulls, and the young heifers from them have all the thickness of the Sittytton sorts, with the hair, quarters, and character of Inglewood cattle in their best days.

There is no lack of beautiful, strong-constituted youngsters in the herd; and, looking at the two-year-old heifers, the yearling heifers, and the calves, one cannot fail being strongly impressed with the belief that the Shorthorn herd is attaining year by year a higher and more uniform type.

Preparing Show Cattle.

Grooming is as necessary with show cattle as with horses, if they are to be shown in perfection and to best advantage. A couple of months' grooming will bring them up to fine form, provided they have been well fed and kept in clean quarters. We want as far as possible new coats shining like those of spring. A good means of getting the old hair to shed is to provide a blanket for each animal and have it worn 12 to 14 hours a day. A good washing with carbolic soap and tepid water should be given at the commencement of blanketing to remove the dandruff from the hide. Once a month afterwards will be often enough to wash if the bedding is well looked after. A rough-coated beast or one having more than an ordinary amount of dandruff may require an extra washing and a heavier blanket, with a little oil rubbed in, which will usually give the desired gloss. It requires rubbing and brushing, brushing and rubbing, day after day, and considerable elbow grease, to put on the shine.

"A corn brush, a soft brush and a chamois skin are the tools required for putting on the polish," says the *Agricultural Gazette*. The skin becomes soft under this treatment, and a curry comb should seldom be used. In rubbing down with the cloth it must be done quickly. The friction raises a certain amount of heat, which is the main agent in putting on the shine. Nothing equals the bare hand for putting on the fine touches. It is not easy to say when grooming is perfect, but when the skin will no longer soil a white kid glove with either dust or hair, there is not much to complain of. This condition is not, however, reached without many days of careful sheeting and rubbing. Some fancy they can with one washing and a few groomings do all that can be done, but there is a great difference between the hastily-prepared skin and one that has had weeks of labor, and the fine touch which skillful and persistent grooming gives may turn the scale, even with an expert judge, where the competition is very close.

The Truth About Hogs.

"A great deal of nonsense has been circulated with regard to hogs and their feed. It has been reiterated that the present high quality of our pig products is due to the fact that the hogs are fed with peas instead of corn. But the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, whose editor is a practical farmer, informs us that Canadian bacon owes its prestige to a variety of causes. To-day, indeed, peas are less the diet of the Canadian hog than they were twenty years ago, when the standing of Canadian bacon was not nearly so high as it is now, and our hog raisers enjoyed no such advantage in point of price as they at present command. In the interval, the Ontario Government, with the approval of an intelligent legislature, and of the people generally, has encouraged the cheesemaking industry, which has proved the best paying of all branches in the farmer's business, and on whey, a by-prod-

uct of the business, with various coarse grains, the hog raiser has depended for food for his animals. Then it must not be forgotten that great improvements have taken place in the breeding of pigs, and these have also contributed to the elevation of the standard attained. The intelligent farmer knows all this, but the amateur agriculturist, who writes for political effect, is more interested in trying to make his farmer readers dissatisfied with the new and better condition in which he is now placed than in telling the truth about Canada's great hog industry."—*London, Ont., Advertiser*.

FARM.

Cultivating Corn and Root Crops.

The importance of keeping the soil frequently stirred in the cultivation of root crops can hardly be overestimated. Even in times of extreme drouth it is of the utmost importance, and should be repeated at least once a week—twice would be better and will be found to pay. Especially just after a rain, as soon as the surface is dry enough to work without sticking, the horse hoe should be started in order to arrest evaporation and thus conserve or retain moisture. The force of capillary attraction is of wonderful value to the farmer, and he needs to fully understand it in order to make it his servant. Dip the lower end of a sponge in water and it becomes wet all through. Dry earth set in water at the bottom will slowly moisten up. The water rises through what are called capillary tubes. This is a fine provision of nature that makes water able to and forced to rise above its source among the particles of soil. The stirring of the surface soil forms a mulch which retains the moisture brought up by the capillary tubes by breaking these tubes so that the moisture does not reach the surface and become wasted by evaporation, but is diffused among the roots of the plants. It is a curious fact, but science tells us what any observant farmer can readily believe, that soon after a rain a cultivated field will actually become drier than it was before if the surface of the soil be not stirred. So it is manifest that no time should be lost after a shower in making an earth mulch as quickly as the condition of the land will admit of working it if we would get the full benefit of the rain. A single day's delay may mean a considerable loss in the crop, or it may not. It depends on the weather following. If rains come frequently, this extra cultivation may not be necessary, but it is best to be on the safe side and to cultivate after each rain, unless appearances indicate another very soon. If it does not rain within a week after cultivating, the operation should be repeated every few days, not only to keep weeds down but to break up the capillarity, as the surface will soon settle together again and will not serve so well the purpose of a mulch. It may seem to be asking a good deal to require, when this work has been done to-day and a shower of rain comes, that it be done over again perhaps to-morrow, but it must be done if the best results are to be obtained. Merely to work a crop so many times in a season will not fill the bill, at least in lands chiefly of clay. The up-to-date farmer will feel that he cannot afford to fix a day beforehand to go fishing or to a picnic during the tillage season. It may be just the day, if a shower has intervened, when he ought to be making an earth mulch in his corn or root field, and a delay of a day or two might mean the loss of many dollars in the crop. The doing of the right thing at the right time, and never leaving off till to-morrow what ought to be done to-day, are problems which the farmer is especially interested in and which he cannot afford to overlook or to treat with indifference.

Farm Machinery—Shelter, Care, and Loss Resulting from Neglect.

To the Editor *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*:

SIR,—All will agree that farm machinery should be sheltered and otherwise cared for when not in actual use. And as we find comparatively few farmers provided with an implement house, we therefore suggest building one.

In the first place select a site convenient to the lanes leading to the various fields and at a proper distance from the other buildings to ensure safety in case of fire. We think 20 x 40 feet a convenient size on an average farm. Divide into three spaces, two of 13 feet each and one of 14 feet; enclose these spaces on one side with doors, either roller or swinging. As for lumber, common will do, using good shingles for roofing and pine lumber for doors. Make good joints to prevent the entrance of fowls and sparrows, which are extremely fond of roosting on the implements, much to the discredit of the owner. The floor should be twelve inches above the ground, and the approaches to the doors filled evenly with earth or gravel. The farmer and two or three neighbors, one of whom should be a framer, can build and complete it in four days.

The shed being completed, store in the implements as follows: The binder in the fourteen foot space and by it the rest of the harvesting implements, next the balance of the implements, and lastly the vehicles. Leave a passage of ten feet between harvesting and tillage machinery, that there may be convenient access to all. Order in this building is very important. Have a place for every article and every article in its place.

When the implements are gathered into the