

HORSES AND CATTLE.

DEVON CATTLE.

If the Devons were to be judged solely by appearance, their comeliness and beauty would secure them a very high place. They are favourites with all, and have many commendable qualities, some of which are not to be lost sight of in estimating their value to the Canadian farmer.

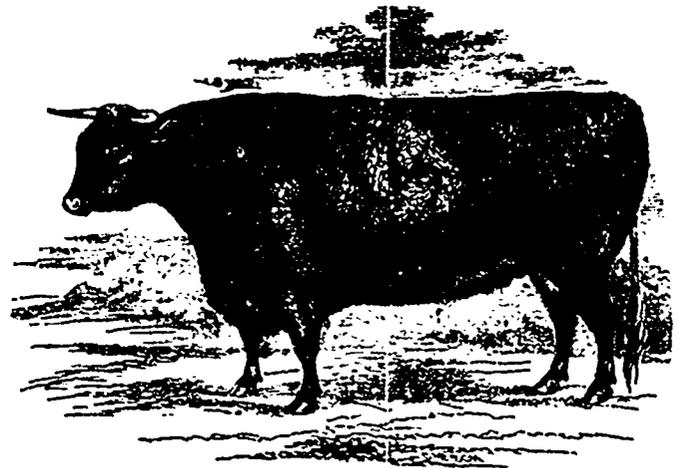
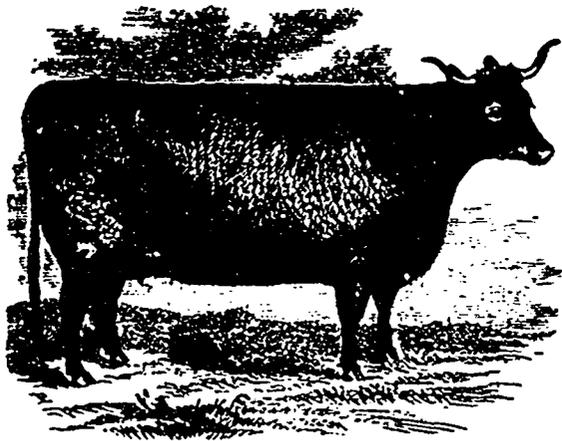
Mr. George Rudd, of Eramosa, and who also farms in the township of Puslinch, is a breeder and enthusiastic admirer of the Devons. There are two breeds, the North and South Devons—the former rather the larger and finer of the two. It is these Mr. Rudd refers to in his evidence, and probably other witnesses also. Mr. Rudd claims—and his allegations so far will hardly be questioned—that the Devon is a docile, tractable, and at the same time very active animal. As working oxen the Devons probably take the first place. Mr. Rudd says on that point:—

"As working oxen I consider the Devons superior to all other breeds, as they are very quiet and tractable. . . . The Devons are very sharp cattle, and smart on their feet."

Of their quality as breeding cattle, Mr. Rudd says:—

"They are very good nurses, and do remarkably well with their calves. . . . They are uncommonly good mothers, and keep their calves very fat."

Mr. Rudd as a breeder does not pretend to much experience in feeding for shipment, but says:—



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"During the last three years I have had a great many bulls—more than I wanted; and this spring I sold two two-year-old bulls, weighing 3,350 pounds, for \$5.25 a hundred—delivered the same day for shipment. The same day I saw other good steers sold at \$5 a hundred—to be delivered two months later. So the Devons must be considered better for shipment. With the same quantity of feed they seem to take on flesh better than the Durhams. I had a bull at the Centennial at Philadelphia, that weighed between 2,300 and 2,400 pounds; he was nine years old."

Mr. Courtice, who has some pure Devons, says:—

"I have some pure Devon cattle, but my milch cows are grades of various kinds. The Devon cattle fatten very easily, and make a large amount of beef on small feeding. They are also good butter cows, giving an extra quality of very rich milk. I send the milk to the factory. I have not given much attention to stall-feeding. There is a difficulty now in getting pure Devon bulls for crossing. I imported pure-bred Devons at first."

"Devon calves require to be well attended to, so that they get a good start. There is not much demand for Devons now, either in the United States or Canada. The Devons make a very good cross on large, roomy cows, which have two or three crosses of the Durham in them; but I would not recommend them for crossing on the common stock of the country. I think they give better milk, but not so much as Durhams of a good milking family."

The candid admissions of this witness, that he would not recommend the Devons for crossing on the common stock of the country, must be the conclusion of everyone who reads the evidence without prejudice. Professor Brown evidently takes that view when he says:—

"The Devon cattle I cannot recommend as equal to the other beefers named, unless it be for rich milk in moderate quantities. The Devon is slower for our purpose of raising beef rapidly for the British market. As workers, with

strength and endurance, the Devons are first-class animals, and they are found of large value in clearing our back townships."

For quality of milk, firmness of flesh, and liveliness on their feet, the Devons may be duly honoured, but for quantity of milk, size, and shipping qualities, it is idle to pretend they can compete with either the Durham or Hereford, as the breed which is to improve the common stock of the country.—*Condensed from the Report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission.*

ENSILAGE AND SILOS.

The above terms will need explanation in the case of some readers. Ensilage is green fodder, cut fine and tightly pressed in an air-tight receptacle. A silo is such a receptacle, and may be built of stone, brick or wood. Part or all of a hay-mow may be utilized for a silo at no great expense. It must be frost-proof as well as air-tight. Green corn is considered the best fodder for ensilaging, but clover, Hungarian grass, and, in fact, any green crop may be thus treated. Our American neighbours, with their usual impetuosity, are going into this "new departure" with a rush. Several books have been published on the subject, and it is being very fully discussed in United States agricultural journals. One of the best works on the subject is "H. R. Stevens on

A YOUNG LADY AND A MOTHERLESS CALF.

The Raton (N. M.) *News and Press* recently contained the following item:—"Fifty head of Mr. Young's cattle belong to Miss Lou Young, his accomplished daughter. He was one of the first settlers in the Park, and soon after the arrival of his family from Missouri to make their home in that romantic region, six or eight years ago, Mr. Young laughingly pointed out to Miss Lou a weak calf, and told her that she might have it and all its increase, for her attention to it. She cared for the calf, and now has fifty head of as fine cattle as any one—her reward for a little painstaking—that being the natural increase from so small a beginning. This illustrates what a good range, careful attention and patience will accomplish in stock-raising."

A good showing certainly. We have known young ladies undertake the care of biped motherless calves, with very different results, and it is a question for the sex to consider whether a calf of the genus *bos* is not a more valuable piece of property than one of the genus *homo*.

CARE OF HORSES.

Horses that have had good care will come out in the spring in good trim for the season's work.

Ensilage and Silos," published by the author, Echo Dale Farm, Dover, Mass. While many are excited to fever heat, and may be said to have ensilage on the brain, some of the wiser heads are urging their brethren to "go slow," lest disappointment should bring about a reaction as complete as the present enthusiasm. That the new method has advantages it appears tolerably certain, but that it will supersede hay-making and the use of dry fodder, is more than doubtful. Dry fodder, properly preserved, is as wholesome and nutritious as the same fodder in a green state. Moreover, in the ensilaging process there is a loss of food material through fermentation. The probability is that it will be found advantageous to employ ensilage along with meal and other dry feed, but it is questionable if it can be depended on as the sole food of any kind of stock. Some, indeed, in their zealous advocacy of the new process, predict its substitution for grass as well as hay, and propose to ensilage "all the year round." So far it has generally been used as an adjunct to other food. In one case, in which it only was fed to some Jersey cows, the milk soon reached a state in which it would throw up no cream. This might naturally be expected. Sour food is well known to deteriorate the quality of milk. Further trial and experiment are needed to determine the real value of ensilage, and there are now so many practical farmers investigating the matter that it is probable the "bottom truth" will be reached before very long.

As the coat begins to loosen, the skin is irritated; an ounce of equal parts of sulphur and cream of tartar, given with the food for a few days, will correct this. Good grooming with a soft brush should not be neglected. Ground feed, mixed with cut hay, is an excellent food in the spring for working horses. Three quarts of equal parts of corn and rye (or oats), mixed with a pailful of moist cut hay, is enough for a meal. An occasional feed of cut beets or potatoes is useful. With many experienced horsemen an occasional feed of half a peck of potatoes is regarded as a remedy for worms in horses. However this may be, they improve the general condition of the animal in a most positive manner. The main point is to keep the horses in good health and strength, for upon them devolves a great part of the spring work. As foaling time approaches, good mares should be turned loose in a box-stall and receive the most gentle treatment, as the temper and disposition of the colt is thought to depend much upon this.

For breachy animals do not use barbed fences. To see the lacerations that these fences have produced upon the innocent animals should be sufficient testimony against them. Many use pokes and blinders on cattle and goats, but as a rule such things fail. The better way is to separate breachy animals from the lot, as others will imitate their habits sooner or later, and then, if not curable, sell them.