

Newton will stand up stoutly for the greater profitableness of the Ayrshires; and I have no doubt that my esteemed friend Mr. Roddick will tell us that he prefers the Gallo-ways to any of them.

We do not suppose that any one breed of cattle can in all circumstances be said to be the most profitable. Much depends upon the purpose for which they are kept. Some keep cattle strictly for breeding purposes, raising stock to sell for breeders. In that case they must keep a breed that is in demand—for which they can find a ready market. Others, again, keep cattle chiefly for giving milk, either for selling new or else for making into butter and cheese. For this purpose alone we would infuse the Ayrshire blood into the best of our common stock. The number of cheese factories that have grown up amongst us of late years has caused some of our farmers to turn their attention chiefly to keeping cows to supply these factories with milk. Others, again, depend chiefly on feeding, turning their cattle into beef. Most of us, however, use them for all these purposes, breeding from them what stock we want, milking them, and, when no longer profitable for these purposes, we turn them into beef. I need hardly remind this meeting that, though we speak and hear of *native cattle*, there is really no such thing as a native breed indigenous to Canada, but that all our cattle have been introduced into the country, from time to time, by settlers, from the places they came from, and no doubt from the breeds they fancied or could procure.

The Durhams, or Shorthorn cattle, have for many years past been the most fashionable and favourite breed both in Britain and here, and they are fast spreading to many other countries. Their large size, their early maturity, their fattening properties, render them very desirable stock; but their high price will long prevent the pure breed from becoming common among our farmers; but I think that thorough-bred bulls of this breed, used on the best of our common cows, (a cow ought always to carry her pedigree with her), will give us as profitable a beast as we can get. Taking care always to use a good bull—one as near thorough-bred as we can get—this will give us a good hardy grade, of good size, that will give us as much milk as any other breed, and will likewise fatten well when past milking. The steers, too, make good oxen, if any are wanted; they feed well, and make good beef at an early age. There is, I think, little doubt that the Ayrshires will give more milk on the same feed than the Durhams will. For milking properties alone, the Ayrshire breed stands undoubtedly at the head of the list, but, as compared with the Durhams, they are rather deficient in size, do not fatten so easily, the steers are not so large, nor—at least when young—do they fatten so easily.

Of Devon cattle I have had no experience.

They are reported to make the best of working oxen, and to do better on light pastures than the Durhams.

Though not immediately connected with the subject allotted to me, I may be allowed to say that much of the profit of cattle depends on the manner they are kept. I say nothing of winter keeping, as that was discussed at our last meeting. I rather think that many of us keep rather too many cattle for our pasture. I am every year more and more impressed with the opinion that it would be profitable for us to grow some kind of feed (say Indian corn or tares, or something of the kind,) for our cattle, when our pastures begin to fail, as they usually do, during our summer droughts, especially in such a dry season as the past, when our pastures were dried up early, and we had very little fall feed.

The total number of cattle reported in this township by the census of 1861 was 4,977. The census of the present year for cattle has not been published yet, as far as I know; but judging from the assessors' returns, there is just about the same number of cattle at present in this township as there was ten years ago.

Mr. Wm. L. Burnham said, that as far as his experience went, he agreed generally with what Mr. Riddell had said; he did not go for a pure breed; he liked his stock mixed with the Ayrshires; did not approve of the pure bred Ayrshire, but liked a cross from them and the Durhams; thought that cross was the most profitable both for the dairy and for fattening.

Mr. Edward Bellerby had always endeavoured to get the largest cattle. As long as he got bulk he was satisfied. He generally tried to get a good large grade, with a good deal of Durham in it; they answered him best in the barn-yard. He always could get an extra price for a large animal.

Mr. Pratt said that he had had experience in breeding cattle for twenty-two years. He first tried the grade Durhams, putting his cows to Mr. Wade's bulls; he found the steers and heifers from them rough, large beasts, very hard to make into beef; thought them at best a coarse animal, that cost more to make into beef than they were worth when fed. He then tried the Ayrshires; they were, he thought, the most profitable animal for any farmer to keep; thought they were hardier than the Durhams, and gave far more milk. In our mixed husbandry we wanted an animal that would give us the most milk, butter, and cheese, for the feed consumed. He believed that was the Ayrshire. A Durham cow would milk very well for a month or two after she calved, but soon failed in her milk, while the Ayrshires would milk all the year round. It was a trouble for him to get his cows dry when he wanted them, as he liked them to go dry a month or so before they calved. He got more milk from his cows now than he did in the latter end of October; thought that if he had had Durhams he would have had no milk by this time; was sure the Ayrshires would produce more money from the same ground than the Durhams would; for beef alone the Durhams might be best; but for milk, or milk and beef combined, the Ayrshire was far the best and most profitable.

Mr. F. Aitchison said he could say very little about this business of breeds of cattle. He had some experience in Durhams and grades. In his part of the country he knew some hired men who bought the large Ayrshires, because they thought they *eat most feed*, (their masters had to feed the cows, and they wished as much for their work as possible); but those who were not so greedy were content with a smaller grade cow. They often made two or three pounds of butter a week with the small cows, as the others did with the large Ayrshires; thought our common cattle were hardy and easily kept; good for milk, but they would not make as much beef as the Durham grades would; he liked the Durhams, but their price was high in this neighbourhood; thought a cross with them was the most profitable for our farms; thought the old-fashioned Durhams rather hard to feed, but that our present Durhams were good for both milk and beef; thought to cross Ayrshires with the Durhams was rather an unnatural cross.

Mr. Bourn thought that what thirty years ago we used to call a good native made a first-rate animal for milk; but these cows, when fed, did not come to the shambles as well as the Durhams or their grades did; the higher bred the animal was, the better for beef, but not for milk; thought that for our purposes cows were best about three parts bred, (but you lost if you put such cows to a common bull); the steer, too, fed well, would make eight or nine hundred weight, at, say two years and six or eight months old, on pasture, with a month or two of feeding at last; thought these grades the most profitable, as they would milk well if not too high bred; though he had seen common cows milk better than them; would advise not to over-feed a breeding cow; he had to physic them sometimes before calving, for fear of the milk fever; he preferred the Durhams to the Ayrshires; thought a grade Durham was equal in milking qualities to a grade Ayrshire; held that the Ayrshires required more feed to put on extra weight than the Durhams did.

Mr. Lapp never went into breeding much; was very favourable to Ayrshires mixed with our common cattle; found them very profitable for dairying purposes; to feed the Durhams might be better than the Ayrshires; but he never went much into feeding cattle.

Mr. Sidey said he regretted there were so few of our farmers that took any interest in these meetings. He thought it would be both pleasant and profitable to meet and exchange ideas with each other, for a few hours once a month or so. With reference to the subject of discussion, it was a new idea to him that we really had no native cattle; if we had any, he supposed they would be allied to the buffalo. In crossing, if for beef, would prefer the Durham; if for milk would cross with the Ayrshires; with a cross between our common cattle and a Durham bull, he could bring to the market, in say at two years and eight months old, a far better animal than our common cattle, at the same expense. He thought this cross would exceed our common cattle fully one-third.

BOW PARK SALE.—The sale of short-horns at Bow Park came off very successfully on Tuesday, the 19th December. Over 500 persons were present from all sections of the Province. The stock was in excellent condition, and sold well. Mr. Mathews, Mayor of Brantford, officiated as auctioneer. Twelve head of splendid prize steers and other stock were sold at private sale.