

GALLOWAY CATTLE.

To the Editor of the *Agriculturist*.

Sir,—In looking over the Prize List of the Provincial Agricultural Association for the present year, which has just come to hand, I observe that no premiums are offered for Galloway Cattle—though the same premiums were offered for them last year as were offered for the Devons, Ayrshires and Herefords. This may partly have arisen from this breed being so little known in the Province, as previous to the past year I am not aware that there was any pure bred Galloway cattle in the country. As different importations of this celebrated breed have been made lately, a brief account of it, collected from various sources, may not be unacceptable to your readers.

The true Galloways are without horns; their color is generally black, though sometimes red and dun; they are the most highly prized of all the polled breeds for their many excellencies.—They are a hardy and docile race and are admirably adapted to the grazier, as they fatten easily, and their beef commands a high price in the English market; it being fine in the grain, and the fat well mixed with the muscular parts.—The cows do not yield a large quantity of milk, but it is rich and affords comparatively a large proportion of butter, which is of the best quality; the average annual yield per cow, where all the milk is devoted to butter, is about 150 lbs., though larger returns are often obtained.

Jackson, in his excellent treatise on Agriculture and Dairy Husbandry, describes the Galloway cattle thus: "The Galloway breed of cattle is well known for various valuable qualities, and easily distinguished by the want of horns.—It is broad across the back, with a very slight curve between the head and quarters, broad at the loins, the whole body having a fine round appearance. The head is of a moderate size, with large rough ears, chest deep, legs short, and clean in the neck; the prevailing color is black; those of this color being though the most hardy, although this varies.

This breed is highly esteemed, as there is no other breed which arrives at maturity so soon, and their flesh is of the finest quality; the milk is very fine, but is not obtained in very large quantities."

"The points of the Galloway ox are thus given by Martin: "A well bred Galloway ox is of admirable form; all is close and compact; the barrel is rounded and ribbed home to the hip bones; the chest is deep, the shoulders thick and broad: the neck short and thick; the head clean; the back straight and broad; the limbs short, but extremely muscular; the skin moderate, but mellow, and well covered with long and soft hair.—that on the ears, which are large, is peculiarly rough and long.

In the bull the head is heavy; the neck thick, and boldly erected above; the frontal crest or ridge is elevated and covered with long hair, and the general form robust, with great depth of chest and roundness of barrel." Youatt, in his work on Cattle, speaks in favorable terms of this

breed, but as you are publishing the greater part of his work on Cattle in your present volume, I need not quote any of his remarks, only that he says that "there is perhaps no breed of cattle which can more truly be said to be indigenous to the country, and incapable of improvement by any foreign cross, than the Galloways," and the intelligent Galloway breeder is now perfectly satisfied that his stock can only be improved by adherence to the pure breed, and by care in selection.

Though it is stated that the Galloways cannot be improved by any foreign breed, they have been resorted to for the improvement of other breeds. It is said that the Short Horns owe part of their fine form, and perhaps a so part of their early fattening propensities, to this breed.

In the absence of any statistical returns, it is impossible to estimate the numbers of the different breeds of cattle in Britain, or it might be of use to show what breeds are increasing and what are not. I am of opinion that the Galloway breed is considerably on the increase. The trade in stock cattle from Galloway has been very extensive for 150 years, large numbers of cattle being annually sent to the English market. Professor Low says, "It is computed that upwards of 20,000 head are annually exported from the district—from 16,000 to 18,000 of which are sold at Smithfield. Their average weight at three years old may be reckoned at 630 lbs., and those sent to London weigh from 770 to 840 lbs.

From some returns now before me, it appears that the total number of cows and oxen sold at Smithfield market in 1848, was 218,306, and if we take Professor Low's estimate that 18,000 Galloways are sold annually in that market, it would make them fully one-twelfth of all the cattle sold at Smithfield.

The home of the Galloways is the Counties of Wigton, Kirkcudbright and Dumfries, in Scotland, and a large portion of West Cumberland, in England.

I have thus briefly called your attention to this breed of cattle, which I am glad to see introduced into the Province, as I have no doubt that they will be found a valuable addition to our other breeds of cattle; and it is very desirable that all good breeds should have a fair trial in this country.

Yours truly,

A. TENANT FARMER.

Township of Hamilton,
June 17th, 1854.

PROGRESS OF THE COUNTY OF PERTH

To the Editor of the *Agriculturist*:

MITCHELL, April 10th, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—Thinking it might prove interesting to some of your readers, I send a few particulars in connection with the position and prospects of the Fullarton, Logan and Hibbert Agricultural Society.