

The Relation of the Shorthorn Breeders of Canada to Those of the United States.

[A paper by W. D. Flatt, prepared for the annual meeting of the Central Shorthorn Breeders' Association, at Kansas City, Mo., January 29th.]

I am only a young member of the fraternity of Shorthorn breeders, but during the few years in which I have been engaged in the cattle-breeding industry I have met Shorthorn breeders from almost every country in the world. I find them generous and open-hearted almost without exception. I find that wherever they live they are working along the same lines—that they are planning similar conquests and reaching forward to similar results. I find also that in every country they recognize their dependence upon those beyond the borders of their own clime. They seem to be in agreement as to the need of some interchange of blood, and that therefore it is not best that an individual breeder or group of breeders in any particular locality should undertake to live entirely unto themselves.

There seems to be a general consensus of opinion that Shorthorns for these modern days must be bred not merely to be looked at and to give pleasure to the man of means, who may care nothing for their usefulness, but that they must possess real merit, and that they must be bred with the thought of pleasing the consumer, who is the final judge of the quality of the product.

Breeders from the United States and Canada have been from the very commencement of Shorthorn breeding on this continent on the most intimate terms. In the early days, many of the herds in Canada were started from importations from the United States, and an interchange was as common between Canada and the United States as between one county and another. In later years the trend has been to secure foundation blood from Scotland, and many of our herds of recent date have been founded upon animals bought in that country. Breeders in the United States have not been slow during the past twenty years to take advantage of their opportunity to purchase additions to their herds in Canada. The result is that breeders living in the two countries are as familiar with each other as those who live nearer at hand, and sometimes more so; so that so far as Shorthorn breeding is concerned, we are practically one people; and now, as the twentieth century commences, in which the battle of the beef breeds will wage fiercer every year, it seems clear that the best work can only be done by the union of Shorthorn breeders of every country, regardless of boundary lines, in self-defence, and in order to be helpers of each other, with the view of furnishing the greatest possible number of superior animals.

We have an example of the efforts of the proprietors of some other breeds of cattle in organization. The Shorthorn breeders ought now to follow that example. The influence of the breed may be enlarged and increased in power by a combination of interests and organized effort.

We believe that Shorthorns, as improvers of the common stock of either country, have no equal. While we say that, we have no word of disparagement to offer in connection with any other of the beef breeds, but we believe that crossing with Shorthorns produces better quality and better results than can be obtained in any other direction.

While this is true, it must be remembered that the value of the breed for beef-producing purposes will be judged by the average quality of that which is seen generally throughout the country. This we think is rising rapidly year by year. Nor must it be forgotten that from the very beginning of the work of our most noted breeders, Shorthorns have been famous for their milk-producing qualities. The result is that as a general purpose animal for the ordinary farmer they have no equal.

This continent has now received some of the best blood that can be found in Great Britain. If the herds established upon this blood be utilized to the best advantage, there seems no reason why in the near future some of our choicest animals should not go back to the land from whence they originated to strengthen the herds existing there. This has been done within the last fifty years, and it would appear that Shorthorn breeders were never in a better position than now to work out a similar problem. But if these possibilities are within our reach, they will be accomplished only by combining our forces and working harmoniously toward the same goal.

Again, may I say that the relations between the United States and Canada should be harmonious and cordial, because on both sides we are met with common difficulties. At the present time, through the influence and power of a few prominent veterinarians, the business of Shorthorn breeding is endangered by the use of the tuberculin test on animals transferred from one country to the other. If something cannot be done to relieve the inconvenience now caused (which will probably spread still further, resulting in restriction still nearer each individual), many of our best men will undoubtedly quit the business. This would be an unfortunate circumstance, as it is manifest that in order to do the best work in Shorthorn breeding, two things must be combined, capital and skill. There are those who would make skillful and famous breeders who are handicapped because they have not the capital to buy where and when they see it is to their best interest to do so. Men of capital, therefore, will not consent to put their

money into a business where they cannot have greater freedom than is now accorded in this respect.

I believe that breeders on both sides of the line are unanimous in their opinion that this test, as at present applied, is of no service whatever, and that it has not given security or protection to any of us. The present regulations were brought into effect by a conference of the Governments of the United States and Canada. It appears to me that, if my contention is right, it ought to be removed by the same authorities, operating at the same time in both countries. In this matter the relation of the breeders ought to be one of perfect harmony and unity. Immediately after the resolution was passed at the Shorthorn Breeders' meeting in Chicago relative to this question, a meeting of the Cattle Breeders' Association of Canada was called and a similar resolution was passed by that body with perfect unanimity. At the present time, almost every breeder who has had any experience is complaining of injuries which have been the result of the test when applied. I am of opinion that reliable tuberculin, when applied with care, may be injected without injury; but, unfortunately, when cattle are sold at all stages of pregnancy and under all conditions, and require to be tested at the moment, these evil results are most likely to occur; and inasmuch as cattle must be tested at the time, whether they are in the midst of nervous excitement or otherwise, the probability of a reaction is much increased.

Of recent years I have had much experience with this test, and have come to the conclusion that, administered as it is, it is almost certain in many cases to bring about serious results. I have known cows to receive an injection of tuberculin in the morning and abort their calves the next day. A neighbor of mine had five cows tested, and three of them aborted the following day. I find that others have had a similar experience, and will no doubt add their testimony. The experience of several of our breeders with whom I have conversed on this subject leads me to the conclusion that many young bulls have become impotent for many months on account of the test.

All this wanton destruction of some of the most valuable animals is caused by this test without an ounce of profit or protection to anybody interested, except it may be the veterinary surgeon who performs the operation. The test is confessedly not absolutely reliable, and therefore ought not to be imposed on one of the most important branches of agriculture in either country.

This, then, I conceive to be an important question, demanding the united action of the Shorthorn breeders of both countries. In Canada, a strong demand is being made for a change by the cattlemen, headed by that friend of the Canadian farmer, Hon. John Dryden. We believe we shall succeed, and I do not think I am going too far when I say that we have assurances that no objection will come from the Canadian Government if a mutual understanding is arrived at to remove this test altogether.

Another question presents itself to which unity of action will be needed: The American and Canadian standards are similar, and both now are higher than that now obtaining in England. It would be a boon to Shorthorn breeders if the standard could be made the same in Great Britain as it is on this continent. If this matter is to be dealt with at all, it can only be dealt with successfully by the united action of both these Associations. I would suggest that negotiations should be opened up by a committee appointed from both Associations that could present the matter from our point of view, and would have power, after negotiating, to make such recommendations as might in their judgment be necessary.

There is still one other matter that should receive attention: The same standard of registration exists in Canada and the United States, but where animals are sold in either country to be transported to the other, the customs authorities demand the registration certificates of the country to which the animal is being sent. These animals will undoubtedly be registered in the country to which they are going, but it is often extremely inconvenient and causes unnecessary annoyance to be obliged to wait until the pedigrees are forwarded for registration before the animals can be shipped. These are matters which demand the most intimate and fraternal relations between those living in Canada and the United States.

We are now started on the 20th century, and many of us are wondering as we look back over the past and see the great advances that have been made, what the 20th century will reveal as to progress in the various lines of human industry. We who are gathered here to-day are more deeply interested in asking the question, What progress will be made in the breeding of Shorthorns—what forward steps will be made in that direction? Men of wealth and keen perception are now engaged in this industry in both countries. It is fair, therefore, to expect that with the added knowledge which has come to us in recent years, much improvement will be made. Let us all, therefore, having this object in view, not seek to separate ourselves into State or Provincial groups—which are certain to be antagonistic to each other in some degree—but let us in all parts of this continent continue to fraternize with each other as we have always done in the past. Let us take advantage of our splendid soil and climate, and by a wise interchange of animals put American Shorthorns to the front in the World's market.

More of the Strange Doings at the Fat Stock Show.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

"Simplon Simon's" froth remind me of the Englishman's trite saying, "Tis cheap and nasty." I scorn replying to such contemptible jargon. Let the wretched, illegitimate thing die a natural death, as the misguided parent is evidently ashamed to publicly own it and come for it. Turning to Mr. A. W. Smith's explanation, I will ask him if the sheep he refers to was not as fully entered and as eligible for the block test as any one of the five the owner, Mr. Wright, had slaughtered. If Mr. Smith can show from rules and catalogue that he was barred, then he has scored a point. If he cannot, I will hold that he is attempting to screen that which I am exposing. For Mr. Smith's information, and others interested, I make the following statements to still further reveal the game played, and challenge successful contradiction:

1st. Mr. Richard Gibson was the judge's director, instructor and bookkeeper in the ring when class 28 was judged.

2nd. It was at Mr. R. Gibson's special request that Mr. J. G. Hanmer was appointed fourth judge for that class.

3rd. The order of judging, as given in prize list, was changed. Sec. 4 was called out before Sec. 3. That was one move in the game.

4th. In Sec. 4, wether under one year, Mr. J. T. Gibson won 1st, J. Campbell 2nd, W. E. Wright 3rd, J. Campbell 4th, L. Parkinson 5th, and Richard Gibson nowhere.

5th. In judging Sec. 3, three wethers under one year, next, which should have been done previously, Mr. Hanmer was so determined to have Mr. R. Gibson's pen first that a referee had to make the award.

Did Mr. Hanmer think the first-prize lamb in the former competition was in the pen of three for which he labored so hard, or DID HE KNOW, and can he now say?

For I suppose we must not for a moment think that Mr. Richard Gibson, with his sharp, critical eye and vast showyard experience, would allow his brother's first-prize lamb to be put in his own pen in order to win.

How, then, did Mr. Hanmer so strenuously try to place first a pen of which not one won a place in the ring previously. If such doings are not a farce, what is?

It is high time fair play should prevail.

Were there as determined efforts made in breeding and fitting sheep as there are in getting pet judges appointed, the excellence of some exhibits would be materially increased.

"Let the best win," should be the universal motto.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

Victoria Co., Ont.

Raising Pigs.

CARE OF BROOD SOWS.

In regard to the care of brood sows during cold weather, it is very essential to success to provide a dry, warm pen for them. Ample exercise is important, and it is better to have a good-sized pen if they cannot be let out of doors, which they should be if possible. They should be fed on shorts and oat chop (ground fine), and some roots or other green food. The sow should be shut up two or three days before farrowing, so as to get used to the pen.

See that the pen is warm, clean and dry, and the sow is free from vermin. If not, get rid of them by applying a little oil. After farrowing, feed her three times a day on some good milk-producing food, lightly for a few days and increase gradually as pigs grow older.

When the little pigs begin to eat, make a place where they can go, but where the sow cannot follow. In this place a shallow trough, and put a little shorts and warmed milk into it. The little fellows will soon learn to eat.

Wean the pigs at from six to eight weeks old. Feed them a few turnips, mangels or some kind of roots, in addition to shorts and milk, if in the winter; and, if in the summer, give the run of a grass patch with the shorts and milk. But do not give them more than they will eat up clean.

When they are about four months old, add a little pea and oat chop (ground fine), and keep increasing it until they are fit for market, when they should be receiving all chop. Pigs raised in this manner ought to be fit for market at the age of six months.

Pigs are the better for having charcoal, ashes, salt, sulphur, mixed together and placed where they can have free access to it.

S. W.

Huron Co., Ont.

A School of Agriculture for the Maritime Provinces.

A school of agriculture and horticulture for the Maritime Provinces of Canada has been under discussion for a considerable period. Some time ago a delegation visited the Ontario College at Guelph, with a view to further considering the matter. Now it has been decided to establish such a school for the three Provinces. The decision was arrived at, a few days ago, at a meeting of the premiers. The location has not yet been decided upon, but it will likely be Wolfville or Truro, N. S. Such a school, if well conducted, should be of great benefit to the farmers and fruit-growers down by the sea.