

Is There a Profit in Shorthorn Breeding?

Those who have expended such large sums in purchasing Shorthorns to establish a "Herd" sometimes find that whatever good they may have been the means of doing breeders at large, it has not been with great profit to themselves. Sir Wilfrid Lawson who has had considerable experience in the matter, said at a Shorthorn sale:

It is rather difficult to make an interesting speech on farming matters now-a-days, because the romance of farming is gone. In the old days we used to have in the hay-making time all the servants in the house and the neighbors turning out in picturesque robes to make the hay. Now all that is done by a complicated instrument. Then in harvest time we used to have the beautiful robes of reapers and gleaners. Now all that is done by horse-power. The ploughman is almost gone. Now all our fields are plowed by a mechanical monstrosity belching out fire and smoke, which has entirely outstripped the ploughman who used to be the emblem of simplicity, propriety, and stupidity (cheers and laughter). The only romance that remains for farmers is the Shorthorns, and I am sure you will agree with me that their symmetrical forms will be a pleasure to the artist, their massive frames delight the grazier, and their aristocratic pedigree give promise to the breeder of an ample profit for his exertions. Such a herd as I have described you will see to-day brought into the ring. But it is not all gold that glitters (hear, hear). You must remember the anxieties, the disappointments, the mortifications which the Shorthorn breeder has to experience before he can bring his animals before you in the condition in which you see them to-day. Some won't breed, some that will breed die, and some that are expected to bring long prices do not realize the expectations of the breeders. Besides, it is a very expensive business (laughter). I was reading the other day the "Life of Lord Spencer," who was a distinguished Shorthorn breeder (hear, hear) and I find that in conversation with a friend one day, he said he had had a capital year with his Shorthorns. "How much did you make?" asked his friend. "Make," he said, "why I only lost five hundred pounds" (laughter). And he proceeded to say that his annual loss, which he looked upon as certain, was \$3,000. I mention this to show you the anxieties and troubles we have to go through, and to show you that you ought to consider a Shorthorn breeder as a patriot working for the good of his country (cheers and laughter).

Horses in the States.

BY H. G. CRICKMORE.

The following extracts are from a paper read recently before the New York Farmer's club:—

Having endeavored to show that there is a market for our horses, the next thing is to show how the market can be supplied, and in this respect I must crave your attention for a moment and travel directly from the subject matter of this paper. As a turf reporter it has long seemed to me that nearly all the State and county agricultural societies have been somewhat neglectful of their true interests, and instead of encouraging the breeding of useful animals in their immediate districts by offering encouraging premiums for young stock, brood mares and stallions, they have offered a few cheap medals, with little or no attention or accommodation to exhibitors or the exhibited. At the same time they have paid too much attention to the trotting of a lot of worthless geldings, which for any real use were not worth their shoes. Instead of risking so much money on "exhibitions of speed," the societies should buy a half or quarter Hambletonian stallion, or a thoroughbred stallion—the get of Lexington, Australian, or in fact any well-bred stallion—possessing bone and substance, with good trotting action if a trotter—a horse with intelligence, that would at once win the eye, and if necessary pass the inspection by a German or Russian Government inspector. Any association adopting such a course, with the presumption that the horse would be in the hands of an honest, capable man, devoted to his business, would in a few years introduce a new source of wealth to their members, instead of their mares, as is now often the case, dropping worthless colts and fillies, possessing neither shape nor strength, and often inheriting diseases rendering them at five years old only fit to drag out a miserable existence in a brick-

yard. Such an association would accomplish at least one object for which it was organized. Not only would the members of the association benefit by the services of their stallion, but new interests would spring up in the vicinity. Every breeder would naturally endeavor to show the best stock, and in course of time "horse fairs" would become one of our most interesting spring and autumn holidays. Buyers would be attracted to the neighborhoods that excelled in any special breeds. Some counties would excel in carriage horses; others in saddle-horses. One would become famous for its chestnuts; another for bays, blacks or grays, as Lincolnshire in England is famous for its roans.

A few words more on the subject of stallions. Farmers and breeders cannot be too particular to what they breed their commonest mares. Cheap service by some big, peripatetic, soft-looking brute, with a pedigree that is said to run back for a century or two, should be especially avoided. In fact, it should be made a criminal offense for any man to "tramp" through the country with a stallion claiming a pedigree which is plainly false. But what would be better, in my estimation, is that the several State governments should take the subject in hand. No stallion should be publicly advertised without first having been duly examined by a competent veterinary surgeon, and if any pedigree is claimed it must be vouched for by proper proof, the evidence of which shall be duly set forth in the license that those controlling the stallion shall be compelled to exhibit. No horse should be licensed for such public service that does not come up to a standard to be prescribed by a State agricultural board. Of course the care must not all be on the part of the horse—the mare should at least be healthy, of good size, and properly taken care of, at all times.

Personally, I would even go further in the matter of horse-breeding, and would like to see the establishment in large agricultural districts of national or State stud farms similar in character to the imperial haras of Germany, Austria (Hungary) and Russia, believing that with proper economy and thrift all money invested would pay amply in the long run. Of course under our present political system such an idea is Utopian, but it is a success in Europe—Kisher, the winner of last year's English Derby, having been bred on the Imperial farm at Kisher, Hungary, from whence he was sold as a yearling—and there is no real reason why our State or National Government should not give some support to an industry that can be made so productive.

The Pig.

Black or slate-colored pigs are freest from skin diseases in hot climates. The choice is practically between the Essex and Berkshire for males, with which to improve the native stock of hardy grubbers of the root-or-die variety. Those who have tried the former have been delighted at first, but after a few years began to recall with longing the lean hams, and thin but solid and flavorful bacon, of the old race-horse breed. The trouble with the Essex pigs, for the South, is that they are not active enough. They are of the eat-and-sleep, and sleep-and-wake-to-eat kind, and their grades are of course like them. The side fat is superb, and so is the leaf lard, and so far the breed is all that could be desired; but the hams and shoulders are too fat for profit, and the ham is not marbled with fat like the Berkshires. These (the Berks) are much more enterprising, more wide-awake, less easily controlled, but good foragers. Their grades are a wonderful improvement upon the original stock, may be made very fat, and yet the proportion between fat and lean in the hams, shoulders and side pork or bacon is such as to develop and preserve the excellencies of their meat. The hams are large and rich, and juicy with diffused fat. Berkshires are not quite so easily fattened when penned and systematically fed, as the Essex grade, but they will take much better care of themselves in the woods, and when penned for fattening may be finished off with half the feed the original "land pikes" would require.

With many Northern and Western breeders the Essex is a more profitable pig than the Berkshire, because his nature leads him to take a little exercise, so that all he eats goes to flesh and fat. Respiration, which, if rapid, reduces fat greatly, is with him never accelerated by moving about, and, with plenty of feed, the sole burden of life is to digest it. This breed is pre-eminent among the black breeds, and excelled by none as fat producers.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

Swimming a Horse.

When swimming a horse, *never touch* the bridle as a horse is easily drowned when checked up or otherwise interfered with about the head. Sit well back and guide the horse with the hand, gently slapping him on either side as required; thus a horse will swim a mile or more with a full grown man on his back, and suffer but little. A still safer way on reaching deep water is for the rider to relieve the horse of his weight, by sliding into the water beside the horse, grasping the mane near the withers with one hand, thus requiring the horse simply to tow the rider, the latter assisting him in this, by using his legs and free arm in the same way as in swimming. In crossing rivers with rapid currents, the rider should take the down-stream side of the horse. I have seen this method practised by the Indians with much success.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

Cattle Food.

Experience teaches us that cattle thrive best on a mixed diet. All hay or all grain will produce less beef than hay and grain. The animal structure of the ox also demands bulk in food, as well as richness; the feeding of concentrated food being only profitable so far as the animal assimilates it—beyond that, of simply increasing the manure heap, at a cost far beyond its value. The ox has approximately eleven and one-half pounds of stomach with only two and one-half pounds of intestines, to each one hundred pounds of live weight; the sheep has less stomach and more intestines, giving a smaller percentage of digestive apparatus; while the pig for every one hundred pounds of live weight has only one and one-third pounds of stomach to six pounds of intestines. A steer would thrive on a bulk of straw, with a little oil meal, that would shrink a sheep and starve a pig. Pork can be produced from clear cornmeal, while mutton requires a greater variety of food, and beef cattle would become cloyed and diseased with its exclusive use. A thoughtful attention to these broad facts will change much injudicious feeding into cheaper meat production.—*Cultivator.*

Garget in Cows.

This is a common disease of dairying cows, occurring shortly after parturition, or maybe immediately before it, and attacking especially free milkers after their first gestation. In cows the womb and mammary glands receive their blood from the same large trunk vein. This may be a reason why the secretion of milk almost invariably becomes early and freely established in the cow; but it also renders the glands very liable to over-excitement and disease. The abundant flow of rich and stimulating blood, to the udder on the second or third day, and the active secretion of milk, usually lead to a certain amount of fever, with lassitude and restlessness, heat of mouth and diminution of appetite; and this may pass by an easy transition into sanguineous congestion or inflammation of the organ. If the milk is imperfectly drawn off, the condition will be fostered even though a certain amount is taken away; and a cow may soon be rendered all but useless through treatment of this kind at the hands of a dairymaid. The abundant supply of nutritive diet on the first few days after calving is a fruitful source of disease of the udder, as it is of the justly dreaded parturient milk fever.

Perhaps no condition is more favorable than that in which the calf is allowed to suck its dam; but even in these circumstances the udder may become congested. The calf may be too weak to abstract a sufficient quantity, or the dam may obstinately refuse to suckle the offspring or allow herself to be milked. A number of external causes may favor the development of congestion. Wounds, blows, bruises in lying; prolonged contact with cold pavement; or exposure in a draught of cold air, may act in this way. Sometimes the whole udder is affected, and sometimes one quarter only, but most frequently the two quarters on the same side are simultaneously attacked. The gland swells in a general and uniform manner; the skin covering it becomes tense and glistening; it acquires an elastic sensation and much tenderness. The swelling is not limited to the gland, but encroaches on surrounding parts as well, and frequently extends forward on the belly almost to the fore limbs. In some good milkers, after parturition, the last symptom is, however, quite consistent with perfect health. In a short time the swelling of the gland loses its uniformity, becomes knotty at certain points, and