

Polled-Durhams.

The accompanying illustration, together with the front page engraving, represent typical specimens of that valuable new breed known as "Polled-Durhams." The bull "Red Duke," is a very superior animal, weighing, at four years old, 2,360 lbs. He is registered in the American Shorthorn Herd Book, No. 105051, and No. 28 in the Herd Book for Polled-Durhams. He is owned by J. F. & A. E. Burleigh, Mazon, Grundy Co., Ill., and was a World's Fair premium winner.

The cow "Daisy," No. 2, A. P. D. H. B., bred and owned by Messrs. Burleigh, is a noble animal, with splendid dairy qualities, having a record of 24 quarts per day, and is an easy keeper. She traces back on the dam's side through successive generations of Polled cows bred to Shorthorn sires to a Polled native muley in 1860. Her progeny are easy keepers and good feeders; young bulls weighing, at one year, from 800 to 1,000 lbs., and 2,000 lbs. at maturity. She is 14 years of age, and dropped, in 1893, a very fine Polled heifer calf, from Red Duke. The herd to which these animals belong were successful in capturing many of the World's Fair premiums, many of the cows being quite as good as any Shorthorns shown.

Mr. Burleigh, who is probably the oldest breeder of Polled-Durhams, has kindly favored us with a short history of the breed. Mr. Burleigh says he commenced breeding the horns off the Shorthorns or Durhams about 1860, and has now over eight generations polled on the dams' side, and over five top crosses Shorthorn blood, making them practically as good as the pure blood. Since 1881 nothing but Polled sires have been used on the herd, and the object has been to breed for both beef and milk. No cross of any other established polled breed is allowed to go on record. We mention this to correct the statement that has frequently been made that the breed took their polled qualities from a cross of Aberdeen-Angus; but this is incorrect, as this breed was started before the Aberdeen-Angus cattle were imported into America. About 1881 there occurred a "sport" or "freak" in the recorded Shorthorn cattle of the Guine and Duke line, in the form of twin heifer calves. In 1883 the same cow dropped a polled bull calf. These are all recorded in the American Shorthorn Herd Book, and from these have sprung a class of pure blood Polled-Durhams, eligible to entry in both the Polled-Durham and Shorthorn Herd Books. Messrs. Burleigh have been breeding this class of Polled-Durhams for about four years, and had seven pure blood Durhams in their herd of 13 head of Polled-Durhams on exhibition at the World's Fair—all their breeding except one. These pure bloods are very scarce, probably not 50 bulls of them in the world. A few other breeders are now breeding in this line. A short time ago these gentlemen purchased two bulls and a heifer bred from a "sport" occurring in the Craggs Renick, Rose of Sharon and Young Mary tribes of Shorthorns; these will be used as an out-cross in breeding. In Messrs. Burleigh's old line of breeding, the potency of the polled quality has been so fully established that young bulls bred by them got all their calves hornless from horned cows. In the pure line of breeding, polled bulls bred from horned cows get from 50 to 75 per cent. of their get hornless from horned cows, and from 90 to 100 per cent. from polled dams. These gentlemen are practising the utmost skill in breeding, and the demand for their stock has been so great that all young stock are purchased before old enough to breed, except specially reserved, and at much better prices than horned cattle are selling of equal merit.

Dehorning appears to be on the increase, but since many have their objections to that practice, the breeding of polled cattle is certainly an easy way out of the difficulty. Under these circumstances, such a grand general-utility breed as the Polled-Durhams should make friends for themselves and grow in popularity.

See that your pigs have all the pure water they want to drink.

A dairy writer says that you had better begin dairying with two cows and a strong desire to thoroughly learn the business, than with ten cows and a confident feeling that you can succeed as well as old hands in the business.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

Late June prices for top grades of live stock at Chicago: Beef steers, \$4.75, against \$5.10 two weeks ago and \$5.60 a year ago. Hogs, \$5.15, against \$4.90 two weeks ago and \$6.90 a year ago. Sheep, \$3.85, against \$4.50 two weeks ago and \$5.25 a year ago.

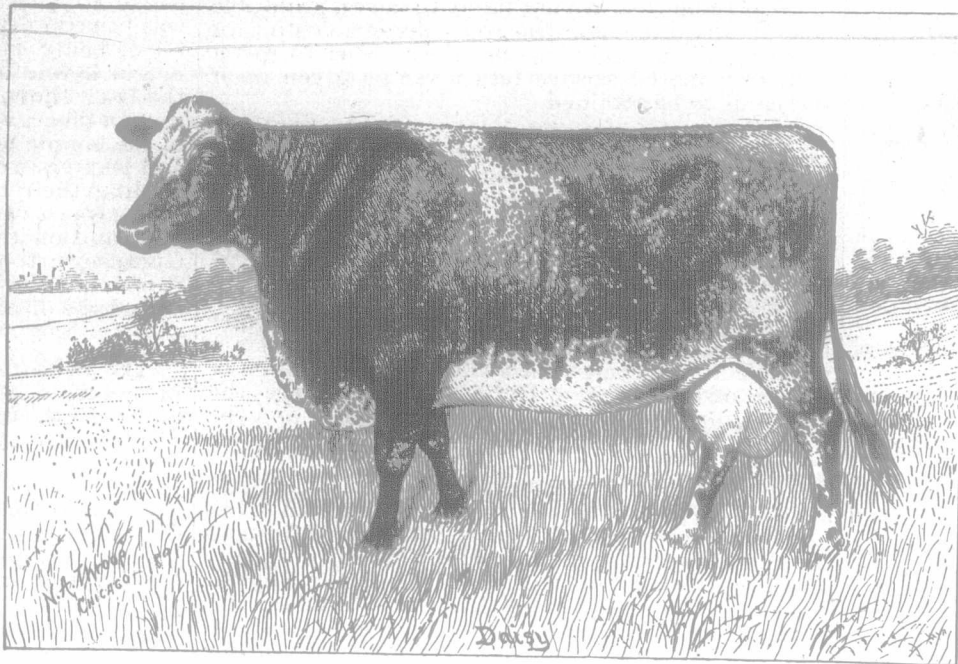
Hot weather has again interfered with the market for very heavy cattle, and fat little 700-lb. yearlings have been selling for as much per 100 lbs. as some pretty good heaves weighing more than twice as much. The main cause of this discrimination against ripe, heavy heaves was the falling off in the export demand. When the condition of foreign markets does not justify shipments of heavy cattle, it makes a very serious difference to the farmers of the States.

People over here feel that the charges abroad that Canadian cattle are debarred free entry on account of disease are utterly groundless, and worse than that, dishonest.

Good grades of fed Texas cattle, averaging 1,000 and 1,200 lbs., have lately sold at \$3.60 and \$4.00, while inferior to fair grass Texas steers sold at \$1.75 and \$2.25. The bulk of the grass Texas steers so far have sold at \$2.50 and \$3.00. A good many very thin cattle were sent in from drouthy regions.

The demand for stock and feeding cattle at this season is generally light, but it is uncommonly so now. In a majority of the cattle-feeding sections of the West the pasturage has lately been very badly damaged by drouth.

Some money has lately been made by Chicago shippers of sheep by sending them via Montreal to



POLLED-DURHAM COW "DAISY,"

BRED AND OWNED BY J. F. & A. E. BURLEIGH, MAZON, GRUNDY CO., ILLS.

Glasgow. Reports from the Northwest indicate a favorable season for sheep on the open ranges. Grass is good and sheep are doing well. Dealers are already loading up the supplies for filling the feed lots next fall. The sheep market got on the toboggan slide again and went down with a rush. The big drop in prices checked the run again, and the latest reports on good grades are a little better. On one day an exporter purchased 450 head at \$3.85, which was the top of the market. Choice lambs reached \$5, which makes them about 75c. higher than a week ago. The medium and common grades of lambs sold no better, and sellers complained that the market was slow. Sales included some good 87-lb. Texas sheep at \$2.75, and a thousand head to a feeder, averaging 69 lbs., at \$1.40. Most of the natives sold at \$2.25 and \$3.25, and lambs largely at \$1 and \$1.75.

The best heavy hogs are now selling 15c. higher than best light, while a year ago at this time light were at a premium of 20c.

June marketing of hogs was liberal, but the demand was good, and packers bought with a freedom that indicated light stocks and a good consumptive demand, despite trade depression.

The summer dullness in the horse trade is on, and dealers are finding it difficult to get rid of ordinary stock. Good, smooth blocks seem to be in fair demand at prices ranging from \$45 to \$75, according to weight and quality. Draft horses are low, and not bringing \$15 to \$20 what they were three weeks ago. Expressers are only in fair demand, and the buyers do not seem very anxious for them at prices over \$100. Carriage teams and fancy drivers are in a little more demand than most any other class, but the best of them have not gone over \$150 to \$175 lately. Many horses come to market that have not been properly broken, and, of course, they have to be sacrificed.

Ayrshires in 1893.

(Paper read by D. Nicol, of Cataraque, before the Ayrshire Breeders' Association.)

At the principal live stock exhibitions held in Canada last fall, Ayrshires were shown in greater numbers than any other kind of cattle, notwithstanding the fact that many of the best animals were away at the World's Fair.

Within the last few years the popularity of this breed in this part of the country has been wonderfully increased, doubtless because experienced dairymen have found that for their special purpose they are of all known breeds the most economical. The dairymen who supply the inhabitants of Montreal with milk have long been notable for shrewdness, and after fair trial of the various breeds, they seem to have come to this conclusion.

Their highest ideal in this matter is a low-set cow, with a broad posterior, deep flank, and wide-spread, capacious udder. It is noticeable, however, that cows of this description generally possess in large degree all the other less important points characteristic of the best dairy cow, the body tapering from the rear towards a fine neck and head, along with light crops, straight back, thin skin, slender tail, and fine horns. Great coarse horns never grow on a well-bred Ayrshire; they grow only on a thick-skinned, coarse-haired, long-legged race of cattle. At several Ontario county fairs a herd of cattle said to be Ayrshires were exhibited, but the length of their legs, the narrowness of their rear ends, the coarseness of their horns, and the smallness of their milk vessels precluded the belief that they were in any way related to the Ayrshire breed.

The bull which headed the herd was built somewhat like a buffalo, with his head seemingly on the wrong end of his body. The herd, on the whole, was a scandal on the breed, and the judges seem to have regarded it in that way.

In the Scotch standard scale of points the udder counts 33 per cent., yet no good judge would award first place to an old broken down cow, merely because her udder is of extraordinary size. I have seen cows with large, fleshy udders, which were not profitable producers.

Ayrshires generally are good and true breeders, yet there are exceptional cases in which an animal fails to breed, perhaps from the effects of over-feeding.

I have seen on the show ground an excellent specimen of an Ayrshire cow, perfect in many respects, but which, apparently, had not had a calf for several years, consequently her udder was shrunken to small dimensions, giving no indication of ever again producing milk; yet the exhibitor found fault with the judges because they did not award her a prize. I have never known a judge or set of judges who could give entire satisfaction to every exhibitor.

We have now in Canada about a dozen breeds of cattle bred specially for dairy purposes, and yet we are to have another, to be called the Quebecers. Some call them by another name, but it is not calculated to create respect for them. They are certainly not indigenous, but, like other established breeds, are a mixture of several varieties.

At the Montreal exhibition a number of specimen cows of this kind were shown, but I cannot describe them, because individuals differed so much in size, contour and general appearance. Beauty, however, is not one of their characteristics, but that does not necessarily affect their productiveness, and no doubt some of them are fairly good producers.

I do not know what general advantages they may possess, as compared with other dairy breeds. An exhibitor said they can endure, without injury to their constitutions, more exposure to cold weather, and thrive longer and better on rye straw than any other kind of cattle.

There is no saying what they may prove to be; probably they are well suited for a certain class of farmers in some localities which we know little about.

At the Montreal exhibition prizes were also given for Ayrshire grade cows, and among the large number of this class shown were many apparently first rate dairy-business cows. I have, however, good reason to believe that the best of them were fairly well-bred Ayrshires.

It seems that for improving the common dairy cattle of the country, there is no breed giving more satisfactory results than the Ayrshires.

I would favor the giving of prizes for the best dairy cows of any breed or mixture of breeds, but I think offering prizes for grade cows is a mistake, because it leads to the retrogressive practice of breeding from mongrel bulls.

The only persons whom I have known to decry the Ayrshires are they who are trying to boom some other breed, and some who have been disappointed in not obtaining a very large yield on starvation rations; and I doubt whether cows of any other breed will come nearer fulfilling their expectations.

Many years ago some Ayrshire cows had small teats; now, however, they are generally about the