

What I Know of Long Wools.

What I know of long woolled sheep, and short wools, coarse wools, or fine wools, is that neither will thrive and be profitable except they are provided with proper food to develop their qualities.

Care is the first essential quality in a flock-master. He should see his sheep every day in the year. During the pasturing season he should salt and count his flock twice per week, and see that none have the scours. If there are any so affected, they should be removed from the flock and fed on dry hay and oatmeal for a couple of days. During heavy rains sheep should be provided with shelter, either sheds in the pasture that the sheep can use at their own pleasure, or, when sheds are not provided, the sheep should be brought to the stock barn and housed until after the storm. When grass begins to fail they should be fed either sowed corn, pumpkins, roots or grain.

It is poor economy to allow sheep to half starve and lose flesh in the fall. From October 1st until January is the trying time. If well cared for during that period, ordinary care will keep them doing well the rest of the year.

When the hay is harvested the clover hay should be cut in the blow, well cured, so as not to must, and put in the barn or where it can be got at any time, and turn in the sheep.

When the sheep are brought in for wintering, feed them the clover hay until they are wanted to eat hay; then other hay can be fed to them once per day. They should also have a daily feed of oats, at the rate of one quart to every ten sheep for fine wools and double that for coarse wools. A box that will hold a peck or more should be fastened in the shed low enough for a sheep to eat from easily, and fine salt kept continually in it, never letting the salt get used up. It will need replenishing every few days.

When the winter has well set in and the sheep have acquired good appetites, add to your oats one bushel of peas to three bushels of oats for breeding ewes; for fattening sheep corn is better. Corn should never be fed to breeding ewes; it has an overheating tendency and produces a congestion of the bowels in the lambs; thousands die every spring from that cause alone, that might have been raised if the ewes had been fed peas instead of corn.

Provide water in the yard that the sheep can have access to at any time of the day. Do not compel them to quench their thirst by eating snow; it is cruel, niggardly and poor economy.

Be kind to your sheep; use no loud and boisterous language nor allow others to do so. Never frighten them. Treat them kindly and they will show an appreciation of it and will pay you in wool and mutton more than an hundred fold.

Study the habits of your sheep. Learn from them what they want and provide for their wants intelligently, and do not rest content until every lamb can be raised and every sheep produce for you the most and best staple of wool of which it is capable. Then when you have attained that perfection, jot down your experience and give it forth to the world to guide others in their attempts; and, though they may reach a still more exalted position, you will be conscious of having performed a duty and be remembered as a benefactor of mankind.—*Miles H. DeLong, in Rural New Yorker.*

Progress in Breeding Shorthorns.

We have often heard the question asked, whether the Shorthorns of the present day are really any better than they were half a century ago, or when they came from the herds of Bates and Booth and Colling. We suppose the general average of the breed ought to be taken into consideration in considering the question. It is hardly fair to fix upon remarkable individuals, exceptions to the general rule, and to form an opinion from them.

At a recent sale of Shorthorns in England, a small party of Shorthorn fanciers got together to protect themselves from the rain, when the merits of their favorites very naturally occurred to them. Mr. Finlay Dunn, with that practical turn of mind for which he is pre-eminently distinguished, raised an enquiry which, however, only one or two in the room were competent to venture an opinion on, viz., whether the far-famed animals, which were bred at Kirklevington, Warlaby and Killerby, by Mr. Thomas Bates and Messrs. Richard and John Booth, were intrinsically better than the *creme de la creme* of present herds?

The question was answered in the negative, the general opinion being that however beautiful the symmetry and form were the outcomes of those days, they are to be fairly matched, if not absolutely excelled, in some of the best specimens of the breeding of the present day. We are inclined to consider this conclusion correct, although undoubtedly at variance with the common impression, which is, that there was at one time a sort of golden age for Shorthorns, whereas now we have only to do with the silver or copper age. The truth is, however, that the famous beasts of which we have such glowing descriptions in the writings of Carr and Dixon, were made what they were by great care, judgment and skill having been bestowed on their breeding and management. The same herds which produced them had failures, blotches and defects, the animals we read about being only their prime fruit. It is true that the late Richard Booth had at one time developed his Warlaby herd to such a high pitch of perfection that almost every heifer calf was tolerably sure to make a good show-yard animal, and every bull calf to be coveted by at least a dozen breeders. But these distinguished Warlaby cows and bulls did not fall from the skies. Nothing appears more clear than that the Booths, in the early part of their career, bestowed an amount of pains in the careful selection and skillful breeding of their stock almost unparalleled, and to that the high state of perfection to which they eventually brought the Studeley, Killerby and Warlaby herds was attributable entirely, and the admirable foresight and superior judgment with which they were under-taken.

And at Kirklevington it was just the same. Thomas Bates' stock are at the present day only the tip-top of fashion because he, their great originator, was so very scrupulous in his selections and matchings. We can readily excuse unbounded faith in Duchesses derived from a system so exclusive as he pursued, the result of an insight so extremely critical and fastidious. He seems to have acted on two grand principles throughout: First, a close alliance to very exclusive strains of pedigree; secondly, the discardment of every weed and faulty product, however well bred, without favor or affection. And if herds now-a-days do seem to compare at all unfavorably with those of a past generation, herein probably lies the true cause. Very few owners of high bred stock would now venture to insert the incisive knife so often, or make it do its work so effectually as Thomas Bates did. The prodigious prices which fashionably bred cattle command forbid it; while prices in this respect are certainly a great evil, as they afford irresistible premiums for the preservation of every defective product of the families which enjoy the highest reputation.

But it may be asked: Is it possible to match, at the present day, those paragons of beauty, symmetry and good quality which delighted the eyes of our fathers in the first years of the Royal, when John Booth's Necklace and Thomas Bates' best Duchess were placed in competition, and the famous Bracelet of the former was making her stirring show-yard career? or, consequently, when Richard Booth brought out his famous Queens, one of whom, viz., Queen of the May, is said, in the fascination of her beauty, to have so completely ravished two American gentlemen that they offered 1,500 guineas for her at a time when such a price for a cow or heifer was utterly unknown. Only those are competent to reply to such a question who frequently saw those far-famed animals, and have a perfect recollection of them, consequently the question is unanswered; but at the same time there appears no reason why the perfections of these beautiful specimens of the past may not be equalled by the same care, skill and good judgment which were exercised in his productions, being again applied. The tendency of development throughout all animated nature appears to be upward instead of downward; animal life is progressive, not declining, and modern breeders have far greater advantages than their predecessors in being able to commence their labors at a more advanced point, by being able to propagate from this grand foundation sorts bequeathed to them.

There are as good fish in the sea as ever came to net yet; and further, they have in the show-yard at the present day certain animals which would compare well even with those famous beauties which Carr has well nigh immortalized. Nor is this mere surmise or theory, for in the Rev. R. B. Kennard's Queen Mary we may undoubtedly find a rare specimen of the breed, whose merits it is hard to conceive could have been surpassed by any Queen or Blossom ever brought out from Warlaby.

This beautiful heifer is, indeed, well-nigh faultless, and as near perfection as the most critical eye can form an ideal. Straight, broad, level in form, with a handsome head and exquisite general contour, she is as fascinating and grand in appearance as her good handling and healthy condition prove her to be in rare quality. If the herdsman who has her in charge may be credited, her excellent pliant and affluence in flesh are not at all attributable to high feeding. Hardihood and vigor of constitution are certainly among her characteristics, and, as is often the case with the best high bred stock—she exhibits an extraordinary tendency to lay on flesh and grow fat on common food. No one has a right to declare that the art of Shorthorn breeding is at all declining while such a splendid animal as Queen Mary can be brought to the fore. There is in this respect, as in all other matters of history, a tendency to magnify the past at the expense of the present, which facts and evidences do not justify.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

Future Supply of Hogs.

The Cincinnati Price Current finds that the statistics of the hog product show a decrease of six per cent. from 1873 to 1874, and thirteen and a half per cent. from 1874 to 1875. This, it says, undoubtedly points to a falling off in the number of hogs for the approaching winter packing; but such a result does not necessarily follow such presentations, and in our opinion it is possible that the close of the coming winter will find not only the number, but the weight, fully up to last season, especially if high prices should prevail for hogs, sustained by a justifiable demand for the product, or by competitive rivalry of packers.

The price of corn in Chicago is 26 cents per bushel lower than a year ago—and sellers, option the year is over 20 cents below the cash price at the close of last year. It costs as much to transport corn to market when saleable only at a low price as when at a high price, and the inducements to convert it into other products is enhanced as the price goes down in the scale. The crop of corn is known to be enormous throughout all the hog producing sections; the most striking illustration of this being the State of Kansas, which last year produced 16,000,000 bushels, and this year is reported to have 55,000,000 bushels surplus. This corn will find its way to market in the form of pork—possibly not early, comparatively, and the later it comes the more there will be of it.

The number of pigs which have been carefully nursed for feeding upon this year's enormous production of corn, since the swine census of January and April, does not appear in any available statistics, nor to the naked eye. Nor is it to be taken for granted that because there is a good demand for stock hogs by feeders, and high prices being paid, the number is short—rather, that the food supply is excessive, and that the hog is considered the best medium for utilizing it. And the higher the price paid for these stock hogs, the later and heavier may they be expected in market to enter into making of a longer crop than can possibly be figured out by statistics.

The summer curing process is to a considerable degree revolutionizing the business of packing pork. No longer does the winter's business measure the extent of the yearly crop of the product. It matters not whether the pigs now in the country shall appear in the count on the first of next March, or later if they come into market in competition with the product of those earlier slaughtered.

Diarrhoea in Young Pigs.

An eminent writer on this subject, M. D. Mulford, M. D., in the *American Swine and Poultry Journal*, says:—Many of our swine-breeders in the West sustain considerable loss annually by their pigs dying from the effects of what is commonly called scours, caused by the bad quality of the sow's milk. The disease is more apt to make its appearance when the sow has been fed upon dry corn or musty food. It generally attacks them within one or two days after their birth, and seldom after eight or ten days. I have never failed to cure this disease by giving the sow as much sulphur of the third decimal trituration as will stand on a nickle five-cent piece, once a day. It may be given in a little sweet milk or upon a small piece of bread, and should be given one hour before feeding. The medicine can be procured of any homoeopathic physician. I have cured many cases with common sulphur, but prefer the above.

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