

A Bruce County Breeding Establishment.

"Our Lady of the Snows" had donned her new white winter garb a full fortnight in advance of the coming Christmastide on the occasion of our first visit to Hylhurst Farm, the home of Messrs. H. Cargill & Son, to view the new importation of twenty-one Scotch-bred Shorthorn cattle, which had safely reached their destination a few days previously, after successfully running the gauntlet of the quarantine station at Quebec. The ninety days' trip, including the detention required by the regulations to ensure a clean bill of health, had in nowise adversely affected their condition, which was said to be even better than when they went on board ship, which is no mean tribute to the cosmopolitan character of these cattle, which have proved able to adapt themselves to any climatic conditions and to make the best of the circumstances in which they are placed. The Canadian winter is, however, not so widely dissimilar to that of the north of Scotland, the native habitat of the Aberdeenshire Shorthorns, that they should feel out of their element here, and their contented look in the comfortable stables at Cargill is evidence that the immigrants feel quite at home in the new byre which had been prepared for their reception.

To one who had not seen or heard of it before, the establishment at Cargill would prove a genuine surprise, and the first and lasting impression on the mind of the visitor who may have heard of but not previously enjoyed the generous and kindly hospitality of Hylhurst, is that the half has never been told. The surprise is not, however, so much in this as in finding in a comparatively obscure country village, with a population of about 250 people, a home equal in elegance and appointments to the best of modern city mansions, including such luxuries as steam heating, electric lights, and a complete water service on every floor from a tank on a tower, filled by a windmill pump.

Situated in the fine agricultural county of Bruce, in the Province of Ontario, the east riding of which Mr. Henry Cargill has for many years represented in the Dominion Parliament, is Cargill, a station on the Hamilton & Southampton branch of the Grand Trunk Railway, and nine miles from the county town of Walkerton. Half a mile from the station are the homes of the Messrs. Cargill, pictured in the accompanying illustration, where on Hylhurst Farm for some twelve years a strong herd of richly-bred Shorthorns has been maintained, representatives of which, including several of the newly-imported animals, are portrayed in the picture. The Teeswater River, a pretty and swift-flowing stream, runs through the farm and the village, where the owners operate extensive flouring, lumber and planing mills, the sawlogs being floated down the river when the water is high in the spring from the 12,000 acres of timber lands owned by the firm a few miles further up the stream. The farm comprises about 450 acres of good land, on which large crops of grain, roots, ensilage corn and hay are grown, while 150 acres of rough pasture land a few miles off are utilized for summer pasturage of young stock.

The main barn, 100x72 feet, has basement stables the full size (with walls twelve feet high), well ventilated by six-inch tiles on the top of the walls, and liberally lighted by numerous large windows, the floor being paved with cement concrete. Two rows of stalls run the full length in the center, and fourteen roomy box stalls are arranged next the walls on either side. There is an annex 64x54 at one end of the barn for storage of roots, ensilage, and implements, and for covering the manure. The stables are supplied with water pumped by a windmill from the river to a large tank in the barn, from which it is conveyed to iron cups in each stall, the supply being regulated automatically by means of a float. The same service is used in the fields in summer. The buildings are furnished with electric light, generated by water power from the millrace, and it is the intention to put in a motor for running the farm machinery, and the steam power of the sawmill will be connected with the electric plant to guard against accident.

The Shorthorn Herd was founded some twelve years ago on the Rose of Strathallan family, descended from the well-known imported cow of that name, a prizewinner at the Highland Society's Show and at Provincial fairs, the high price of \$1,500 being paid for one of the cows, a daughter of the peerless Rose of Strathallan 2nd, a sweepstakes winner in the hands of the Sniders, of German Mills. Several representatives of this family are yet in the herd, and maintain the good characteristics of the tribe.

In 1885 the herd was strengthened by the purchase of six of the best of the imported Upper Mill and Collynie bred females at the dispersion sale of Mr. D. D. Wilson, of Seaford, of which two were daughters of the celebrated Pride of the Morning, a sire of Royal winners, and others were by Standard Bearer, Sea King, and Gravesend, all noted sires of approved breeding. These cows have been regular breeders of good things, and have added immensely to the quality and character of the herd.

Among the high-class imported bulls which have been used in the herd, and which have left a grand impress, are Albert Victor, of the Kinellar Golden Drop family; Schladdan, from Collynie, by Vice Chancellor; Rantin Robin, whose dam was of the favorite Lancaster family, and sired by the famous Field Marshal, one of the best of the Sittytton sires; and last, but not least, Royal Member, the present head of the harem, whose portrait

appears in the lower right corner of the picture. Bred by S. Campbell, Kinellar, sired by Royal James, and of the favorite Nonpareil tribe, he comes of one of the best of the old Sittytton families, and in individual excellence ranks among the best bulls in the Dominion to-day. Weighing well up to 3,000 pounds in his usual flesh, and carrying it comfortably on sound, short, straight legs, he combines size and substance with quality in high degree, his heart and flank girth being extraordinary, and his disposition quiet and placid, while he is active and useful as ever, and his progeny speak well for his potency as a sire, being uniformly of the approved type. In the summer of 1898 the junior member of the firm, Mr. W. D. Cargill, visited Scotland and made selection of thirteen females and eight bulls, rich in the blood of the best of the Cruickshank, Kinellar, and Colly-



THE LATE F. W. STONE, OF GUELPH, ONT.
An early importer and breeder.

nie herds, and these, added to the already strong herd at Cargill, makes it one of the most interesting collections of the breed in the Dominion, combining high-class individual merit with the best of breeding, all being of the thick-fleshed, early-maturing sort so much in favor at the present time.

Prominent among the newcomers is the gay-colored three-year-old cow Catalonia (bred by Mr. Longmore, of Rettie Banff), the central figure in the lower line in the picture, a cow of great substance and fine quality of hair and flesh, a prizewinner at home, and full of constitution. She has made a good start as a breeder, as her eleven-months daughter, Sultana (a handsome roan by Prince of Rettie), in the importation, proves. Castilla, a red yearling, standing in center of group, from the same herd and of the same family, was the champion female at the Aberdeen Show in 1898,



THE LATE SIMON BEATTIE.
A pioneer importer of pure-bred stock to Canada.

and is a model of the approved type, with grand back, brisket and flanks. Beauty 13th, by Lord Ythan, the roan three-year-old cow on the left, was bred by Mr. Mensor, Craigville, Huntly, and is of the approved type, blocky and well balanced, full in crops and well sprung in her ribs. She too has proved a good breeder, her yearling daughter, Beauty 16th, by Challenger, being full of promise and of the same pattern as her dam. The two roan yearling heifers in the rear, Gem of Ocean 8th and Pineapple 12th, are also daughters of Challenger, who has proved an exceptionally good sire. These are very perfect models of the breed, the former being the larger and tougher type, and the latter bred in Sittytton blood, the latter very much lower set and an extra good handler. Lady 1st and Lady Mary 15th are also daughters of Lord Ythan, sired by the noted

alike that one description answers for both. The first named was first in her class at Banchory show this year, and is in calf to Illustrious, while the second is in calf to Maximus, a Missie bull, a show bull and a winner. The cows shown in rear picture, by the riverside, are some of the imported matrons secured at the Wilson sale.

Of the bulls in the importation, Orange Duke is the rich roan two-year-old on the left (bred by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon), level in his lines, long in his quarters, and a grand handler. Diamond Jubilee, a red yearling standing in the rear, bred by Mr. Marr, Cairnbrogie, is a bull of fine character, large for his age, very straight on top and level in his quarters, and a show bull, having won prizes in his native land. Knuckle Duster, the roan yearling on the right, bred by Mr. Bruce, and sired by Waverly, at the head of Inverquhomery herd, and out of Agusta 42nd, Mr. Bruce's best strain of females, is an extra well balanced bull, true in all lines, with a grand head and full crops, and his pedigree is full of good things. He was first in his class at Ellon Show this year, though shown in very thin flesh. Five younger bulls, coming a year old soon, are an evenly good lot of the right stamp, and are bound to develop into useful animals, judging from their quality and breeding. The limit of space forbids individual mention of many more meritorious animals in this grand herd, which only needs to be seen to be acknowledged as in the front rank of the leading herds of the Dominion.

A small but select flock of Oxford Down sheep, bred straight from imported stock, is kept on the farm, and has proved so profitable that it is intended to increase the number. Standard-bred roadster horses have also been successfully raised at Hylhurst, and a grand lot of colts are now in training. The firm intends in the near future to add Clydesdales to the specialties of the establishment.

A Reminiscence.

BY WM. MILLER, LAKESIDE FARM, IOWA, U. S.

It seems the general experience of our kind, that after passing the middle stages of life we take more interest in looking backward over the past than looking forward, as far as the journey of life is concerned. With interest we wander through the gallery of memory, keeping clear and clean the pleasant pictures, the wise allowing the cobwebs and dust of time to obscure or hide those of a different nature. Under each of these hangs a little story which is pleasant to read; they seem to gain in clearness and in interest as we near the cradle. I cannot remember the time when I did not know big A, round O, and crooked S, whenever and wherever I met them. The other twenty-three capitals were mastered without any extraordinary effort, and by persistent help, I think without noticeable injury to the brain. Not so with the little common plebeian characters. The origin and author of the alphabet seems to be shrouded in almost impenetrable mystery, but we can find evidence giving it great antiquity. The Egyptians, Assyrians, Indians, Persians and Phoenicians all lay claim, and all alike, without much apparent foundation. The learned Brewster, after great research, favors the idea of its direct divine origin, as it seems to have come into existence like Adam—in perfect and complete form—a production too stupendous for a human mind at that stage of development. No doubt he is right, and the Deity handed to Adam the full set of capitals, and that shortly after the serpent produced the little brood, that, like sin, has come so much in use, demanding recognition at the very threshold of the temple of learning. I said I did not remember the time when I didn't know "big A," but I well remember the times without number that I got my head knocked when trying to learn little b and little d; but I cannot remember when I did learn them, as I am not sure about them yet. When you meet them first there is nothing but a little c between them—nothing to hinder them to jump backward and forward, changing places at will, and from their impish nature that is just what they did, for I have sat for hours and looked at them, and if you met one of them alone and called him d, he would just flop over and be b—that's the only way I can explain it. No doubt these same two characters have started many on vain ways, such as "pea under the thimble" and "three-card monte," etc.

The next picture, plain and clear, is a five-log-high little schoolhouse on a roadside at the corner of a wood, and not far from the heavy wood all round. It had a low door in one corner, a little window in each end, the sash of which was the only planed lumber in the concern. Here I was sent from home, after partially mastering the alphabet, to finish my education, where I graduated after a two-years' course. This was in a Scotch settlement, and they chose the teacher themselves. How they paid him I do not know, but he boarded around. He was a good little oldish Scotchman from the Cheviot Hills, a strict Presbyterian; and I believe if there had been a commandment saying "thou shalt not get drunk" Jimmy never would have. We learned the single catechism, Scripture paraphrases, and a lot of the Psalms of David in meter, who was the first man, the first woman, the strongest, the wisest, the most patient man; also about the number of his oxen and his asses, and the names of his three daughters, Jemima, Keziah, and Keren-happuch. I liked Jemima the best, she was my first love. Then in figures he led us through as far as the rule of three, which was no use going any farther, as we had no knowledge we could possibly need in