

an immediate condition instead of going back to the ultimate cause. What the farmers want is an understanding whereby prices, and, consequently, supplies, may be more uniformly sustained; they want the packers to meet and treat them as partners in the business. This, we fear, is the last thing the packers wish to do. We quite understand that neither of the above two representatives were invested with authority to enter into arguments or to make promises on behalf of the packers. No one expected that, but it was no good sign that, instead of a frank, heart-to-heart talk, they simply played a stand-off game. One cannot help the conviction that the average pork-packer looks upon the farmers as legitimate prey, and so long as the latter will stand to have their legs pulled the stretchers will be applied. They will stand it for a while, for they are a long-suffering class, and are, moreover, difficult to organize effectively for purposes of mutual advantage. But there is a limit to what they will stand, and sooner or later that limit is bound to be reached in the hog business. Down in Prince Edward Island a packing plant was started some few years ago in Charlottetown. The management, unfortunately, was imperious, friction arose and became rapidly worse. Insincere temporizing on the part of the management staved off but did not prevent the evil day, and to-day the company is insolvent and the plant shut down. The same condition will not occur here in the same way, but unless the packers will meet the producers in a frank, sympathetic spirit, a crisis more or less acute is bound to come, and when it does the packer will have much more to lose than the farmer. With Mr. Anderson, therefore, we appeal to the packers to take time by the forelock, meet the request of the hog-raisers candidly and fairly, and place the Canadian hog and bacon industry on a mutually satisfactory basis that will ensure its farther and more profitable extension. If the packers refuse to do this, the only thing for Canada to do is to shut off their supply of American hogs, and thus compel them to rely upon the Canadian supply and treat the Canadian producers as interested partners in the business.

The Four Great Beef Breeds.

III. HEREFORDS.

This excellent beef breed derived its name from the county in England in which its improvement and establishment as a pure breed was principally effected. Little is known regarding its origin prior to the eighteenth century, but in a book published in 1627, by John Speed, he speaks well of the cattle of Herefordshire. From the statements of the principal writers on Herefords, it seems pretty well established that they are descended from one or more of the aboriginal breeds of Great Britain; that the color, as in the case of the Devons and Sussex, was probably all red; that at an early period the white cattle of Wales were crossed upon the native stock, enlarging their frames and imparting a tendency to white markings; that the white markings were further enstamped by crosses of White-faced Flemish cattle, imported by Lord Scudmore from Flanders prior to 1671; that the white face, though generally recognized as indicating purity of breeding for some time previous to the close of the eighteenth century, was not universal, as some of the animals had mottled faces, and some had little white on any part; and that the greater size of the Hereford of early days, as compared with the Devon and Sussex breeds, was owing to the abundance of the food products of Herefordshire and to the effect of crossing them with animals of larger size. Herefords were noted, even in those early times, for their good grazing properties and the excellence of their beef.

The most noted of the early improvers of the breed were Benjamin Tompkins and his son Benjamin, the latter the more noted of the two. The elder Tompkins died in 1789; the younger was born in 1745 and died in 1815. Many of the best herds later built up in Britain were founded on stock purchased from the younger Tompkins. Like Bakewell with his Leicester sheep and Longhorned cattle, Tompkins improved his cattle by careful selection and mating, and by in-and-inbreeding, until he fixed the type. At the dispersion sale of his stock in 1819, the breeding animals sold for an average of \$700 each. Prior to 1835 herds of Herefords had been established in fifteen English and Welsh counties, and during the first half of the century Herefords won more prizes at the London Smithfield Fat-stock Show than any other breed.

IMPORTATIONS TO AMERICA.

The first accredited importation of the breed to America was made by the Kentucky statesman, Henry Clay, in 1817. Several other importations were made to the States between 1817 and 1839, but during that interval the breed does not seem to have made much progress in America. Between 1839 and 1843, William H. Sotham, brother of Mr. Thomas F. B. Sotham, late of Chillicothe, Mo., a Hereford enthusiast, an Englishman who knew the breed well in its native land,

and who had unbounded faith in its excellencies, and was an indefatigable and enthusiastic advocate of the breed, made three successive importations into the State of New York.

In 1869, and for many years after, Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph, Ontario, made frequent importations of excellent animals of the breed, and was for many years the principal prizewinner at the Provincial exhibitions. He was an ardent admirer and advocate of the breed, and many of the best herds of the United States and Canada were founded on stock derived from his herd, while members of his family still maintain a herd at Guelph. Since 1880, and during that decade, the importations and distribution of Herefords in America were widespread and phenomenal, the breed having become exceedingly popular, as they were found to be excellent grazers and quick-selling beeves at the highest market prices. The breed has been fortunate in having as its friends and admirers in America men of large means and abounding and abiding faith in the superior worth of the best of the breed as beef cattle, for the improvement of the common



Typical Hereford Bull.



Hereford Cow and Calf.

cattle of the country, and for crossing upon other breeds to produce first-class beef animals. Owing to this enthusiasm and financial ability, many members of the best families of the breed in Britain have been transferred to this continent in the last quarter of a century, and it is certain that the breed as a whole has been greatly improved in the hands of American and Canadian breeders. This is especially true of the hind quarters and hams of the cattle, which were formerly frequently faulty in those parts, but are now as nearly perfect as in any breed. The set of the horns and the uniformity of white markings has also been improved in late years, the slightly drooping and incurving horns being the popular style, and the pure-white face the favorite marking.

Herefords are now distributed in nearly every State in the Union and in every Province in the Dominion, and are especially popular in the range districts of the Northwest, owing to their superior grazing qualities.

REGISTRATION.

The American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association was organized in 1881. The Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association of England was formed in 1884. The Canadian Hereford Breeders' Association has been in existence for a number of years, and a pedigree record was commenced over twenty years ago by the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario. The first volume of the American Hereford Record was published in 1880, and of the English Hereford Herdbook in 1884. The first volume of the Canadian Hereford Herdbook was published in 1896, and three volumes have been issued.

Herefords readily adapt themselves to changed conditions, and their quiet, docile disposition renders them eminently suitable to either range or stable conditions, or to cold or warm temperatures. In average size and weight they are about equal to the modern Shorthorn, and in many instances individual animals outweigh Shorthorns. In early-maturing qualities, they are fully equal to any other breed, and they can be made quite ripe for the block at two and a half years, while

the quality of their meat is exceedingly good, and finds favor with butchers and consumers, being juicy and tender, the lean and fat nicely blended, the proportion of lean to fat large, the offal small, and the proportion of dressed meat to live weight relatively large. The milking properties of Hereford cows are not, as a rule, of a high order, as they have been bred principally for beef production, but many of the cows are fairly good milkers, and, with few exceptions, they nurse their calves satisfactorily.

Herefords cross well with other breeds, and improve common stock rapidly where used for grading up when meat-making is the principal object sought. Their breeding qualities are good. When submitted to high-pressure feed they breed more regularly than most other breeds in similar condition, and, as a rule, breed to an advanced age. They are also said to be less subject to abortion and milk fever than most other breeds.

The principal points in the ideal type of Hereford cattle may be briefly stated as follows: Head small in proportion to the substance of the body, and well set on; forehead broad between the eyes and above the eyes; face slightly dished in the female, and gently tapering below the eyes; muzzle broad, nostrils large and open, horns springing out slightly from the poll, slightly drooping, flat at the base, and curving in the form of a

semicircle; neck strong and arched in the male, but finer in the female, and set smoothly into the shoulders, which should be broad on top but not prominent at the points, fitting well into the body, which should be long, low and deep, well filled behind the shoulders and the fore ribs well let down, wide between the forelegs and thick through the heart, ribs well sprung, loin broad, level, and thickly covered with firm flesh; hook bones smooth, not prominent, and well covered with flesh; hindquarters long, broad and deep; thighs broad, full, well fleshed, and carrying well down to hocks; buttocks broad; twist deep and full; tail rather fine, and set on level with the back; flank well let down, full, thick and deep; legs short and well placed; bone fine, clean and flat below the knee; skin of medium thickness, but somewhat thicker than in the Shorthorn, mellow and elastic to the touch, and well covered with abundant fine, soft hair. Color, red, with white face, white on throat, chest and legs, lower part of body, crest, and tip of tail. In general