

## OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

ce, the whole contour, especially the eyes and ad, denoting the highest style of breeding. Each of the young stock in the shorthorn class of a promising character, and cannot fail of doing much for Ireland. *Soubadour*, a young bull of 18 months, bred in Ulster, is particularly so both as regards touch and proportions, and especially obtained the 1st prize of 15 sovereigns and the gold medal. Among the Devons and Ayrshires, though upon the whole respectable, there was nothing that calls for particular notice, in a general and hurried sketch like the sent.

The greatest novelty to me among the horned cattle was the *Kerries*, which I was informed is the sole remaining native breed that Ireland still possesses. These are exceedingly small pretty looking animals, mostly black, and somewhat resembling the Bretons of Northern France, or the diminutive races of the Welsh mountains. The cows of this breed yield a large amount of milk of good quality in proportion to their size and the quantity of food they consume, and when well fattened their flesh is of excellent quality. I saw them in large numbers upon the mountains and valleys of the remarkable and picturesque County of Kerry, apparently thriving on coarse and scanty food. This race, if properly attended to, might possibly be made a fancy breed for certain parts of England and of Canada; they are in my judgment preferable to the Bretons. Of the *Dutch* breed there were several apparently good specimens, inferior to those I saw at the Paris Exhibition.

They are rather large framed animals, of various colors, with large patches of white, and they yield a large quantity of milk, not however, I am told, of the richest quality; therefore well suited to cow-keepers in the neighborhood of towns. Among the crosses or grades, several out of Dutch cows from Shorthorn and other breeds, as a result I should think somewhat doubtful. I was informed, however, by several farmers that cross breeds in Ireland are generally well adapted to dairy purposes.

Among the Horses were some first rate animals, and others, (as is usually the case on these occasions) that ought not to have been brought to the show. The best draught stallions were represented by the Suffolk and Clydesdale. Mr. *Suffolk Champion*, bred in England, a magnificent animal, almost absolutely perfect, was deservedly awarded the first prize

and challenge cup, and cannot fail to do good service for Ireland. There were a few excellent specimens of hunters and roadsters, and the fifty sovereigns challenge cup, and a prize of twenty-five sovereigns given by the Local Committee were awarded to *Planet*, as the best weight-carrying stallion, at present owned by an Irish gentleman at Kilmallock, and bred by the late lamented Lord George Bentinck, of England, to whom the world is largely indebted for no small portion of improved pure blood.

In sheep I was told the show was superior both in quantity and quality to any of its predecessors. And although much inferior in both respects to what I saw at the English Exhibition at Canterbury, there was a considerable number of very fine animals, which it would be difficult to beat any where. Indeed the second prize Leicester Ram at Canterbury was beaten at Cork. There were also some very good specimens of sheep, especially shearling rams, of the class of long wools, not qualified to compete as Leicesters, among them a few Cotswolds, possessing respectable merit. Of pure Southdowns the least said the better, after one had seen at the English Show the many beautiful and all but perfect specimens of this most beautiful breed, belonging to Jonas Webb, Rigden, and the Duke of Richmond. The Southdowns seem either not suited to Ireland or they have not as yet had proper attention paid to them. But in Shropshire Downs, and a few other varieties of short woolled sheep, the exhibition had several good specimens. The County of Cork carried off more than its proportion of sheep prizes, indicating that its dry and undulating surface resting on lime stone, is better suited to sheep culture than some other parts of the island. Indeed as a whole Ireland cannot be considered both as regards soil and climate so well adapted to sheep as either England or Scotland, but it is, perhaps, superior to both for the raising of cattle; and without neglecting sheep, it is to the latter the Irish farmer would find it his interest to direct his best attention.

I was surprised to find the show of swine so limited as to number, especially in a country where the pig has been regarded as an important and indispensable item in the ordinary husbandry. Swine, I am told are diminishing, while cattle of late years have greatly increased. The show in this department was good as to *quality*; there being some excellent animals both of the