

Q. It is a matter of interest to the Committee, and seeing that you have the last remaining herd that is known of in the North-West, the Committee would be very glad to have some details in regard to them—how you happen to possess them, what their habits are, how far they have increased under your management, &c.? A. About eight years ago I bought a herd of eight buffaloes from the MacKay estate, and three others I got on the plains as calves, and at this moment I think I must have, exclusive of this year's calves, and the calves of half-breed buffalo, 67 or 68 thorough-breds and about sixteen to eighteen half-breeds. The half-breeds have been crossed both ways a buffalo bull with a Durham cow and a Durham bull with a buffalo cow. The half-breeds make up in the hind quarters and give more beef than the thorough-bred buffalos. The fur is more regular and thicker.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. Which is the best class of half-breeds? A. I think they are about equal.

Q. Have you found any difference in the habits of those half-breed animals—the cross between the Durham cow and the buffalo bull—is that any more tame than the other cross? A. The cross between the buffalo bull and the Durham cow is a larger animal than that which comes from a cross between a Durham bull and a buffalo cow.

Q. And much the same with respect to temper? A. The latter remain more with the domestic cattle than those thrown from a buffalo bull as a rule.

Q. That is they partake more of the nature of the father? A. Yes.

*By the Honorable Mr. Macdonald :*

Q. Do you have to house the buffalo in the winter and feed them? A. No, they are very hardy. We have had instances of buffalo cows calving in winter when the mercury was 38 below zero, and I was surprised to find the calves as lively as when dropped in May or June.

Q. Have you to feed out hay to them? A. Hay has been scarce lately, and they have had a little in the fore part of the winter, but in the later part they have had to seek food for themselves on the plain.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. I suppose the half-breeds do not breed again? A. Yes, they breed every year.

Q. Half-breeds with half-breeds? A. Yes, they breed just cross like ordinary cattle.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Does the robe still retain the same characteristics as that of the thorough bred buffalo? A. Just the same.

Q. In what manner do you at present care for those hybrid cattle? Do you allow them to roam with the ordinary stock? A. They just go about with ordinary stock on the plains.

Q. Have you tried the experiment of milking any of the buffalo cows? A. No, I have not. I have just allowed them to rear their calves.

Q. Do you think the attempt to raise the calves has been as successful in this mixture of breeds as ordinary cattle? A. There is less trouble with them, and they are more successful than ordinary cattle. That is my experience.

*By the Honorable Mr. Merner :*

Q. You just let them loose on the plains? A. Yes, we turn them out on the plains and they care for themselves.

Q. Do they roam far away? A. Occasionally a young bull will stray away when he is driven out of the band by the older bulls after the cows have dropped their calves and have come in season again. They do not stray further away than domesticated cattle will from the herd.

*By the Honorable Mr. Turner :*

Q. What is the comparative value of the meat of the four kinds—the thorough-bred buffalo, the half-breed by the mother, the half-breed by the bull and the meat of the half-breed from a half-breed? A. Of course there being no market for it, it is hard to say?

Q. But in your judgment which is the best meat? A. I think the meat of the half-breed is best. It is not so fibrous.

Q. That is the product of the half-breed with the half-breed? A. Yes.