

so that one outlay for freight and other expenses covers 1200 or 1400 pounds of meat, whereas, in the case of such animals as the Devons, the outlay must be calculated as 1.50 for the same amount of shipment. That is to say, that one Angus weighing 150 stones equals one and a half Devons weighing 100 stones each, which is a large allowance for the latter breed. I do not lay much stress on the extraordinary value of polled cattle as polled; for I imagine that the damage, done by horning is, if ordinary care be taken, a mere trifle; and the popularity of the Herefords in the ranches we are speaking of shows that the graziers are of the same opinion; still, in the closely packed cars it is of some advantage that such a weapon of offence as the sharp pointed horn of the Kyloes, for instance, should give place to the comparatively harmless *node* of the polled breeds. The Angus and Galloways are not great milkers, but they can, like the Herefords, do their calves well, which is all that can be fairly required of them.

It was rather a bore that so many of Mr Whitfield's Angus cattle were absent at Kingston and Toronto.—I see, by the bye, that at the latter show, the Rougemont herd took, in the Hereford group, three firsts for bulls, and diploma; four firsts and three seconds for cows and heifers; and in the Angus group, four firsts and diploma, and two seconds for bulls; and five firsts and five seconds for cows and heifers! A fair allowance for one herd. Still, the display of the breed at Mile End was very good, and included some beasts from a new exhibitor, Mr Alloway, of Lachine, whose bull, Tulloch, first in the three years old class, a recent importation, does credit to judgment of the agent in Scotland who negotiated the purchase. Mr Cochrane took first prize in all the other bull classes, and first for old cows; Mr Whitfield and Mr Alloway divided the rest. In Galloways—a class headed *extra* in the prize list—Messrs Whitfield and Hickson were the only exhibitors; Mr Hickson having slightly the best of contest, at Toronto, I see the Rougemont herd took almost everything in Galloways; in Devons, it was far ahead of every competitor, though not quite as greedy as in the other classes I have mentioned.

Messrs J. and S. Nesbitt, of Petite Côte, in the class for *grade cattle*, won the first prize for old cows—a most interesting class, had it not been for the Rougemont polled-crosses. The cross between Shorthorn and Polled Angus has beaten most of the thoroughbreds at the Christmas Smithfield Club show for some years past; last year, two of this sort were led out at the last to compete for the prize as the best fat beast in the exhibition! (1) One of the Rougemont crosses was a perfect model of a beef animal and took first prize in her class. I was in hopes we should have seen a continuation of Mr Cochrane's experiment in Shorthorn and Kyloe crosses, of which, two years ago, a magnificent specimen was exhibited at Mile End; as the essay began ten years ago, something ought to have come of it by this time, and I dare say next year will show us what has been done at Hillhurst in this way.

Mr Whitfield's little Shetlands attracted hardly any attention, as people in general had no idea what they were. They do not live, as I read in the papers, upon seaweed and heather, though they are hardy enough. By the bye, might I hint to the reporters for the various Montreal journals that there is no such thing as a *brown* Shorthorn? The colours of that breed are, invariably, *red*, *white*, or a mixture of the two, *roan*.

*Sheep*.—What people keep *Leicesters* for I cannot imagine. I am, of course, prepared to be told that they yield the best mutton in the world, just as I was informed by a Lincoln man that no meat grown on the Downs could com-

pare with a fat Lincoln wether. However, Mr Cowan's, of Allan's Corners, were as good as they make them.

The Cotswolds and other long wools, were about as usual: neither of these breeds will fetch the top price in the foreign markets, and as the whole world is at our door with fine and coarse wool to sell, it can hardly answer our purpose to keep sheep, as in former days, as mere wool producers. (1)

*Southdowns*.—I may as well say, at once, that there was only one sheep in this class that came up to my idea of what a Southdown should be—Mr Dawes' of St. Anne's, two-shear ram. This animal was bought at the sale of the Guelpf Agricultural College last year and will certainly leave his mark on Mr Dawes' flock. His neck alone should have distinguished him in the eyes of the judges, and I hope it did; but a strong neck is, and naturally must be, accompanied by a strong, masculine head, and this was the only fault urged against him in my hearing. He is a nice ram, and of true Southdown character, wool and all.

What people who breed sheep mean by showing their animals in such infamous condition as some that I saw among the Southdown group I cannot understand. It is, evidently, desirable that stock should be shown "in breeding condition;" but "breeding condition" does not mean a condition of poverty that a wayside cottier would be ashamed to see in his flock or herd, picking up a miserable subsistence along the roads and lanes round his wretched cabin. How any judge could have succeeded in determining the relative positions of some Southdowns I saw, I do not, and probably never shall, understand. Did they toss up the conventional halfpenny? I was requested to say that I considered some of these poor creatures "models of symmetry!" They were, really, "bags of bones," and their general form was not particularly worthy of admiration. If breeders of Southdowns wish people in general to run away with the idea that their breed of sheep are little better than the unimproved native sheep of the country, they cannot hit upon a better plan than to show them in the infamous condition in which too many of this class appeared at our exhibition.

One of Mr Dawes' ewes had evidently a touch of longwool in her. This I pointed out to her owner, and he did not disagree with me; but, as all his original stock, of which this ewe was one, came from Mr Moore's flock, Mr Dawes could not account for the anomaly. At all events, the progeny of the sheep in question will be eliminated from the future breeders.

I should advise Mr Moore to get a change of blood into his flock as soon as convenient; for they are not improving at all. A little good feeding towards coupling time would have the effect of increasing the number of twins.

The necks, and general strength of character of Mr Gibbs' ewes would bear a good deal of improvement. They are too light forward, by half, and the wool, like the wool of all the ewes in this group, is, from breeding too near I suppose, losing the Southdown character.

Of Mr Whellan's, of Gloucester, exhibits I say nothing. I gave him my own private opinion about them, and I hope before another year is over he will see the force of my remarks. However, every one must have a beginning, and the most successful exhibitor of Southdowns to day, in England, was heartily laughed at when he showed his first ram at the R. A. S. Derby meeting, about 40 years ago.

The *Shropshires* of Mr Cochrane were, very unkindly, put in close proximity to the Southdowns. I won't say that they were the finest lot of sheep I ever saw, because that sort of thing irritates people. But even at the Royal Society's shows it would be hard to beat the lot, as a lot; and no

(2) A very fine lamb-ram was Mr Bernard's, of Beccil. Imported from England—price \$140!

(1) Both the property of Sir W. Gordon Cumming!