

**INDUSTRIAL TOPICS.**

**A Competitive Test of the Different Breeds of Cattle Kept for Beef**

Prospect that Horses Will Be Raised for Export South of the Equator.

**Testing the Beef Breeds.**

The leading meat-producing breeds of cattle that have been developed in Great Britain have been in this country many years, and the superiority of either of them over the scrub or so-called "native" stock of most of the states has been acknowledged by feeders, butchers, and consumers. Still the majority of farmers are in doubt in relation to the relative merits of the different breeds. They all desire to keep cattle of the breed that matures the earliest, produces the greatest weight for the amount of food consumed, and furnishes the finest meat with the least waste. The breeders of short-horn, Hereford, polled Angus, Suffolk, and Devon cattle have claimed every point of merit for the breed they are interested in. Many of them are doubtlessly honest in extolling the breed they keep over all others. It is as natural that a man should prefer the cattle he keeps as that he should consider the members of his own family superior to the people of the neighborhood where he lives. A careful and painstaking breeder ordinarily has a strong attachment for the animals he raises. Fancy has much to do in causing a man to select a particular breed of animals, and an old adage runs: "There is no accounting for taste."

The majority of persons in the country who raise animals for beef are as undecided in regard to the comparative merits of the different breeds as they were before there were any discussions respecting the matter. The few agricultural colleges in the country that perform any experiments in cattle-feeding have not ventured to test the merits of the different breeds, probably for the reason that they fear to give offense to breeders. It was generally believed that the established live-stock shows would do much to determine which breed of cattle was the most profitable to raise for beef. But the displays of fine specimens of different breeds apparently made it more difficult than ever to decide which was the best. For this reason it was urged that a display of live cattle was not sufficient to enable persons to determine the comparative merits of the different breeds. Accordingly, specimens of different breeds of the same age were slaughtered and their meat inspected by experts in order to determine which was the best. But the block test did not decide the controversy in relation to superior merit. In a few instances the microscope was used for examining the dressed meat, and it was then subject to the table test after it had been roasted or broiled.

All the tests that have been made, however for determining the relative value of the different breeds have not resulted in convincing people that one breed is greatly superior to the others. Many contend that food exercises a more important influence on the quality of beef than the breed of the animal. Prof. J. W. Sanborn, of the Missouri Agricultural college, states, as the result of numerous experiments made by him, that the kind of food and the manner in which it is prepared exert a wonderful influence on the quantity and quality of the flesh of all kinds of animals. Two steers of the same breed and of the same age and size will furnish meat of very different qualities if the food eaten by each is dissimilar. The meat of one may be beautifully marbled, while that of the other will have all the fat deposited on the surface. He contends that the comparative value of the different breeds can only be determined by subjecting several specimens of each to the same course of feeding during the entire period of their growth, or at least from the time they are weaned till they are slaughtered. A correct test of a breed can, in his opinion, only be made when animals of different breeds are supplied with the same kinds of food.

To enable the test to be made he asks those interested in each of the different breeds to furnish him with ten calves at weaning-time, to be kept on the college farm, to be tended in the same manner, and furnished with the same kind of food till they are of an age to be slaughtered. He wishes to have the calves of each breed selected by experts, so that they may be good representatives of the breed to which they belong. It is reported that several associations of breeders have taken steps to furnish the desired number of calves, and the prospect is that the competitive feeding experiment will commence next spring. Prof. Sanborn believes that the experiment will be of great value in determining the relative value of different breeds, for the following reasons: First, these cattle will be the best and official representatives of their breed, and thus not challengeable. Second, all food will be weighed that is eaten, and thus on fifty head of such steers the food required for a steer's growth can for the first time be fairly ascertained. Third, the increased cost of growth as an animal advances in age or weight can be accurately known and calculated upon. Fourth, the varying growths of the breeds at the varying ages can be found. Fifth, the food required to make a pound of growth on each breed will be found, and the amount required to mature each breed. Sixth, by dividing the cattle into three lots the influence of varying foods on marbling and fat in general can be found. Seventh, the economy of food rations can be well tested. Eighth, when fed upon the same food a fair test of the relation of breed to marbling or to quality of meat will be obtained. Ninth, these and other points to be tested will be done without prejudice at a public station and for the whole country. Tenth, the weights of the various vital and other organs and parts will be taken. Eleventh, a study of the meat, fat, etc., will be made under the microscope and

in the chemical laboratory, as well as by butchers. In short, the trial is to be full, both practically and scientifically, foods being analyzed, and no pains or expense being spared to make the trial exhaustive. The experiment, however fairly conducted, will not definitely determine the comparative merits of the different breeds for various sections of the country. It may conclusively show which breed is the most profitable to keep in central Missouri and other sections of the country where the climate and protection are similar. At the latitude named the winters are not severe, blue-grass abounds, timothy and clover are used for hay, and corn is generally fed to cattle intended for slaughter. The breed shown to be the best for the section of the country may not be the best breed for the extreme south, where the grazing is poor, where no clover is grown, and where corn is too scarce to use for fattening cattle. Neither will it show which is the best breed of cattle for the range and ranch where animals have no protection during the winter, where no grass is converted into hay, and where there is no grain to feed. One valuable fact, however, is all that should be expected, as the result of any experiment. Other experiments can be tried with a view to determining the best breed of cattle for the cattle-growing states and great plains.

**Horses From the Far South.**  
The demand for horses in all civilized countries increases as wealth and culture increase. The rich want horses for promoting their pleasure, and all classes want them for doing work. The introduction of railroads did not result in diminishing the number of horses that had been employed in the transportation of passengers and freight. Railroads apparently increased the demand for all kinds of horses. Steam engines released from labor many hitches that had been employed for moving machinery, but they did not diminish the demand for them. They were all wanted for other purposes. Horses hold their price better than any domesticated animal in every civilized country in the world. Horses are now held at high figures in this country, though almost every other farm product is very low. The like is the case in Canada, England, France, and Germany. There is a scarcity of horses in all the countries in western Europe, and importations are made from various parts of the world.

There are strong indications that the various countries in Central and South America will soon contribute to the supply of horses in North America and Europe. Many portions of Spanish America are literally full of horses. Darwin, who visited most of the countries in South America about forty years ago, stated that horses were so cheap and plenty that they commanded only a nominal price. Nearly every adult man had from five to ten, while every woman and child had at least one. Lady Florence Dixie, who traveled over the territory of Patagonia a few years ago, states that every inhabitant had all the horses he wanted, and that great flocks of wild horses wandered over the hills and plains. A large proportion of those were fine animals. The natives stated that they were easily caught and subdued, and that they were very docile. A traveler who spent some time in the Argentine Republic states that beggars ride there, and that the low price of horses made it easy for farmers to cultivate their land at very small cost. Horses are also very cheap and plenty in all the other states in Central America.

The horses of Central and South America, like the wild horses of Texas, are the descendants of those brought over by the early Spanish conquerors. They are generally of rather small size, but are active, vigorous and strong. They live during the entire year on the native grasses and other forage crops, and as comparatively few of them work they multiply very fast. Of course these small animals are not suitable for most of the purposes for which horses are wanted in highly civilized countries. They are not suited to the cavalry or artillery service. They are too small for use on drays and coaches. Probably they have too much of the wild nature about them to be very serviceable on farms. But the mares furnish good stock to breed from. That the people of the countries named, or at least the most intelligent of them, see the wisdom of grading up their horses is certain. During the present year a very large number of fine stallions have been shipped from Scotland and England to the various countries in South America, and a still larger number will be sent there next season.

There is now a large surplus of horses in most of the provinces of Australia, and they are generally of very good quality. Not only roadsters, but heavy draught and race horses were taken to Australia many years ago, and with a favorable climate and abundant feed they have multiplied very rapidly. That countries in the distant south will at no distant future export large numbers to Europe and North America seems certain. The climate of these countries is very favorable to horse-breeding. Little or no protection is required, and the pasturage is good throughout the year. Grazing land is cheap and labor is low. In the days of slow-going sailing vessels the risks of carrying horses across the ocean were great and the expenses heavy. With fast sailing steamships the risks are few and the cost small. Live stock like ordinary merchandise, can be transported by water much cheaper than by land, and with rapid transit but a small amount of food and water is required. —Chicago Times.

**Charged With Whisky.**  
"I don't know what I'm arrested for. Your Honor, I'm an oysterman, and went into a restaurant and got clamorous, that's all. Asked the waiter for fish. 'What kind of fish—bluefish?' says he. 'It don't matter,' says I. 'blue or red, it's no difference to me. I'm color-blind.' Then he thought I was making fun of him, and there was a free fight."  
"Officer, what was this man charged with?"  
"Whisky, Your Honor."  
"Whisky dollars fine!" —Chicago Ledger.

**THE NORTH OF IRELAND.**

**Farmers Who Hope Not to Have Home Rule.**

Dating from Belfast *The London Times* correspondent in Ireland writes: Having spent a considerable time in the south and west, I determined to see something of the other Ireland in the north. It is like a different country. Even in Donegal the change of accent strikes one, but on entering Londonderry it becomes pronounced; and it is not only in the accent, but in character and disposition, that the people are closely allied to the Scotch. They are a sturdy race, hardworking, independent, and thrifty. "You know very little of this country," said one man; "if twelve people want to send a letter to Dublin, they'd go 'co. in the penny stamp." I visited some substantial farmers in Londonderry who would answer very much to the yeoman class in England. The first was a prosperous man, who had built a house fit for any gentleman when he had no lease, and who agreed on a judicial rent under the land act without going into court. "Ye needn't ask me anything," he said; "yuv only look at me to see that I'm contented." He showed me over his farmyard and offices, and from the appearance of everything I should say that he certainly ought to be contented. He declared, nevertheless, that it was very hard now to make both ends meet, if a man is depending solely on the land. "It's not the rent," he said, "but the prices; and you English with your free trade are ruining us." His parting injunction was delivered slowly and with great emphasis. "When ye go home," he said, "tell them, whatever ye do, not to give us home rule."

The next man I saw had raised himself by industry from the position of a common laborer, and had built a house fully equal to the last. He was content to live friendly with his landlord, he said, as everyone ought to be, and he had fixed his rent with him out of court. He grew a good deal of oats and flax, and had a dairy of twelve cows. "I suppose you were glad the home-rule bill was rejected?" I asked. "Yes, and the last one, too," he said eagerly. "Going to break our fifteen years' judicial lease! Whatever happens after let us have our fifteen years at any rate." I visited another of the same class, who had had some disputes with his landlord and was less contented, though his house was, if possible, more magnificent than the others, and, like them, out of all proportion to the size of his holding, which was only about one hundred acres. He had always taken an active part in politics, he said, and was evidently an extreme radical; but he abstained from voting at the last election, as he would not vote for a conservative and could not vote for a home-ruler. Many of the Presbyterians in the north are, I believe, extremely democratic, and would be nationalists if it were not for the fear of being ruled by Rome. This man also said that if he had nothing but the land, he would find it very hard to keep square and do justice to his family; but the open piano and handsome furniture showed what that meant.

**What to Teach Them.**

At a social gathering someone proposed this question: "What shall I teach my daughter?" The following replies were handed in:  
Teach her that 100 cents make a dollar.  
Teach her to arrange the parlor and the library.  
Teach her to say "No," and mean it, or "Yes," and stick to it.  
Teach her to wear a calico dress, and to wear it like a queen.  
Teach her how to sew on buttons, darn stockings, and mend gloves.  
Teach her to dress for health and comfort as well as appearance.  
Teach her to cultivate flowers and to keep the kitchen garden.  
Teach her to make the neatest room in the house.  
Teach her to have nothing to do with intemperance or dissolute young men.  
Teach her that tight lacing is unbecomely as well as injurious to health.  
Teach her to regard the morals and habits, and not money, in selecting her associates.  
Teach her to observe the old rule: "A place for everything, and everything in its place."  
Teach her that music, drawing, and painting are real accomplishments in the home, and are not to be neglected if there be time and money for their use.  
Teach her the important truism: "That the more she lives within her income the more she will save, and the further she will get away from the poor-house."  
Teach her that a good, steady, church-going mechanic, farmer, clerk, or teacher without a cent is worth more than forty loafers or non-producers in broadcloth.

Teach her to embrace every opportunity for reading, and to select such books as will give her the most useful and practical information in order to make the best progress in earlier as well as later home and school life. —Charleston (S. C.) Dispatch.

**Gum-Chewers.**

There is a ludicrous habit in this country, which shows how childish some people are. It is that of chewing gum. I remember that Stephenson, the novelist, in his "Silverado Squatters" mentions that his gigantic Apollo in the foothills chewed gum and spat. It is, I think, a habit imported from Missouri, or else it was acquired among the foothills when tobacco was scarce. But grown up Yankee people have engaged at the pleasure. A somewhat noted Massachusetts professor, who had lived here several years, was surprised because I did not chew gum. At Los Angeles I did a favor for a San Francisco practical politician—that is, I wrote for him a letter which he himself could not write. I had acquired a toothache from drinking too much ice-water, and seeing him take out a silver-plated box, I asked him for a bit of the tobacco. "It's gum," he said. —San Francisco Cor. New York World.



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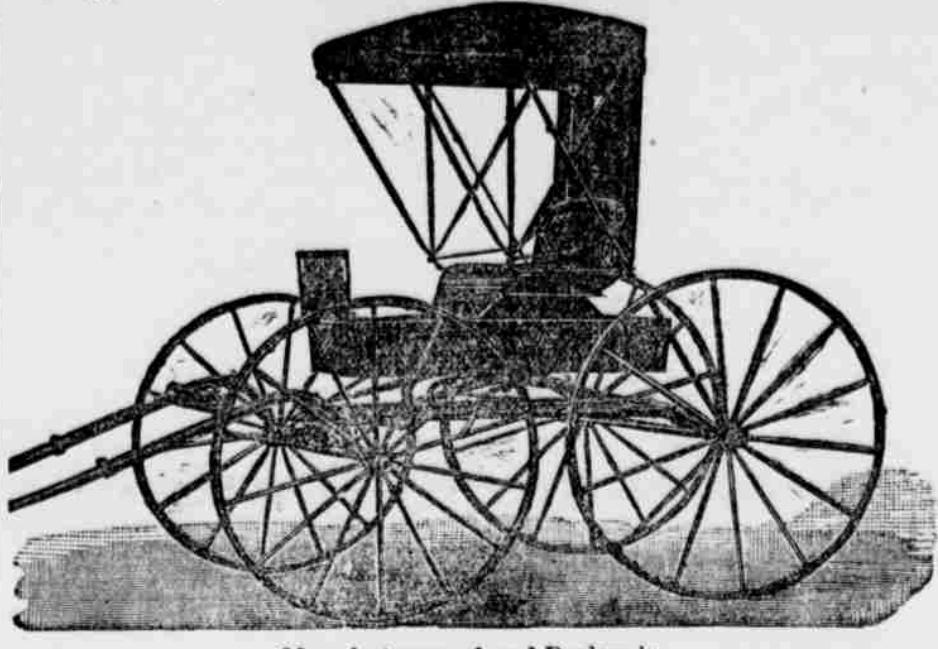
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