

The Daily Morning Astorian.

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ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1885.

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THE BREEDS OF LIVE STOCK.

Nearly all the breeds of cattle found in America have been brought from Great Britain. None of them have been greatly changed in this country. Between some of them there are great differences; others closely resemble each other. All cattle make beef; all cows give milk; but some breeds are especially bred for the one or the other purpose, while others are almost equally prized for both.

The Ayrshire is distinctively a milk breed, producing a large quantity of milk of average quality as to richness. The cows are small to medium in size, with light heads and necks, and the bodies growing wider as we go back. The horns are of medium length, usually turned upward and inward. The color varies much; sometimes nearly white, sometimes reddish, brown or black; but almost always more or less spotted. The breed comes from the county of the same name, in southwestern Scotland. It is not common in the western states.

The Channel Island breeds resemble each other and are valued chiefly for their milk-giving and butter-making. We hear of the Alderney, but there are probably few of the breed in the United States. The Jersey ranks second in number among the improved breeds in this country, and among the very first in popularity, as shown by the prices paid. It takes its name from the largest of the Channel Islands. The cows are small, 800 to 900 being counted good weights.

The form is slender and graceful, the bones being fine. The head and neck are usually light and the body is deep rather than broad; often it is angular rather than well-rounded. The horns are short; usually incurved in the cow. The most common color is fawn or fawn-and-white. Some years ago there was a great prejudice against any white, and black-tipped tails and feet were in great demand. The nose should be black, with a whitish or light fawn ring around the muzzle.

The Guernsey is larger and sometimes coarser than the Jersey, with heavier bone and larger frame; the color is more commonly broken; the nose is often light colored. There is little prejudice against light colors, or white markings. Oftentimes a cow of this breed may be mistaken for a Jersey. They are not nearly so numerous as the Jersey, but are growing in favor, it being claimed that they give more and even richer milk than the Jerseys; and surpass them in value for beef.

The large black and white spotted cows from North Holland and provinces adjoining are variously called Holsteins, Friesian, Holland and Dutch, the first name being more commonly used. This breed is of large size, with fair form from a beef-making standpoint, although usually rather flat in the sides and often somewhat coarse in the bone. The horn is short and slender in the cow, the hair is rather short and may be all white or nearly all black. The reputation of the breed rests chiefly on the large quantity of milk given, in which it is unsurpassed. The milk is not so rich as that of some other breeds, but great quantities of butter have been made from the milk of some cows of the breed. Cattle of this breed are being imported in large numbers, and sell at high prices.

The Devon takes its name from Devonshire in the southern part of England. It is small to medium in size, of a beautiful deep red in color, with fairly long, slender horns in the cow; rather thick and long in the bull. The form is among the best for beef production; the cattle are active and hardy, and the beef is of the best quality, while many of the cows are excellent milkers; yet the breed is not numerous or popular in this country, certainly not in the great cattle raising states. Want of size is the most common criticism, although it is charged they do not mature so early as do some other breeds.

The Hereford, from the English county of the same name, is one of the oldest of the breeds of cattle and within a few years has become one of the most popular, great numbers having been brought to this country and sold at high prices. The color is good red, with white face and some white on shoulder and belly, although there is occasional decided variation from this marking. The size is large, the legs are short, but the body is long, thick and deep. The horn is rather long, and the head is somewhat heavy. The cattle are hardy; claimed to be very superior as graziers; the meat is of excellent quality. As a breed high rank for dairy purposes cannot be claimed, but there are many exceptions.

Three polled or hornless breeds have attracted much favorable attention in this country of late years. The Angus or Aberdeen, from Aberdeenshire in northern Scotland, is one of these. Black in color, with rather fine hair; a neat head and a well-rounded, long, yet compact body, carried on short, fine limbs, this breed is always attractive. It produces beef equally in any quality. As a dairy breed it has not much reputation. It is claimed to be especially adapted for use in improving other and inferior breeds. There have been large importations within the last three years, and the breed has been well distributed throughout the west.

The Galloway, from southwestern Scotland, resembles the Angus in being black and hornless, but is rougher

and rather coarser in form, with long often coarse and curling hair. Much the same claims are made for it as for the Angus, with the addition that it is more hardy, although perhaps slower in arriving at maturity.

The Red Polled cattle come from Norfolk and Suffolk in eastern England. They considerably resemble the Devons, save in being hornless. They are of medium size, claimed to be excellent dairy cattle, and of good merit as beef-makers. They are not owned in large numbers in this country, but have some enthusiastic friends.

The Short-horns, formerly often called Durhams, came from northern eastern England, and are the most numerous and most widely distributed breed in this country, or in the world. The size is of the largest; the color is either red, white or a mixture of either of these in any proportion. The horn is short and comparatively light, but no more so than in some other breeds. Although valued chiefly as a beef-making animal, Short-horns as a breed are good milkers, but less attention has been given of late years to their dairy qualities than formerly. No cattle are more attractive than the best Short-horns. The body is long, the back straight and broad, the ribs well sprung, the rump straight and well filled out. As a rule Short-horns are taller than cattle of most other breeds, and not infrequently they are subject to the criticism of being too long in the leg. The head and neck are generally light and well formed. The beef is good and the milk is of full average richness. No other breed has had anything like the influence on the cattle of the chief beef producing states as the Short-horn.

A few cattle of other breeds are owned in this country. Swiss cattle are of large size; often a mouse color, sometimes whitespotted, and with a Jersey-like ring around the black muzzle. They are well spoken of both for the steak and for beef, but have not been generally tried in this country. The Sussex may be accurately described as a larger coarser Devon, but are scarcely known here. The Highland cattle of West Scotland are smallish, well-formed, long-horned, shaggy-coated, hardy animals, producing first-class beef, but a breed little known in America.

"WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL NERVE."

"I saw an exhibition of what you might call nerve, the other day, up in Delaware county," said Deacon Chas. N. Bean of the public stores. "I was up there on business last week, near Harpersfield, and an acquaintance took me out to fish for pickerel through the ice. On our way to the pond we came to a couple of men chopping in the woods. My friend knew one of the men, and stopped to talk with him. The other man kept on chopping. He had made but two or three strokes with his axe when it flew off the handle. The sharp blade whizzed through the air, passed close to my friend's head, and striking the other chopper, whose name was Hagar, cut his nose off close to his face as clean as if it had been done with a razor. The man who had lost it put his hand up to his face in a startled sort of way, and looked down at the severed nose as if he could hardly believe his eyes. When the full force of the striking struck him, he looked at his fellow chopper with an expression of surprise and deep injury on his face, and said:

"Well, Jack, you're a d— nice fellow, ain't ye?"

"Hagar then stopped and picked up his nose and pressing his handkerchief to his bleeding face, astounded both my friend and myself by resuming the subject upon which they had been talking—which was the making of a contract for some chopping—as if nothing of consequence had occurred to interrupt it. My friend, however, started the other chap to the village after a doctor, and wanted to take Hagar home at once on his backboard. Hagar wouldn't hear to this and said he would cut across to his cabin through the woods and wait for the doctor, and he started off without any apparent hurry, carrying his nose in his hand.

"When we returned at night we went two miles out of our way to inquire after Hagar. We found him chopping up firewood in front of the cabin. There was a bandage around his face. When we asked him if the doctor had seen him, he said:

"Yes, he's been here. He stuck the nose on in its old place and bound it there, and said he believed it would grow fast again, as he had known of such things happening. Say, I came blame near getting mad at Jack when that ax flew off to-day. He's always cutting up some d— or other."

"Then we drove back to Harpersfield. I had a letter to-day from my friend. He had just come from a visit to Hagar. He says the man is getting along, and that the nose will grow fast again sure. Now, these are facts, and I tell you that Hagar struck me as giving an exhibition of what you might call nerve."—New York Sun.

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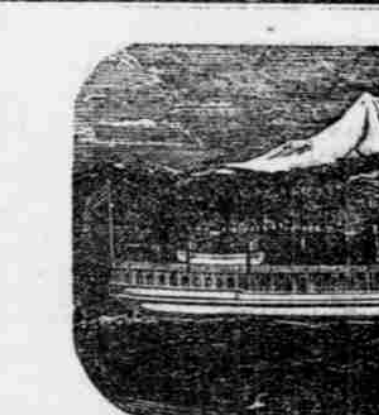
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