

as well known to the public by a year's advertising as the former would be at this day after spending half a lifetime. At Halifax in 1871, and Truro last week, how frequently was it said by people of this county, 'We could have beaten this; why, I know several articles in our neighborhood that would have surpassed anything in this department!' Our failure was from no lack of ability.

"In coming to the beautiful stock imported by the Government, we thought—well, if our farmers wished to avoid the trouble of getting their exhibits brought here, they will at least enter into strong competition for some of these animals. But, although the prices were low—averaging one-half their cost—what was our dismay to find but two buyers from Cumberland, while societies and individuals from various parts of the Province were striving for the best animals.

"It will not be denied that we have one of the best locations in the Dominion for stock raising and dairy purposes. Then let us take some pride in gaining and preserving a title to superiority in these branches at least, else we must be content to acknowledge that we have not the enterprise or skill to take advantage of the means which God and nature have placed in our hands.

"Our readers well know that we are fond of bestowing words of praise upon all pertaining to our county, but our shortcomings were so shamefully apparent in the paltry figure our exhibits made at Truro that we should not hesitate to accept the truth, and strive to learn wholesome lessons."

THE MILKING QUALITIES OF DURHAMS.

SOME remarks by a correspondent in an article on the "Raising thoroughbred Calves," in a late issue of *The Weekly Globe*, were quite unfair to Durham cattle as respects their milking qualities. While the statement was doubtless true in the special instance spoken of, such a deficiency in milking qualities as might therefrom be implied to belong to the Durhams cannot for a moment be considered as their characteristic. Indeed, the exact opposite is the case.

What brought the Durham first into prominence, when the breeders of a century ago were casting around for a foundation whereon to build an improved race of cattle, was their excellence as milkers, both in respect of the quantity and the quality of the yield. And these qualities still exist in the Durham as a breed. It is true that there are some few strains or families of Durhams in which, by constant breeding for beef, the milk qualities have been reduced. It is a well-known fact in breeding that the *greatest*

milk-producing qualities and the *greatest* beef-producing qualities are rarely found to exist in one animal. A certain amount of food will produce a certain return in beef or in milk. If there is an excess of one the other will rarely excel also. For the purpose of comparison, a Durham which has been carefully bred for generations with a view to beef, and a Durham or an Ayrshire which has been bred for generations with a view to milk, may be taken as the antipodes of each other. It must be of some such opposite instances that the comparison of our correspondent was made, and it is obviously an unfair one. The statement might just as easily have been made that it has taken the milk of several Durhams to equal that of one other Durham. Had the comparison been made between fair representatives of the breeds (for the Durham families bred only for beef are so few in number as not to be worth taking into account when speaking of the qualities of the breed as a whole) the Durham would have been at least the equal of the Ayrshire in milking qualities and far superior as a beef producer.

What the average farmer wants is not only a cow that will milk a high return in milk, but also one whose carcass will bring the greatest number of pounds of beef, and the highest price per pound, when her days of usefulness as a milker are over. For this purpose, where both milk and feed are required, there are no such animals as Durhams and grades of Durhams. From every quarter of the globe testimony can be adduced of this fact. One instance will suffice to be quoted here:—Mr. Harris Lewis, of Herkimer Co., N. Y., one of the best authorities on dairy matters, has been engaged for years in investigating into the subject of dairy cattle. After long and careful experiments he has settled upon the Durham as the breed that will produce the best results in all branches of the dairy, giving the greatest amount of milk, butter, cheese and beef, for the food consumed, of any breed.

The British farmers, who, of all men, have had the best opportunity to select the best animal, are almost entirely Durham men. This is even more the case with those who make the dairy their chief business than it is with the general farmers. With British dairymen the Durham is almost the universal cow. And this is not because the merits of the Ayrshire are unknown. The reports of the Royal Show at Islington last month say that the Ayrshires shown by English breeders were far superior to those shown from Scotland. While possessing the best of Ayrshires, so famed as dairy cattle, the shrewd and experienced British dairy farmer prefers the Durham. To bring out the standing of the Durham as dairy cattle in England, let us quote the result

of the first Metropolitan Dairy Show which took place in London some six weeks since. At that show the winners of the best prizes were Durhams. A gold vase worth one hundred guineas, given for the best three dairy cows in milk, was won by Durhams owned by Mr. Carrington. The prize for the best single cow also fell to a Durham belonging to Mr. Aubrey Mumford. The Royal Shorthorn Dairy also secured a prize, and several other prizes fell to the lot of the Durhams. No more telling testimony could be adduced to the value of the Durham as a dairy breed. We have in mind one Canadian breeder who went to Britain purposely to buy Ayrshires for the dairy, but who returned with Durhams, and has been a Durham man ever since.

The Durham has pre-eminently the pre-potent faculty, i. e., the power of impressing upon his progeny from native stock his own characteristics. The Ayrshire itself, there is good reason to believe, owes no small part of its excellence and vigour to a strong infusion of Durham blood.—*Toronto Globe*.

SPROUTED GRAIN AS FOOD FOR FARM STOCK.

THE manufacture of grain for cattle by the process of sprouting, or germination, would be simple and easy were a malt-house accessible, but where the grain is required to be prepared upon ordinary farm premises contrivance must step in and fill the void, and it will be my endeavor in this essay to eliminate the inconveniences attending the present various methods of sprouting, and lay before the manufacturer a practical method whereby the system of germinating may be made equally simple and easy.

That the inconveniences may be seen, it is necessary to detail the common modes of germinating.

1st. A few bushels of wheat or barley are put in a tub and steeped 48 hours in cold water, the water is drained off and the grain left to sprout in the same tub, and, whilst yet in an unfit condition, is used until all is used up. The defect in this system is, that more should not be put in to steep at one time than is sufficient for four or five day's consumption, as the grain will not keep, and the time required in winter being 12 to 16 days, and summer germination 7 to 9 days, consequently in the interim of a fresh supply, the animals must feed on raw food. A change so extreme is incompatible with health to ox, sheep, or horse.

Other stockmasters steep the grain 48 hours, drain off the water, remove the grain from the tub, and place it in a heap upon a board, brick, or asphalt floor, and turn it every day. A second lot of grain is steeped, and treated in a similar man-