

for many years. The main portion of their herd consisted of specimens of new Scotch type. These successors gave to the Scotch, and especially the Sittyton cattle, much added prestige, and from that day they have continued to hold it. Many importers visited Scotland for choice specimens, but Sittyton cattle could not be obtained. Others were discovered, many of which were superior, although not strictly of Cruickshank breeding. These were brought over and soon the expression "Scotch" was considered by many as equal to "Cruickshank." This is a foolish conclusion. There are hundreds of breeders in Scotland with no reputation, no special line of breeding, and among their cattle no record as prize winners; yet, because they reside in Scotland their cattle have been purchased and brought to America to be sold as "straight Scotch."

Many of these cattle are entirely lacking in prepotency and therefore their use has frequently been disappointing; while others of them have been so improved by the use of sires from the Sittyton herd, other than those used directly on the Sittyton cattle, as to show much better results.

THE TERM "ALL SCOTCH"

is meaningless, and careful breeders always study closely the particular breeding indicated in the pedigree. "All Scotch" and "Imported" have about equal value when appended to a pedigree, and neither term of itself is worthy of any particular consideration.

In the early days when the cost of importing was a very considerable amount, and when the risk was much greater than at present, it may be assumed that it was not worth while to pay the expense and take the risk on an inferior animal, and hence "imported" probably meant that the animal was well selected; but since the days of the steamships, both the risk and expense have been so lessened that they have no influence whatever on the selection, and a breeder in Scotland or Canada or the United States or Australia, ought, on the merits of his cattle, to have precisely the same standing. If we have not yet reached that opinion generally it will not be long before it must be accepted as sound doctrine.

In 1887, foot and mouth disease broke out in Great Britain, and for some years cattle could not be imported into Canada. The embargo did not exist in the United States, and several shipments went direct from Scotland into that country, so that Canadians were obliged to secure their supply in that way. "Indian Chief" was selected from one of these importations. In the meantime several strong herds had been established, based almost entirely on importations from Sittyton. Among the most notable was that of Col. W. A. Harris, of Linwood, Kas. Col. Harris obtained some of the choice specimens brought over by Mr. Davidson, but experienced the same difficulty as others in securing suitable sires, the use of which would enable him to hold the average excellence which they then carried. After selling the imported bull Gravesend for use in another herd, he bought him back as the best all round sire to be then obtained. His record was good in Scotland, as in America, although he was scarcely up to the Champion of England type for early maturity.

THE DEMAND CONTINUED STRONG

for the Sittyton breeding, and it is not too much to say that it has continued ever since. The Shorthorn cattle in the sales of 1905, which brought

the best average prices, have been those containing the greatest amount of this Sittyton blood. The effort to switch off to anything bred in Scotland and hence called Scotch has already lost its power, for the reason that only some of it stands the test in practical use. And when it does it is naturally seen that it is because of a strong infusion of this blood either directly or in a remote form. The reputation of the Sittyton cattle has not been a mere fad or a fashion lasting for a day, but rather is based on real excellence in quality, and early maturing propensities.

Strange to say, this great herd had nearly closed its great career before it exerted any influence on Shorthorn breeding in England, and when it did commence it seemed rather accidental than otherwise. Mr. Duthie is my authority for the statement that one of the first bulls to go into England for use on a prominent Shorthorn herd was rather inferior, although of very good breeding. He was taken because no other could then be conveniently obtained, but his use in that case

PROVED A REVELATION.

His prepotency was undoubted, and his stock altogether astonished the owner. The result of this cross soon became the live stock gossip of the neighborhood, and other breeders came to see for themselves, going away to spread the news still further. Thus all prejudice, where such existed, was soon wiped out, and a few other bulls were purchased as somewhat of an experiment. In every case the results were the same—good quality, thick flesh, quick growers, responding rapidly to good treatment, were the resultant type. Every one who saw the result seemed convinced that in these northern cattle they had discovered the real improvers of the breed; and at that stage it was not easy to secure them. Mr. Davidson took away the whole supply for some years, and later when he could not on account of our restrictions, Mr. Adams, a rich breeder of the United States, purchased for some three years almost the entire crop. So that in 1889, when the Sittyton herd was scattered, the need for its continuance seemed greater than ever. Fortunately, Mr. Duthie and Mr. Marr had been using the blood upon their herds for many years, and these sires were not the culs but among the very best; and still more fortunately, while the best of the females were taken out of the country (several of them being lost on the way to South America), yet the two extremes of the herd, viz., all the old cows, went to Mr. Duthie in the north of Scotland, while the entire crop of heifer calves went to fill up the herd of Deane Willis in the south of England.

These three breeders,

DUTHIE, MARR AND WILLIS

for several years worked much together, exchanging sires, and to these herds the best breeders of England and Scotland, as also in America, have since gone for a continuance of the supply of that blood, which seemed to work magic on the English-bred herds. The demand for animals with a strong infusion of Cruickshank blood has continued very strong to this day, and a numerous contingent from England is seen at the annual bull sales in the north of Scotland, purchasing the best lots offered at very high prices.

The sale of the famous herd of the late lamented Wm. Marr, where prices indicated better than words written here or elsewhere, the esteem in which

this class of breeding is held by the public generally, is still fresh in the memory of Shorthorn breeders.

The honor and burden of keeping up the quality of these cattle now rests largely on the two breeders, Mr. Willis in the south and Mr. Duthie in the far north, and the task could not be placed in better hands. These two men are now in the best position to lead in the old land because they are in possession of the largest number of females descending direct from and continuing the same breeding as the Sittyton herd at its dispersion. Both understand the problems and are alert in watching the latest developments in other herds with the view of utilizing outside blood to the best possible advantage in strengthening the type which is still held with much tenacity.

Here our running sketch of the main points in the history of this wonderful breed of cattle must come to an end. But we are face to face with the future. The only object of studying the past is that out of it may come some gleam of light for the coming days. We think there are some useful lessons which may well be pondered, as our younger men move forward into the future. There are some principles well established by the past results which should not be forgotten. With the risk of appearing bold or even egotistic, we propose in the next paper to attempt to gather up some of these with the hope that many readers will accept some things as settled, and not wait to go over again dangerous or uncertain ground only to result in loss and failure.

Lived near Booth and Bates

The following letter will be read with interest, especially by Shorthorn breeders. The writer of it is a lady 83 years old who has resided in Canada for 53 years. Her home is at Gresham, Bruce Co., Ont. She says:

"I am much pleased with Mr. Dryden for telling us about the Durham (Shorthorn) cattle, as I was raised very near both Booth and Bates. I lived on the river Swale, on fine low land. The river had a good deal to do with it, as the best land was along its banks. The grazing was good and cattle grew there to perfection. By selection they were brought to their present state and from the river valleys came our best cattle."

"The river Swale is as good as the river Tees." MRS. DENT.

Guelph Sale Successful

There was a large attendance at the sale of purebred cattle held at Guelph on Feb. 28th. Considering the market and the quality of stuff offered the sale was a success. The highest price was \$200, paid by Mr. Webber, of Waterloo, for the bull Scottish Marquis, owned by F. M. Bolton. The young bull, Senator's Pride, contributed by John Currie, of Eramosa, sold to Jeremiah Wright, of Marden, Ont., for \$125. W. G. Pettit & Son, of Freeman, bought Mayflower, also contributed by F. M. Bolton. Among the notable female purchases was Matchless Sarah Phenix, bought by C. W. Mosser, of Berlin, for \$105. Queen Esther, bred by John McAinch, of Creiff, sold to R. H. Braker, of Guelph, for \$95. Thus, animals of good quality and in good condition brought good prices. The forty-nine Shorthorns sold realized \$3,655, an average of \$74.60 each. The bulls brought an average of \$77.20 and the cows \$68.03 each. One Polled Angus bull sold for \$75 and a Hereford cow for \$55.