

Liability of Railway Corporations.

In the Divisional Court or Court of Queen's Bench, in the case of Hurd vs. the Grand Trunk Railway, the Court held that the case was one for the jury, that it went fairly to them, and they could not say that the jury was wrong. The Chief Justice said that though the plaintiff had been, in his opinion, guilty of great negligence in not taking the necessary precaution not to allow the horse to escape on the track, the crucial point was the blowing of the whistle and the starting of the train when the horses were about abreast of the locomotive, and as the engine-driver chose to take the chances, and the jury having found against him, that they could not disturb the finding. Justice Armour said he had grave doubts as to the horses being trespassers. He said, no doubt they had no right to be on the track; but it was necessary in this case to take a broad, common sense view of the surrounding circumstances, and one was the fact that the defendants had cut the plaintiff's farm in two. That it was unreasonable to cast the burden on the farmers through whose properties railway companies forced their roads to keep extra hands, in order that they might keep their stock from straying on to the railway track every time they had occasion to go from one part of their farms to another. It might be serious to some to do so; and therefore, although the horses had no legal right to be on the defendant's track, yet they were not, in his judgment, what is termed in law trespassers.

Our readers will remember that in the May number of the JOURNAL of 1886, page 121, the particulars of the trial at the Wentworth assizes in this case were given, resulting in a verdict in favor of Mr. Hurd. As then stated, the horses were being driven across the G. T. R. at "Oakwood," from one part of the farm to another, when a freight train came up and frightened them so that they sped off down the track, and several of them were severely injured in trying to cross the trestle work of a bridge. The company then appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench, with the result of the above-mentioned deliverance. The G. T. R. is now appealing to the Court of Appeal, and we anxiously await the decision. It is one of immense importance to farmers living along lines of railway. Mr. Hurd has shown great spirit in thus fighting a powerful corporation alone, and we sincerely hope that the final decision will be quite in accord with those already given.

Pedigree Weeding.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—Having noticed with considerable interest the discussion that is now going on about the Shorthorn Herd Book, I would like to say a few words in defence of the breeders of Shorthorns in this county, as well as in self defence. There are in the county of Missisquoi some six or seven small breeders of Shorthorns, and this weeding snuffs us nearly all out. There is no doubt that it is a good thing for the large breeders, but it is death to most of the beginners of pure bred Shorthorns, and I am one of those. I have two females that were recorded in the C. and B. A. Herd Books, but cannot get them entered in the Dominion Herd Book. One of the females has produced a very fine bull calf from one of Richard Gibson's bulls, owned by J. S. Williams, of Rugby Farm, Knowlton, P. Q. Mr. Williams sent in the pedigree of the calf, but could not get it recorded in the Dominion Herd Book. Mr. W. paid \$1,000 for the sire of this calf, and his dam is recorded in the Canadian and also the B. A. Herd Book, and is a good cow. Now if such stock cannot be recorded, I for one will have to give up, and be satisfied with grades and scrubs.

Cowansville, P. Q.

J. M. F.

Red Polled Cattle.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—Since I wrote you in reference to the Red Polls of Norfolk I have received from the editor of the R. P. Herd Book in England, a book in reference to the breed. I hope to see them brought more prominently before the Canadian public through your admirable journal, which I read with so much pleasure and interest. I am informed that the Government Stock Farm in New Brunswick has some of this breed.

I think that you will agree with me when I say that the Red Polls are not to be despised, although such a modern breed, comparatively. When more advertised they are likely to take a more prominent place in the front rank as a general purpose breed. They are hardy and easily fed; prepotent, combining beefing and milking qualities. Though some are large and others smaller milkers, the milk is rich. I have seen the famous Polled bull Davyson 3d. The prints that are shown of him do not give me the right idea of him. To my recollection he was much deeper, but old age may have changed him. In the colored illustrations sent me by the editor of the R. P. H. B., as representing Mr. Colman's herd (the noted mustard manufacturer), Falstaff, although in his teens, is well shaped and truly represents the breed.

The late owner of Davyson 3d, Mr. Leonard Palmer, (son of Mr. Foster Palmer, whose death led to the sale of their herd), told me that butchers readily give sixpence per stone more for this breed, they gave so good a return of dead weight. I think this climate would suit them, as it does not differ very much from that of the eastern counties of England. Perhaps we have here less rain and our winters are rather more severe.

I was pleased to see a piece on Suffolk sheep in your last number. I have always lived amongst them and can vouch for the correctness of the statements.

A. G. GOODACRE

Antigonish Harbor, N. S.

Large Daily Gains of Shorthorns.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—We were glad to see in the last JOURNAL that a son of our Shorthorn bull Prince Albert took the "Shattock cup" at the late Fat Stock Show at Guelph, and that for 768 days this steer made a daily gain of 2.16 lbs per day. To show that this is not an exceptional gain for Prince Albert's stock we note the following: Yearling bull Brideman 11th at age 845 days, weighed 2245 lbs, a daily gain of 2.65 lbs. He took 3d prize at Provincial in 1885. Valasso 6th at age 715 days weighed 1650 lbs, a daily gain of 2.30 lbs. He took 2d prize at Provincial in 1885. Heifer calf 11th Maid of Sylvan at age 333 days weighed 925 lbs, a daily gain of 2.45 lbs. She took 1st prize at Toronto, Guelph and London in 1886; full sister to Brideman 11th. Heifer calf, 4th Leanoire of Elmdale aged 299 days weighed 824 lbs, a daily gain of 2.69 lbs. She took 2d prize at Toronto and London. Yearling heifer 8th Maid of Sylvan at age 670 days weighed 1311 lbs, a daily gain of 1.95 lbs. She took 3d prize at Toronto and Guelph and 1st at London. Other instances might be mentioned nearly as good as these, if space would permit.

We were very loth to part with Prince Albert, but some time ago we offered him to Smith Bros., of Inverkip, and only just now they made up their minds to take him. We felt in honor bound to let them have him, but would much rather have kept him to have grazed our coming sale on the 8th of March. As a getter of grade stock as well as pure breeds he is something wonderful. The owners of several of his steer calves have refused \$25 for them at six months of age, for beef.

THOS NICHOLSON & SONS.

Sylvan, Jan. 17th.

The Shorthorn Herdbook Standard.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—I see by the JOURNAL that there has been a committee appointed to tone down the Shorthorn Herd Book. Has the formation of the new book hurt the country very much? As it is now done, let it stand, and not have it to do over again in some future day. Those gentlemen professed to know what they were doing, so let them cry along with others,

IN THE COLD.

Railway Uncourtesy.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—I was very much pleased with the article in November number of the JOURNAL showing the way exhibitors were used at the Provincial Exhibition, held at Guelph last September. Such usage might pass in some barbarous country, but it will not do here. I am of the opinion that the railway officials left themselves open to an action for cruelty to animals, to say nothing about the cruelty to men.

Carleton Place, Ont.

JOSEPH YUILL.

[The farmers should never submit to unfair treatment, much less to that which is inhumane. They possess in themselves a power that could smash railway corporations into fragments, if they only with one voice decided to use it. Their generosity in bearing affront has become proverbial, but a conscience-sunken conductor, who is putrid with bribes, along with his employers, may and should be taught that patience has its limits.—Ed.]

Retain the Present Herd Book Standard.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—Since the meeting of Shorthorn breeders held at Guelph on the 8th of December, I find that by my name being there as one of those who called that meeting I have been placed by a great many in a different position from what I intended. When my signature was asked all the other names on the list were already down, and after the object of the meeting was explained I complied with the request, as I wanted to hear a full discussion on the Herd Book question. Although we have four cattle excluded by the regulations of the D. S. H. Herd Book, yet we are opposed to any modification of the standard, believing that if the standard was lowered, in a very few years all interested would regret it. It is very much to be regretted that the revising committee did not look sharper when they took in hand the getting up of the B. A. Herd Book, as by their neglect—shall we call it—so much bad feeling has been raised, so much time and money wasted, and so many people have become disgusted, having bought and sold on the strength of the B. A. Herd Book, and when they thought they were in possession of a nice herd of Shorthorns, found that they were left. We hope that the work now going on in connexion with the Dominion Herd Book will be so complete that confidence can be placed in it, and that there will be a guarantee given that this is the last change that will be made.

WM. B. WATT.

Salem, Ont., Jan. 20th.

Readjusting the Shorthorn Herd Book Standard.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—In the January No. of the JOURNAL the Herd Book question has again been brought up through a meeting of representative breeders from different parts of Canada, at Guelph on the 8th of Dec. At this meeting, which was well attended, a committee was appointed to represent the meeting at the next annual meeting of the convention of the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book Association. A meeting of this committee was called for the next day, when the following motion was carried unanimously:

"That the Dominion Shorthorn breeders be hereby requested by this committee to modify the present standard of the Association so as to read thus: The animal must trace on the side of the sire and the dam to recorded imported English Shorthorns, or to pedigrees not false or spurious, already of record in the British American Herd Book."

We cannot see anything in this modification that can be objected to by the Dominion Association, or any member of it. If through some misunderstanding of the standards of other Associations the members of the Dominion placed the standard higher than necessary, we do not think there would be anything unmanly in a body so composed reconsidering their standard. We do not suppose any one for a moment thought the standard would be infallible. The representatives to parliament make laws and repeal them, and still we do not grow alarmed for the safety of our country (except on the eve of an election). Very few churches lay claim to infallibility, though aiming in