

Anthrax from Hides.

At a recent meeting at Oswego, N. Y., Dr. Pearson reported as follows: "There were two extensive outbreaks in Pennsylvania last year, caused by imported hides from China. They were dry hides treated with arsenic, and of course brought over in one cargo and distributed to two tanneries—one at Proctor, Lycoming Co., and one at Falls Creek, Jefferson Co. At each of these tanneries anthrax appeared, first among the workmen. In one tannery six men died of anthrax. Several other cases resulted in recovery. The water and refuse from the tannery were thrown into a near-by stream, and a number of cattle—about 30 or 35—that drank the water at one tannery died of anthrax, and about the same number at the other. This year we had anthrax in the vicinity of the Falls Creek tannery. It appears that the stream is infected, and it has been found necessary to vaccinate a large number of cattle in that district.

Tuberculosis Among Dairy Cows.

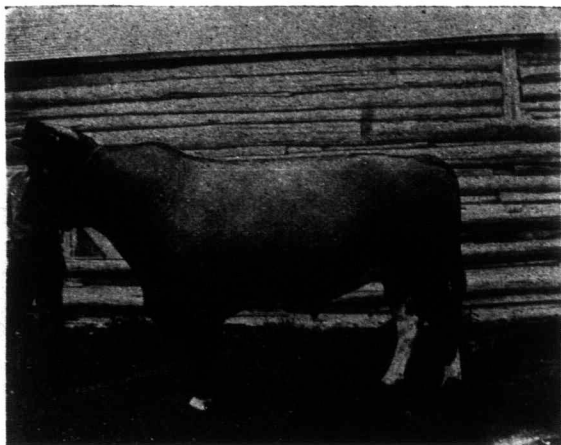
A report by Professor Wortley Axe on the results of the inquiry promoted by the British Dairy Farmers' Association into the prevalence of tuberculosis among dairy cattle appears in the journal of the Association recently issued. Nine herds were selected for testing, the number of animals in each, including bulls, ranging from seventeen to ninety-four. In two herds, containing respectively seventeen and forty-one animals, none of the animals reacted, and in one containing eighty-three the reactions reached only 3.6 per cent.; but in the other herds the percentages of reactions were respectively 20, 30.3, 43.4, 71.4, 76.9, and 90.4. The herds which gave no reactions were bred on their farms, and the animals lead an outdoor life all the year round, being in the pastures or yards by night as well as by day. The other herds are kept to a great extent in sheds, and Professor Axe lays stress upon the influence of shed life upon the propagation of tuberculosis. Of the 461 cows comprised in the inquiry, 51, or 11 per cent., were found to have some disease of the udder of one kind or another, and, of the animals so affected, 27, or 55 per cent., reacted to the test. Still, in an appendix by Mr. F. J. Lloyd, who analyzed thirty-three samples of milk from the tested herds, he states that he could not discover the tubercle bacillus in a single instance. After this failure he took measures for cultivating the bacillus, if present, in glycerine beef broth, and tried about thirty samples of milk in that way, but without developing the tubercle bacillus in one of them.

Why Breed Unprofitable Live Stock?

One Samson endeavors to point out in the *English Live Stock Journal* a glaring folly on the part of very many English farmers, which he blames for their unpropitious condition. What is true among English farmers in this regard applies well to a large number in Canada and other lands, who through choice or force of circumstances neglect the improvement in their stock that is easily within reach. This is what Samson says:—

"In making a short review of this subject, which is so important to the pecuniary success of all farmers who breed live stock, we willingly concede that, after every endeavor has been made, there will be misfits in breeding; but because that is so, it is none the less a mistake to keep these misfits to propagate other misfits, and so to lower the standard of the animals of the country. The argument is applicable to all descriptions of live stock, but in the present article we confine it principally to Shorthorn cattle. In most farmers' stocks in the northern counties of the United Kingdom you find some half-dozen cows of more than ordinary excellence—good in shape, flesh, and milk, and which would do no discredit if brought in contact with the best pedigree herds. But the others, it may be from thirty up to fifty milch cattle on each farm, fall by gradation, and you have the feeling that some of them are not paying for their keep. They have been bred in a happy-go-lucky way, from lack of thought mainly, but with the intention strongly underlying, although not openly confessed, of saving a shilling in the service fees. Unsound horses on the road at low fees are not the only sinners. For some years past a system has grown up amongst northern farmers of using a pedigree bull and rearing all their male calves for sale. These latter are mainly sold in the auction marts as pedigree stock, although they are mostly bred from unregistered dams, and much disappointment frequently results following the use of such bulls. The trade, too, has been so overdone that it is not unusual to see yearling bulls sold at from 6 to 10 gs., a price that cannot pay the breeder and rearer. These are the mongrels that keep farmers' stocks mongrel and unprofitable. At a sale of pedigree stock the purchaser has the opportunity of seeing both sire and dam of the young bull he decides to buy, and can thus assure himself that they are good alike in both milk and flesh. After taking stock of

the best of the dams in his own herd from which he purposes to breed his future produce, he can then satisfy himself if they are lacking in any salient feature, and then select the bull most likely to supply the defect in his dam. It was precisely in thus selecting male animals to supply shortcomings in the females that the Holker and Inglewood herds attained to such excellence. But even when this has been done, there will in all probability come misfits, and these must be cleared out, the males steered and the females fattened for slaughter. There can be no doubt but that if nine-tenths of the male calves now reared for service in the northern counties (possibly the same will apply to other counties) were sold as fat calves, or steered and sold fat as bullocks, the breeders (tenant farmers) would benefit pecuniarily, and a manifest improvement would result in the general cattle of the country. At present such breeding and rearing



SHORTHORN BULL, PRINCE LINCOLN =23368=.
Sired by Golden Robe =20396=; dam Lady Zoe 2nd =25980=.
THE PROPERTY OF W. STROTHERS, GRABURN, ASSA.

for use is a lottery. The yearling may bring 6 gs. or 20 gs. in the sale, so each take their chance of the higher figures. Such sires are simply a national loss, a deterrent to the improvement of the national breeds of cattle, and a pecuniary loss to each farmer who breeds them or from them. In the United Kingdom at the present time trade is good, wages are good, and the masses would prefer to eat British home meat; but when much of that meat offered to them is no better than the foreign meat sold at 2d. to 3d. per lb. cheaper, need we wonder that the foreign meat comes to us in ever-increasing quantities; and the future offers to intensify the competition, for the foreigners are taking the steps so many British farmers ignore, and are yearly improving their live stocks from British foundations. The lesson is before our eyes, yet British farmers—at all events, too many of them—remain apathetic, passive, looking on with folded hands



TWO SHORTHORN HEIFER CALVES.
Sired by the late stock bull, Valkyrie. (See "Gossip," page 671.)
BRED BY T. DOUGLAS & SONS, STRATHROY, ONT.

whilst their principal trade is slowly but too surely departing from them, and asking Jove to lift the wheel out of the rut—the landowners to reduce their rents. It is certainly a strange picture of 'rest and be thankful,' and the pity of the situation is that it is true. We remember the case of a farmer, a man of capital, who took what he admitted to be the worst of a dozen rams, because it was 5s. cheaper. Yet he selected that ram for use in his own flock, to the probable deterioration of hundreds of its produce. Where practice such as this prevails need we wonder that British agriculture remains under a cloud? How can we hope to see the silver lining?"

Best in Canada.

J. B. THOMSON, Hamiota, Man., Oct. 28th, 1900: "I like the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* well. I think it is the best agricultural paper in Canada."

Star Pointer Retires from the Turf.

Referring to the report that the celebrated Star Pointer has been permanently retired from the turf to the stud, the *Chicago Horseman* says:

If ever a stallion has earned a rest, Pointer is the one. He is the only real 2-minute horse the world has ever seen. The more one knows about trotting and pacing, the harder does the 2-minute task appear. One has only to consider how much it is to say that a horse "can show a quarter in 30 seconds," and, comparatively speaking, how very few horses are worthy thereof, to reach some idea of what a tremendously hard task it is for a horse to go four quarters in 30 seconds each. Star Pointer's greatness rests chiefly on the fact that he did not merely scratch into the 2-minute list with one lone performance of 1.50 $\frac{1}{2}$. Five different times he turned the 2-minute trick, and therefore it must be admitted that he is a genuine 2-minute horse in all that the term implies. He possessed that extraordinary rarity, 2-minute speed, and he was able, when right and in hard training, always to show it. No other horse has to his credit an equal number of such wonderfully fast miles. The seasons that James A. Murphy owned him, Star Pointer scored a series of victories against the watch and over other horses that have no parallel in the annals of the harness breeds. He was carried from one end of the country almost to the other and he proved himself the champion under almost all circumstances. He was never a half-mile track horse, but that does not matter—it was not his line—and he was not an easy horse to train. One man, though, understood him thoroughly, and that man is David McClary, who drove him in all his greatest exhibitions, and is therefore the only man who ever rode miles in 2 minutes or better in public. A big horse, and somewhat gross in his conformation and habits, Pointer was always somewhat of a problem to his trainer. Had he been smaller and less meaty, he might not have gone so fast, but he would have been easier to get fit and keep fit. However, despite this handicap, McClary handled Star Pointer to perfection, and the way in which the horse kept on edge when at his best was a revelation to the oldest timers as an example of what a good horse can do when in the hands of just the right man. When Star Pointer was reeling off his 2 minute miles almost every time he turned around in earnest, predictions were plentiful that 2-minute pacers would before very long be anything but a rarity. These predictions have failed signally of coming true, and Star Pointer retires into private life with his honors still undivided and still as thick upon him as when he went into winter quarters the fall after he had first let the world see a mile covered to harness in less than 2:00. As a sire Pointer gives promise of being able to transmit his wonderful speed, if he has not already done so, for his son, Sidney Pointer, who, by the way, will be in McClary's hands in 1900, paced a mile in 2:08 $\frac{1}{2}$ the past summer and not under specially advantageous circumstances at that.

Give the Colts a Good Start.

Starve a colt the first and second winters and you are on a fair way to raise a "plug," no matter how good the breeding. The idea that it toughens colts and fillies to allow them to rough it on poor feed is altogether without foundation, and is often offered as an excuse for negligence because it is cheaper and easier. It pays to feed young horses liberally with grain, as when it is assimilated it becomes the best class of horseflesh. Starved horses never made anyone a dollar and never will, as they mature slowly into cheap stock that, through lack of proper development, have a tendency to go wrong in their legs and digestive organs. The old Scotch proverb, that "the flesh born on a foal is the most valuable and should never be lost," is as true as anything that was ever written, and if that flesh is once lost it costs far more to replace it than to have kept it in the first place. There is a limit to the capacity of all horses as to the amount that may be fed them, for what is not digested and assimilated is more than wasted. It does harm and gives rise to trouble; so that it is necessary to feed with judgment as well as grain, while good hay should not find a substitute in straw or cornstalks. In the fall especially should the feeding be generous, as the drain on the system of growing a heavy coat of hair should not be allowed to detract from the condition of the animal, as the old saying, "The animal that is in good condition when cold weather comes is already half wintered," contains an element of truth. It is also a bad practice to keep horses, either young or old, out in cold and storms with the idea that it toughens them. Occasionally those who try this plan have to purchase horses in the spring to do their seeding.

In feeding and caring for stock of any kind we must not forget that all waste tissue, heat, and action must come from the feed, as well as the growth of new material, be it bone, flesh or hairy covering, and for this reason more grain should be fed in the fall than at any other season to growing