

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A heavy hail storm passed over Nudgee, doing a great deal of damage. At Cooyal it was terrific, killing 300 sheep and totally destroying the wheat crops of the selectors.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The crops continue finely promising, though a few more showers would do them a great deal of good. The yield is estimated at from 5 to 7 bushels per acre, which, from an area of 2,000,000 acres, will give an exportable surplus of over 200,000, which, at present prices, will represent a money value of over £2,000,000 sterling.

TASMANIA.—A curious fact in natural history is related of a cow owned by Mr. Thomas Massey, of Derwent Park. She had three calves at a birth, all of which are living and strong. They are marked exactly alike. The wet weather has come too late to altogether repair the effects of the long continued drought. The hay harvest is generally expected to be deficient, but for other produce there is a more satisfactory outlook.

Increasing Popularity of Hornless Cattle.

(FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.)

The rapidity with which hornless cattle have gained in favor on this continent cannot be but a matter of great surprise and source of gratification to their most ardent admirers and champions. Though the Polled-Angus and Galloway breeds are by no means new to Canadians, there are very few of their American brethren who have ever seen a herd of "doddies," and those as yet engaged in propagating all of the entire Polled breeds might easily be enumerated upon one's fingers, and leaving the thumbs out at that.

Two years ago there had been little or nothing heard of these truly meritorious beasts, but after a few records of their performances had been made public, and widely copied by the rural and metropolitan press, the people, with almost one accord, seemed to experience something of a why-didn't-it-occur-to-me-before feeling, though, of course, it is understood that a very large percentage of the most prominent and influential breeders were restrained from giving vent to their enthusiastic admiration of the Polls, for the very plausible reason that their interests were centered in breeds whose not the least conspicuous features were the weapons of offence and defence, with which nature equipped them in the beginning. Considering the fact that the hornless breeds received no support from the already well established breeders, but rather their opposition, as was natural, their progress has been most wonderful indeed.

The rehearsal of the many good qualities of the hornless blacks—they being the first to claim public attention, as the Polled Norfolks were not brought forward until more recently—aroused unwonted interest in them. Among the three most important considerations may be mentioned: (1) Their lack of horns, which at once suggested more quiet feeders and entirely removed the danger of breaking horns in transportation, causing intense pain, which poor beasts are often compelled to suffer for several days in succession; likewise ensuring whole hides, at least, so far as horn rents were concerned. (2) Their adaptability to our variable climate, by reason of their hardiness as a breed, and (3) the fact that in their native country they had proven to be second to no other breed as beef producers, while it has been already demonstrated that, if selected with care for the purpose, they are good also at the pail. These points, which were freely rehearsed in various forms, were sufficient to create a strong demand for them, which amounted to more than an ordinarily strong demand; it was almost a fever, which more conservative people prophesied would soon react, and

like many another "fanciful bubble," which gave as great promise of permanent success in the beginning, would suddenly collapse with greater force than it had sprung up, but, as yet, there are no signs of a halt in the revolution which the hornless breeds are surely destined to work in our cattle stock. Indeed, instead of an abatement, there is an increase in the good opinion which so many readily formed of them, merely from accounts of their usefulness, and the animals seem to grow in favor as they become better known.

In the general scramble—for no other word fully expresses it—for hornless breeding stock, a very gross error has been committed by not a few. It is this: Ever so many enthusiastic purchasers have bought animals of doubtful pedigree, and in many cases beasts which, if they had been possessed of horns, and were of a more familiar style of stock, would have been rejected on account of their ill breeding. Right in this connection it may not be out of place to suggest that a very common error into which breeders fall is that of having in view one point, and blindly working to the accomplishment of that, whether other and more important points are overlooked and sacrificed or not. So it was, frequently, in the case of Polled cattle buyers; they wanted hornless cattle and took many that had little or no other recommendation.

Such people, of course, will be the first to find fault with the breed, and will probably not consider the fact that they expected grade males to do the work of purely bred bulls.

About a year and a half ago there was a lot of hornless and mainly black cattle arrived at Chicago, which attracted a great deal of attention. They were well fattened, 1410 lb. two-year-old steers, and, though none of the buyers were willing to pay any very high price for them, they were bought and forwarded to New York, where they dressed the unusual amount of 62 lbs. per 100 lbs., and the carcasses were pronounced very superior by the slaughterers. These cattle were the result of mingling Polled-Angus, Shorthorn, and "Cherokee" or common Indian blood, the females being of the latter and the males of the former. These were bred in the State of Kansas, by a prominent New York merchant, Thomas R. Clark, who has been experimenting in this way, and who is endeavoring to establish a cross breed which he calls "Polled-Angus Durhams."

L. F. Ross, of Illinois, a noted breeder of Devon cattle, has an idea that he can produce an animal in every way equal, if not superior, to the Devon for beef and milk purposes, but hornless, by crossing Polled Norfolk bulls upon Devon heifers. He has also secured some grade Galloway heifers to breed from, by crossing a bull of the latter strain upon Shorthorn cows. So far he seems to have been fairly successful, and he may be the founder of a valuable cross-breed. His object in using the Polled Norfolks in preference to the black breeds, is to retain the color of the Devons, which can be easily done, as the former, like the latter, are of almost a uniform red.

The color of the Polled-Scotch cattle has been objected to by a great many breeders, but pray, what's in the color of the hair? What a bullock has under his jacket is what interests the butcher, and not the color thereof.

Large importations of Polled-Scotch cattle have recently been made, and Canadians in many places have sold large numbers of these "coming" cattle to parties who have taken them as far west as Kansas and the Indian Territory. Of course we cannot and do not expect these cattle to step right in, as it were, and crowd out the other noble breeds in a hurry, for breeders are not willing to sacrifice the work of generations merely to gain

this one point, but, at the rate of the present crusade against horns, it is pretty safe to assume that at the end of the next decade Polled cattle will be as common as they are now uncommon.

The Agriculture of Different Ages and Countries.

To enable me to give you some idea of the antiquity of husbandry I must carry you back to a very early period, and to a time when there was apparently much disinclination to work. I think I shall not be far wrong when I say a scantily populated, fertile country is generally distinguished for the rudeness of its cultivation and the comparative inferiority of its produce. It was the case in the first ages of mankind, and subsequently in all newly peopled countries. This, I think, may be taken as correct, for in this country we have ocular demonstration of it. Many of you are old enough to remember facts which will bear evidence of what I say. Then, as now, the rich, fertile, alluvial soil requiring no manure, and which produces the finest grasses, were the first spots fixed upon for location. Here grain and vegetables for the family, and food for the live stock could be procured with little or no labour, and until a good price could be obtained or a market established, there appeared to be little inducement to man to pour out the sweat of his brow, and he who generally preferred or indulged his sporting propensities, was satisfied with his well-filled pouch of game, and clothed himself in the skins of animals.

We have no, or very little, information of the country in which the soil was first cultivated, either before or immediately after the flood. The earliest authentic account of the state of agriculture immediately following the deluge would appear to be that which existed among the Egyptians and their bond men the Israelites, from the former of whom the Greeks appear to be descended. At a later period we have a colony starting from the Greeks—I speak of the Roman nation; from these latter other countries of Europe obtained their earliest marked improvement in all arts. The history of the progress of agriculture we will place under three sections or divisions. 1st. That of the Egyptians and other Eastern nations. 2nd. That of the Greeks. 3rd. That of the Romans. Every family of the Egyptians and primitive nations had its appointed districts for pasturage if they pursued a pastoral life; or its allotted enclosure if it was occupied by tilling the earth. There was no distinction in this respect between the monarch and his people; each had a certain space of land from which he and his family were to derive their subsistence. The Egyptians, as well as the Israelites, were flock-masters; the latter were particularly so, and as Joseph's brethren said to Pharaoh, "their trade was about cattle from their youth." When, therefore, they came into Egypt they desired the low-lying land of Goshen, as producing the most perennial of pasture. It is true that the same authority says, "Every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians;" but this was because, about a century before the arrival of Joseph among them, a tribe of Cushite shepherds from Arabia had conquered their nation and held them in slavery; till after a sanguinary contest of thirty years they regained their liberty about twenty-seven years before Joseph was promoted by Pharaoh. That the Egyptians were flock-masters is certain from many parts of the scriptures; that when Pharaoh gave permission to the Israelites to dwell in Goshen, he added, as he spoke to Joseph, "and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle." The attention and care necessary to be paid to their domestic animals were evidently well known and attended to; for when they proposed to settle in a land their first thought was to build sheepfolds for their cattle. They had stalls for their oxen and for all their beasts. Thus, King Hezekiah is said to have made stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks; moreover he provides him possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; and that this abundance exceeded the possessions of the greatest of our modern flock, even those of Australia and the far west, we may readily acknowledge, when we read that "Mesha, King of Moab, was a sheep master, and rendered unto the King of Israel