

An Expert's Testimony on "Pedigree."

That well-known authority, Robert Bruce, of Dublin, has the following in a contemporary: The system under which pedigrees are recorded in the herdbook, although perhaps more concise and convenient than any other which might be more instructive, is apt to be misleading. It has, no doubt, led to undue appreciation of what are often spoken of as families. For example, a cow of note at some more or less remote period has been entered under a name. The name of such foundation cow may or may not be continued in the case of her female descendants, but it is fixed upon as the initial name of a family. This acceptance of a family named after the foundation cow has naturally led to a higher appreciation of the female side of a pedigree than it deserves. Many instances might be given where the family name on the female side has been continued, although the blood of the original cow has long been lost sight of, through the continued infusion of blood of the many sires in the pedigree having little, if any, relationship to each other or to the foundation cow.

Many seem to lose sight of the fact that length of pedigree may be, and often is, objectionable. If, through a wish to maintain a certain strain of blood, breeders have mated animals with less regard to merit than to a continuation of what is often termed "straight breeding," they intensify defects to an extent which renders length of pedigree objectionable in the highest degree. As can be readily understood, the inherent power of reproduction is strengthened through a lengthened and mistaken system of breeding, and it may take repeated crosses of fresh blood before efforts towards improvement can be realized. If, on the other hand, we turn to a pedigree showing concentration of good blood resulting in a family of good animals, length of pedigree is a decided advantage.

For a number of years past there has been a great and increasing demand for the best specimens of the breed (Shorthorn) for shipment to South America. To such an extent has this demand been carried that the Shorthorn breed is certainly passing through a severe crisis, and it would really look as if the parting with such a large proportion of the best of our sires, which has been going on year by year, must materially affect the standard of excellence of our home herds at no very distant date. While it is impossible to conceive any scheme or system under which the best could be kept for home use, there is certainly some consolation in the fact that the stringent regulations laid down by the Argentine breeders regarding herdbook qualifications in that country may operate to the advantage of home breeders.

EXTEND YOUR PEDIGREES.

It is almost unnecessary to impress upon students of pedigree the importance of analyzing a pedigree before forming an opinion regarding it. To those who have herdbooks available, and who have not extended a pedigree in all its branches, the working out on paper of almost any pedigree is likely to prove a revelation to them; the full breeding of every animal mentioned will be found to be both interesting and instructive.

The tracing out of many of the older families to their foundations entails a certain amount of labor and trouble which only an enthusiast in such matters will be inclined to undertake. For all practical purposes, however, the extension of a pedigree in all its branches to the fifth or sixth generation is all that may be necessary.

Take, as an example, the pedigree extended to the fifth generation of the champion bull owned by the King at Park Royal in 1904.

Looking at the pedigree of Ronald as it is given in the herdbook, many would at once say that his dam was almost straight "Booth," while the extended pedigree shows that it is strongly blended with a "Ruth" family, long and carefully bred by the late Mr. Wm. Trethewy, in Cornwall, who owned a large herd all descended from one cow. In passing, it may be stated that the pedigrees of many of the Windsor herd prize-winners that have been so successful of late years at the Royal and other shows, have been a mixture of "Ruth" and "Cruickshank" blood. On the sire's side of Ronald's pedigree we have the Uppermill, Princess Royal and the Sittytown Victoria, Lavender, Nonpareil, Clipper and Violet families blended together. A WARNING TO BREEDERS OF PURE-BRED SHORTHORNS.

Shorthorns have time and again suffered through certain families becoming fashionable and commanding high prices; and there are at present indications of a repetition of former errors in this direction. Breeders are tempted to retain or purchase animals which under other circumstances they would never think of breeding from. Nor is there any practical means of preventing a repetition of mistakes in this direction, seeing that so long as a strain of blood is fashionable there is assured prospect of profit to breeders who are fortunate owners of such pedigrees. IT, HOWEVER, MAY BE LAID DOWN AS AN AXIOM, THAT AN INFERIOR ANIMAL CANNOT POSSIBLY BE WELL BRED. Something must be wrong somewhere, and the FIRST INDICATION OF WEAKNESS ought to be viewed as A FINGER-POST POINTING TO REVERSION OF PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING THE VALUE of such pedigrees AT NO DISTANT DATE.

There is a saying credited to a well-known breeder and judge, that "an animal ought to carry his pedigree on his back," and many mistakes might be avoided if this saying could be strongly impressed upon the minds of breeders. Past experience has shown the

great advantages to be derived through certain strains of blood having been intensified through close breeding conducted by capable breeders. This cannot be gainsaid, and it is equally true that a system of close breeding can be safely pursued so long as care is taken that there is no mating of weaklings. It is to herds bred on these lines that the ordinary breeders must look for sires if they are to breed with any degree of assurance as to results.

As most breeders are aware, it was generally accepted towards the latter end of the past century that Shorthorns belonged to two, and only two, great families. This idea is now exploded, and latterly there has been with general consent much more freedom of action accorded to breeders. Much may now be done in blending the present fashionable strains of blood with those of many of the once highly valuable families, if constitution, form and pedigree receive due consideration.

South Devon Sheep.

There are two distinct breeds of longwoolled Devon sheep recognized in Great Britain, namely, the Devon Longwool and the South Devon. Quite a keen contention exists between the breeders of the two as to which is the best. A brief history and description of the Devon Longwool breed was given in the January 19th issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," with a cut of a shearing ram of that breed. We now present an engraving of a South Devon ram lamb, reproduced from a photograph recently received from England.

Breeders of South Devons have shown commendable enterprise by organizing an association and establishing a flockbook on up-to-date lines, the first volume of their flockbook, issued in 1904, showing a list of 154 members, and particulars of the history of 129 recorded flocks, with a number of others waiting for inspection, which is said to be a record unequalled in the starting of a flockbook for a breed in England. A rigorous system of inspection has been instituted, and no South Devon sheep is registered except those having the



South Devon Ram Lamb.

Society's trade-mark, followed by the owner's flock mark, tattooed in its left ear by the official tattooer. The editor and secretary is Mr. W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street, Strand, London.

The dates of the foundation of some of the flocks given in the first volume show that they were established early in the last century, some dating from 1836 to 1840, while many have been founded in the last twenty years, and for some it is claimed they were founded fully one hundred years ago.

The breed is found principally in the counties of Devon and Cornwall, and is described as one of great robustness of constitution, large, symmetrical, and well grown, with plenty of bone and muscle, vigorous, thrifty, equally adapted to grazing or the fold, a rapid feeder, with early maturity, responding readily to liberal treatment, and being able also to thrive and to do well on hard fare if needful. The fleece is of a long staple of lustrous wool, curly, dense, and with the head well covered, much resembling the Cotswold in that respect. The head and legs are white, and the ears are often spotted, the main color being white.

The claims of the breed to early maturity and rapid growth are shown by the results given in the fat stock shows, a pen of wether lambs, exhibited at Smithfield, 1902, showing an average daily gain of 11.46 ozs. per day from birth, while the yearling wethers of the breed gave the highly-satisfactory daily gain of 7.57 ozs.; while a pen of lambs at Smithfield in 1904 showed an average live weight of 244 lbs., and an average daily gain of .86 lbs., being the greatest gain shown by a pen of lambs of any breed exhibited at the show.

I received the premium wrist bag, and it is very nice. Please accept my thanks for same. Glengarry Co., Ont. MRS. M. McLEOD.

Shall We Have a Dressed Meat Trade?

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I notice that at the Eastern Ontario Winter Fair, Mr. W. S. Spark, of Canterbury, Eng., discussed the dead-meat trade with Great Britain, and is reported to have said that he considered Canada to be in a very favorable position to build up an excellent business. He contended that killing and refrigerating plants ought to be located at the ports of shipment, and spoke of the comparatively short ten days' sea voyage and the increasing demand for chilled meat in Great Britain as encouraging features of the industry.

Now, sir, in view of the very doubtful profits made by farmers who feed beef cattle for the export trade, do you not think that a movement should be made to have one of these killing and refrigerating plants established at a central point in Western Ontario, at as early a date as possible? It would appear that the growing poultry industry, the dairy interests, as well as the beef and bacon producers, would find such a plant, situated, say in Brantford, or other good shipping center, a very great help in realizing profitable prices for their products, and it seems to me that the farmers of Western Ontario, every one of us largely dependent on the too narrow profits of stock-raising, would be vastly benefited by such an establishment in our midst. If the "Farmer's Advocate" can and will take this matter up, and institute the needful proceedings, or even outline these proceedings, so that those interested can work for the establishment of such a plant, it will, in my opinion, have greatly added to its already large list of good works. "KILLUM AND FREEZUM."

Paris Station, Ont.

[Note.—This is a good subject for discussion, and we invite letters upon it from our leading feeders, exporters, and those already engaged in the dressed-meat business in Canada. Big establishments, like the Wm. Davies Co., of Toronto, are already branching out, and supplying the local Canadian trade with fresh meat. Is Brantford, Ont., the only or the best place for inaugurating such establishments? What are the prospects for the trade in Great Britain? Does anyone advise Canada to drop the export trade in live cattle and trust to dressed meat only? Are we producing enough good cattle to keep up the supply? Will it pay farmers to produce more? Should not sheep be included in such schemes? There are plenty of good points to be considered in connection with the subject. A frank, concise discussion in the "Farmer's Advocate" should be illuminating.—Ed.]

Artichokes for Pigs.

A correspondent asked what artichokes, which was well answered by Mrs. Anna L. Jack, but she omitted some of the uses of them. Artichokes make excellent hog food. Plant them as described in March 2nd issue, and in fall turn in your hogs, and they will harvest them. If you have not hogs enough in the fall to consume them all, the balance will be just as good in spring, as the frost does not injure them a particle. When the hogs are through there will be still enough for seed, which will sprout, of course, all over the ground, then take a scuffle and run rows through. You can thus keep down weeds and be sure of a crop in the fall. Some authorities claim they yield from 500 to 1,200 bushels per acre. I have about one-quarter of an acre, and last spring I had 17 hogs in the patch for six weeks. They did well, and are very fond of them. There was plenty of seed left to seed two acres. J. R. PHILIP.

Grey Co.

FARM.

Sugar-beet Pulp Feeding.

THIRD-PRIZE ESSAY.

After looking over your valuable journal of a recent date, and seeing your offer on the above subject, I venture to answer your questions, having had an experience of five years in this State of feeding sugar-beet pulp to dairy cows and young cattle. Supplying milk daily for family use in the city, I have had an opportunity of testing its feeding value, but more especially for milch cows.

1st.—When adjacent to factory, or within easy hauling distance, it is better to draw the pulp every day or two, and feed while fresh. It can be put in any convenient place inside, where it will not freeze; if required to be stored for future use, a small silo would answer admirably, and if air-tight the pulp would keep as long as required, to be used as silage.

2nd.—Have fed it to dairy cows twice a day, morning and night, from a half bushel to three-quarters each, according to the size of the animals, mixed with about three quarts corn meal, and to younger cattle in proportion, according to age and size.

3rd.—I have found the pulp mixed with meal to be excellent for milk production, but if fed alone the milk will not be of sufficient quality; for dry stock or fattening cattle it is a succulent feed, which keeps the bowels in a healthy condition, of so much importance in the winter season, keeping the animals sleek and thrifty.

4th.—I do not consider it equal to the best corn ensilage, bulk for bulk, but with the addition of meal, very superior; the sugar having been extracted, it can scarcely be compared with pulped mangolds or turnips. I should estimate its feeding value at about one-third