

these premises to be correct how would the case stand? If our general purpose man should prove a fitter man for Premier of the Province than any of the special purpose men? If our general purpose horse should prove stronger than the draft horse, and handsomer and faster on the road than the special driver? If our mutton sheep should give a fleece worth nearly as much as the special wool sheep? And if our rooster in addition to his capacity for eggs and turkey should prove able to lick the other one on his own dunghill and crow louder afterward? That is about where the Shorthorn is. They are a general purpose cattle, with a well developed tendency to down the specialists in their own specialties.

In speaking of special purpose cattle we usually divide them into two classes, but there are really three: one class is good for beef, another class is good for the dairy and the other class is good for nothing. Their specialty is to consume the largest possible amount of food for the least possible return of any kind. With this latter class the Shorthorns have nothing to do. They are on entirely different ground. But it is an undoubted fact that they do occupy the ground between the other two classes, and pretty well overlap them both. If you will take a stock-journal of to-day and compare the stock cuts in it with the cuts of a few years ago, you will see the prize winning animals of to-day other than Shorthorns are more like Shorthorns than they are like their ancestors of a few years ago. I have before me as I am writing, a picture of a famous prize-winning Holstein bull, that would pass for a very fair Shorthorn, and even some of the crack Jersey bulls of to-day would almost pass for Shorthorn stags. Now, why is it these other breeds are so rapidly approaching the Shorthorn type? I'll tell you. These specialists are not at all afraid of the specialists of the other class, but they are all terribly afraid of the Shorthorn, that is so likely to get on top of them, and who has been on top of them so often, he has impressed himself on their imaginations, and they are working away with the very limitable hope that some day their cattle will be as good as Shorthorns and look like them. If I could show you a picture of the new general purpose cattle, the Simmenthal and Normandy cattle, whose calves are advertised at \$500 each at one month old, I should not need to tell you why I preferred the Shorthorns to them. These are the conclusions I have reached regarding Shorthorn cattle, and I will now give you some of the reasons that have led to them. In the first place I have been breeding them for a long time myself, and I have not been breeding them for fun. I have been breeding them for bread and butter (as well as for beef and butter) and that makes a man careful about what he handles, and if I found any other cattle giving better results I would not have stayed with them so long. And I feel that a great majority of people think as I do about them. I saw a statement a few days ago that 75 per cent of all the cattle exported from Canada and the United States, were Shorthorns and Shorthorn grades, and I believe if Mr. Gordon or Mr. Ironside were here they would say they were the kind of cattle they like to handle. I have also noticed in all contests between breeds, whether for milk or beef, in Britain or America, the Shorthorn is generally on hand, and if he does not always get

the first place, he is generally so close to it, there is no room for any other breed between him and it. It is true in the milk test here last summer we had to lower our colors to a Holstein, and in Chicago (at the Columbian) to a Jersey, but in neither case was any other breed near enough to trample on them. But it must be borne in mind that Glennie's Holstein that won the test here was a phenomenon, she is said to have the best record of any cow of her age; it is no disgrace to be beaten by such a cow. And it must also be borne in mind that among all breeds of cattle combined there are very few cows that can down her Shorthorn competitor, that Bro. Waugh aptly calls "Lang's Beef Shorthorn." And you will also please take notice that at both these competitions the Shorthorn was first in the class for all beef breeds, and second in the class for all dairy breeds. What other breed can approach such a record? And these were our failures! I have also noticed that at some of the fat stock shows in Britain in the competition between breeds the Shorthorn is barred. (1) And I do not remember an instance of a successful cross-bred animal that was not a Shorthorn cross. What more can you ask. If you want beef they are the best. If you want milk they are as good as the best, and if you want cross breeds or grades they are simply indispensable.

It has been said that no race of cattle has ever been found that was not permanently improved by a Shorthorn cross, and that no race has yet been found that was able to permanently improve the Shorthorn by crossing with them, and that wherever the Shorthorn has once got a footing he has never been exterminated. So you who do not want Shorthorns had better see to it that they do not come within a hundred miles of you, for they are as bad to spread and as hard to get rid of as French-weed. Commencing a hundred and fifty years ago in the north of England, they are spread in every direction. They have overrun England, have driven the Highlander to the hills and strangle the doddies (1) in their own byres. They have captured North America, and are now being sent in herds to Australia and South America. Wherever civilization goes, there goes the Shorthorn. In fact they seem as necessary to each other as a contribution box is to a missionary. They are not found in places that are totally barbarous and uncivilized.

There they are on an equality with the missionary. Both are liable to be eaten, and although they may do some good in that way at the time, their future usefulness is impaired. Among people who worship their cattle and eat their missionaries, the outlook, either for the missionaries or the improvement of the cattle, is not a hopeful one, but wherever they eat their cattle and their missionaries indiscriminately, it is only a question of time and civilization, when a herd of Shorthorn will entirely supersede baked missionary. You see the human animal needs to be civilized and cultivated and reformed to some extent before he can appreciate the Shorthorn animal, and the farther he has advanced in that direction the more highly is the Shorthorn animal esteemed. Hence, their status in any country is the measure of that country's progress in civilization and refinement.

(1) Quite new to us, and sounds like an error.—Ed.

(1) "Doddies," or in Aberdeenshire, the "Humies", are the Galloways and polled-Angus cattle.—Ed.

try's progress in civilization and refinement. If there should happen to be a Scotchman present he will tell you Scotland is the most highly civilized and refined country in the world, and where will you find such Shorthorns as in Scotland? Even our American friends (who make some pretensions to civilization), have very good Shorthorns. It would perhaps be not good taste to speak of ourselves in this connection, but the anxious enquirer is respectfully referred to the record of the Chicago Columbian Exposition for information on that point. Allen, in his history of American cattle, written thirty years ago, speaking of the Shorthorn, says: "Some have objected to them as unfitted for a cold climate. That objection has proved of little weight. Northern England and the Northern Counties of Scotland have produced them in their highest perfection. And in the higher latitudes of America, including Canada, they thrive as well as in the milder climates of Ohio and Kentucky. The severe winters of the north appear to be no bar to their success. How far South they may go has yet to be tried. For the improvement of our native cattle either for the dairy or the shambles, no foreign breed has been so much sought. They appear destined to go into every place where cattle are successfully bred, and good herbage abounds, as being the stock which, whatever may be the merits of others in certain localities, must in the majority prevail. When I was first in England the Shorthorns were confined to a comparatively narrow territory, and that chiefly in the northeasterly and central counties. Now they are seen in almost every part of the United Kingdom where good grasses and the best agriculture prevail. I found them even working on towards the Scottish Highlands, trenching into the homes of the Ayrshires and Galloways, and crossing more or less into almost all the old local breeds. Whether it is because they have become the fashion or are thus spreading on their own merits, I did not enquire, but concluded from the fact of their increasing propagation among farmers where almost everything is made to pay that they find them their most profitable neat stock." In summing up his history of "Shorthorn Cattle" written ten years later, the same author says: "Our history has fully shown that from the earliest period, the Shorthorn cows as a rule were large milkers, and when cultivated with a view to dairy purposes, no animals of any breed excelled and few, if any, equalled them. When milk has been the main object in their keeping, no cows have made larger yields according to the consumption of food than they. In the wide beef producing districts of our country where milk is of little object beyond that of nursing a calf to the proper age for weaning, the milking faculty of a Shorthorn cow has been partially bred out, but is capable of being restored in a few generations by the application of bulls descended from herds where the dairy quality has been preserved. Indeed we have seen wonderful milkers occasionally strike out in herds where the cows were only nominal in their yields. Abundantly testifying that the dairy quality is inherent in their organization.

As a flesh producing animal nothing of the bovine race ever has, or probably ever can equal the Shorthorns in early maturity, rapid accumulation of flesh, fullness and ripeness of points, accord-

ing to the amount of food they consume, and assimilating that food to its most profitable use. A century of experience in Britain and half a century of experience in America, with a rapidly growing confidence in their flesh-taking capacity, have placed the Shorthorn in the foremost rank of all meat cattle. No cattle of whatever race or breed have exhibited more of the qualities of vitality, longevity and fertility than they. We might mention scores of bulls by name which have proved useful to extreme ages, both in England and America." Here he gives a long list of both bulls and cows that have proved useful until 20 years old and concludes, by saying: "All they need is a sufficiency of proper food, not forcing, and sensible treatment in the way of shelter and care, to prove them equals, if not superiors, in fertility and longevity, of any others of the bovine race." Is it possible that all this evidence in their favor is wrong? Hardly! I know it will be objected by some that the general purpose animal is not the best farmer's animal. That is a matter of opinion, and about all that could be said on either side would be assertions and contradictions. I believe myself they are the best, but every one must judge for himself. But this I do know, this is an age of specialties and it is also an age of hard times. But if you are determined to have special purpose cattle, it has been abundantly shown that both the beefing and milking qualities are inherent in the Shorthorn, and both may be cultivated in fair proportions, or either quality may be quickly and easily developed at the expense of the other. These are some of the reasons "Why I like the Shorthorn," and if they do not commend themselves to judgment I am sorry for somebody.

NOR-WEST FARMER.

## AYRSHIRE CATTLE IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

### Sales in Newfoundland—Ayrshire Association.

It is very interesting to note the rapid progress and great improvement that is being made in the breeding of Ayrshire Cattle in the Province of Quebec. From one end of the province to the other, our best breeders seem to favor the Ayrshires and, not in a few places, there are herds which not only have milking qualities but have beauty and high breeding as well, and would do credit even to the County of Ayr in Scotland. Each year, farmers who are looking for the best breed of thoroughbred cattle take to the Ayrshires in preference to any other. The result as was shown in the magnificent collection of Ayrshires at the Montreal Exhibition last year is already evident, for expert judges expressed themselves in the very highest terms regarding this exhibit and stated that it would compare favorably with some of the best in the Old Country. The high reputation which the Province is making in the breeding of Ayrshires is already established, for not a few have been sold at good prices in the United States within the past few months, while during the present month an expert buyer was here on behalf of a leading breeder in the United States and purchased seven head, for which the sum of \$1400.00 was paid. This is certainly a very good showing, and should afford