

## JERSEY CATTLE AT HOME.

Correspondence of the (Chicago) National Live Stock Journal.

The beginning of what is now so important and valuable a race of cattle as the Jerseys, was necessarily confined to very narrow limits. Although there are no printed records of the earliest occupancy of the Island of Jersey, sufficient is known to establish the fact, that the first settlers came from Normandy, a district of country lying across the English Channel, on the northwest coast of France. These people carried with them to the island their cattle and other breeding stock, with which to continue their modes of agricultural pursuits and stock-breeding enterprises.

The island is small, being but twelve miles long, by about five and a half wide, and operations of all kinds were consequently conducted upon a limited scale.

Only a few cattle, as breeding stock, were taken there, but these had been proven by long experience to be of an extraordinary kind for producing rich milk, and for heavy butter-making ability; and with a keen perception of the great importance of preserving and perpetuating this valuable characteristic of the breed, the settlers at once adopted the most stringent laws, with very heavy penalties attached, forbidding the landing, for "breeding" purposes, of any animal known as a "horned beast" upon the shores of the island. This step was taken, of course, in order to preserve in its purity this highly esteemed and well proven heavy butter-making race of cattle.

These early breeders were fully alive to the importance of strict purity of blood, in order to insure certainty of transmission of valuable qualities in the offspring, and feared the dangers of introducing foreign blood, no matter how valuable that blood might be, towards perpetuating other qualities, or even in giving results aimed at by themselves. They realized the fact that they had a good thing in the little cow, and they determined not to jeopardize their chances of permanent success by trying any experiments with "outside" crosses.

Since these early days no alien blood has been used, and no new stock has been added to invigorate or to give strength to constitutional vigor, which, in the natural order of things, one would suppose would become so weakened and debilitated as to entirely defeat the object in view.

But this result does not seem to have followed as a consequence, and is a notable exception in the history of all "in-and-in" breeding operations. The Jersey cow, since the very earliest period of which we have any knowledge of her, has been subjected to the most intimate and intense course of breeding known to the record of mating animals. The narrow confines of territory of her island home, together with the prohibitory measures instituted to preserve the blood pure, made this close breeding a necessity. No evil consequences of note seem to have developed so far as we have any account. The cattle, in their native home, are rugged and healthy, increasing rapidly in numbers; each succeeding generation being an improvement on the preceding one, so far as symmetry of form and beauty of outline is concerned. The carcass has retained about normal proportions, very little lessening in size having occurred.

This, in a great measure, must be accounted for in the peculiarities of soil and climate, the strengthening and health-sustaining properties of the food produced upon this little island giving vigor and stamina to the animal system, sufficient to counteract any injury that otherwise might arise for the want of new blood, that is found so important in this country to bring about and perpetuate these essential elements in live-stock breeding here.

The Jersey farmer realized the superiority of this cattle for the production of rich milk and cream—

milk so rich in some instances as to be equal with a fair article of cream—and from which an unusually large proportion of the finest quality of butter could be made, which soon gave a reputation to Jersey butter in the London and French markets that absorbed all their surplus at high prices. With this celebrity, and the profitable disposition of his dairy products, he seems to have been content, and sought no improvement for the time in the form of the cow, which is described by early writers on the subject to be an "ugly, ill formed animal, with flat sides, wide between the ribs, cat-hammed, narrow and high hips, with a hollow back. She had always possessed the head of a fawn, a soft eye, crumpled horns, ears yellow within, a clean neck and throat, fine bones, a slim tail, and, above all, a well-formed, capacious udder, with large, swelled milk veins. Satisfied with the qualifications, the only question in the selection of a bull among the most careful and judicious breeders was: "Is the breed a good one?"—meaning, so they had the progenitors been renowned for their milking and creaming qualities. A course of breeding after this plan, in a circumscribed spot like Jersey, would very soon establish an hereditary superiority in this needful and important quality, and fix a type of power and usefulness that would almost unerringly descend to all succeeding generations.

Although the Island of Jersey is small, the climate, soil, and surface of the country differs very widely in different sections. The north and west coast is high and precipitous—a bold frontage of rock, rising two hundred or more feet above the sea; no near shelter from a westerly or south-westerly direction existing. Southwestern gales prevail here during the greater portion of the year, retarding vegetation, and oftentimes doing great damage to trees and shrubbery, and, by its heated nature, parching and blanching the pastures, leaving them browned and apparently damaged; hence this elevated coast has usually a short, scant herbage, but rich and nutritious from being so frequently saturated with saline moisture. Thus the cattle on this side are small, fine-limbed, and hardy.

The southward half of Jersey is an inclined plane, gradually descending to the sea-shore, watered by innumerable streams. A part of it is a rich, alluvial soil and meadow land, so sheltered and warmed as to produce fruit and vegetables in abundance early in the season. The cattle of this district are consequently fed on a richer pasture. They are larger than those of the high, exposed localities, but are not supposed to be as hardy.

## HALF-BREED SIRES.

At some of the fairs we have attended this fall, says the Michigan *Farmer*, quite a number of yearlings and two-year-old grade Percheron stallions were exhibited. We believe that the use of such animals to breed from can only result in dissatisfaction to those using them, and will inflict injury to this family of horses. Michigan in years past has been cursed with mongrel sires among her domestic animals, and we had hoped that past experience would prevent a recurrence of such a system of breeding. What can be hoped for from a horse whose dam's breeding is either entirely unknown, or of the very opposite type to that of the thoroughbred sire? Is it not making breeding more of a lottery than ever? It is a loss of valuable time, and will only bring disappointment to those who are foolish enough to engage in a system of breeding that actual experience has shown can only end in wretched failures. Never use a half-blood or mongrel animal to breed from, no matter how perfect his form or handsome his appearance. There should be systematic efforts on the part of those who breed horses to put an end to this evil of using mongrel sires.

## A GOOD WAY TO RAISE CALVES.

D. G. R., Hillsboro County, N. H.

Take the calf from the dam when not over three days old; better yet, before it ever suckles. Give new milk from its own dam the first few days, gradually changing it to skim milk. Commence with light feed and increase the rations with age up to a generous feed, but carefully attend to temperature of milk when fed. There must be strict regularity as to time of feeding and temperature of milk; two feeds a day and 95° for temperature, and the thermometer test is the only reliable one while the calf is young. Evenness of mess should be attended to closely. It takes but a slight change in temperature or quantity, to make a young calf sick. Get the calf on skimmed milk as soon as possible, but make the change gradually. As the calf gets along to eight or nine weeks, add water to its rations and feed skim milk and water until six months old. If the calf does well up to three weeks, begin to teach it to eat grain. The best way and time to feed a calf grain is, to feed it dry, and immediately after the calf has drunk its ration of milk; do not wait even three minutes. The best grain feed for young calves is rye and oats mixed—2 lbs. of oats to 1 lb. of rye and ground together. If the calf should show signs of too much looseness in its voidings, give at once a tablespoonful of ground cassia, by putting with a spoon on to the roots of the tongue and holding up its head while it swallows. This method of feeding and rearing calves for milkers I have learned by long experience and testing of many methods. Since the practice has been adopted—some ten years—I have not had the slightest difficulty in raising and growing calves. Always feed and care for the calf from birth until maturity, so that it may not lose a day's growth, whether for milkers or for beef. I never experienced any difficulty in feeding skim milk from cows highly fed with corn and cotton-seed meal.

## ARIZONA AS A STOCK COUNTRY.

Prescott, Arizona, Hoof and Horn.

Although possessing the necessary elements for raising live stock of all classes, cattle predominates in our territory over all other kinds. This will no doubt be the case for some time to come, but while the cattle are multiplying very fast, there can be no question that the horse, sheep and hog industry is receiving more attention daily and gaining ground with the same, if not more, speed than other branches of commerce. However, the production of live stock of the latter description does not attract the attention which the favorable sources Arizona extends should receive.

For raising blooded horses or hogs no more favorable place could be found in any State or Territory in the Union than the Salt River Valley. Here feed of all kinds can be raised at little expense and the climate is such as to warrant the health of stock. Alfalfa, the grass of which so much has been written lately, grows with almost unprecedented rapidity, and as fodder for hogs its equal cannot be found, these animals subsisting entirely on this, and growing fat.

Arizona, as a shipper of cattle, is yet in her infancy compared with the outlook of the future. The major portion of the cattlemen of this Territory are men who started in business with comparatively nothing, but by economy, industry and enduring great hardships, they are fast reaching the top round of the ladder of success, and as a consequence Arizona may from now on be counted among the beef producers of the world.

At the sale of Shockey & Gibb's Herefords which took place at Riverview Park, Kansas City, Nov. 4th, 19 bulls averaged \$204.50, and seven female averaged \$290.