



Two Shorthorn Cows in Lord Minto's Dairy Herd at Hawick. The Red Cow gave 1,200 gallons during 1904, and 1,150 gallons in 1905. At present she is giving 70 gallons per day and is three months calved. The White cow gave 1,100 gallons in 1905, and 1,120 in 1906. She is now giving 34 gallons per day, and is three months calved.

The Breeder's True Aim

When any great work is to be accomplished by human agency, the first thing must always be to produce the ideal in the mind of the man who sets about the task. It must be evident to all that in order to proceed in a systematic way with such a task, which it may take years to fully accomplish, each definite step must first have taken form in the man's own brain. The failures seen everywhere in agricultural pursuits are largely caused by haphazard methods, without plan or design. This is especially true in the production of live stock. How few have first studied the question before entering upon its unknown paths, altogether oblivious to what the real results are to be. Perfect animals are not continuously evolved by accident, although some have by a fortunate purchase, not realized at the time, achieved great results and won considerable fame. Perhaps few Shorthorns built in recent years proved more successful than the Messrs. Watts' noted "Barnpton Hero," purchased from Mr. Dryden. For many years he held the showyard against all comers, winning some 30 or more first prizes. But that is not all—his calves were equally successful, one of his get proving to be also as great a prizewinner. We venture to say that neither the seller nor the buyer knew anything of his value at the time. He cost \$200, and, if we are not mistaken, was nearly set aside for another quite below him for prepotency. His breeder was foolish to sell him at any price, as he was not related to any in the herd except his dam.

This history is given to show how little real thinking is done by some of our best breeders. Barnpton Hero was a grandson of the great "Champion of England" and his promise as a sire could be seen from the beginning. Why should his breeder not have said: "This is an exceptional calf; and his breeding should guarantee success; I will not, therefore, sell him. This is a chance of a lifetime."

We venture the statement that in this case no thinking worthy of the situation was given to it by either party. The purchase proved an unqualified success and the purchaser received the advantage. There are others who have made similar fortunate hits, but ten times the number have made failures instead, and some have tired of the monotony of it and quit.

All this could be helped if men engaged in this business would think more and settle first: What am I aiming to produce? What is the ideal? If that be settled, then how is it to be accomplished? The aim of some breeders in the past, and to some extent now, has been to produce a "pedigree on paper," showing the same lineal descent all through. They would be shocked if

some cross which, though improving the conformation of the descendants, yet showed foreign blood. Surely in this practical age it is time to leave that mistaken ideal behind. The aim of the breeder should be to produce the animal suited to the needs of the hour and having within himself the power to transmit his good qualities. To do this requires a deal of study and meditation, as well as the marshaling of all the facts in the case. But let there be no mistake about the aim. In the Shorthorns of to-day we venture to present what we conceive to be the correct ideal: 1st, an early maturer, from a tendency to flesh (not tallness); 2nd, an animal of fair size and weight (not miniature); 3rd, good milking qualities.

There are some who say at once: "Impossible; all these qualities cannot be combined in one animal. The answer to that is that animals can be produced showing precisely this combination and the aim of the breeder should be to concentrate the blood of this ideal animal so that the transmission of all these qualities would be fixed and certain. There will always be exceptions or freaks in breeding produced, no doubt, from definite causes, but which are hidden from the breeder. These, although the pedigree reads well, should be discarded, remembering always the true aim, which is to produce animals, not "pedigrees," corresponding to the ideal set up. Such Shorthorns would meet the needs of the average farmer, especially those living apart from the cheese factory. Some would, doubtless, force the milking qualities and forget the importance also of flesh, but the successful breeder must keep "the ideal" always before him and aim to keep it as a whole and not a part. It is a life work, but it spells success in large letters for the man who can bring it to pass.

The Cattle Embargo

There is a strong and growing impression that certain influential Canadian cattle exporters are in a measure responsible for British quarantine being maintained against our cattle, in order that they may keep control of the market and compel farmers to sell them at inadequate prices. Some of these who call themselves Canadians have used their influence and are using it still, to maintain this unjust and injurious restriction against our cattle, which means a loss to Canada of at least \$5.00 per head for every horned beast sold, of whatever type, whether exported or otherwise. The British farmer also suffers loss because of this restriction—but he does not know it. Canadian cattle are entitled now, and always were, to free entry into the British market; all that is necessary is that the British public understand the question. The maintenance of this embargo means (by inference), if it means anything, that

the cattle of Canada are afflicted with some infectious disease which would, if they were landed in Great Britain, affect the herds of that country. No one, however, knows better than our exporters and the old country buyers that more healthy cattle do not exist in the world than those fed on the prairies of our West and the stock farms of Ontario and the Eastern Provinces. If quarantine is to be put in force against us, as a measure of trade protection for the benefit of British feeders, let this be understood, but it is not fair to keep our cattle out of the country on the plea that they are affected by pleuropneumonia, when, as a matter of fact, no such disease exists among them, and, as far as general health is concerned, they will compare favorably with any others in the world.

Shearing Sheep

In shearing the object is to secure the largest amount of wool in the best condition for market without injury to the sheep. It is desirable that the sheep be closely shorn and that there should be no second cuts.

TIME FOR SHEARING

The time for shearing varies with the locality, the class of sheep and the season. Unwashed sheep suffer no injury from early shearing if they are afterwards protected from storms and cold for a few days and the wool will in cool spring weather make rapid growth.

How long the wool should remain on, after washing, depends on the weather. The fleeces must not only be thoroughly dry, but the "yolk," the natural oil of the wool, should have risen from the skin before attempting to take off the old. Disregard of this particular renders shearing difficult and deteriorates the appearance of the fleece. It usually takes from ten to fourteen days to bring washed wool into condition for clipping.

HOW TO SHEAR

The shearing of sheep is an art only to be acquired by actual practice. Great injury is often done both to sheep and wool by rough handling or carelessness, in which case either the skin of the sheep is cut or the staple of the wool injured by being severed, or by not being taken off sufficiently close. To know whether or not sheep are well shorn, the animals should not only appear smooth, but the inside of the fleece should be examined to see if there are any short pieces of wool, caused by severing the staple, which badly injures it. Buyers are particular about this, for a severing of the fibre seriously damages the quality.

Shearing should be done on a warm, bright day, never in damp or chilly weather. The practice of waiting for a rainy day upon which no outdoor work can be done is a mistake, as the sudden change in temperature caused by removing the warm covering from the bodies of the animals is violent and likely to produce bad effects.

If the weather is very hot immediately after shearing, the sheep should have access to a shady retreat which will afford them protection from flies and the hot sun, for their skin at this time is very tender and will readily blister. In this province shearing is usually done by hand. There is, however, a machine for the purpose which is of great service where large flocks are kept; it resembles somewhat the well known horse clipper, does its work rapidly and with perfect safety to the sheep.

There are various methods of shearing, of which, perhaps, the most generally adopted is to set the sheep on