

AGRICULTURE AND STOCK.

[Communicated.]
Letter No. 7.

The writer promised to give his views on the question of what breed is best adapted to this region. Nearly every one has his ideal of what he considers the best, and as far as my observation has extended, there is almost as many breeds or subdivisions of breeds as individuals. Crosses upon crosses till the crosses, or what is left of them, are entirely crossed out. To show how a certain race or breed can keep up under adverse conditions where the primeval animals were almost perfect through centuries of pure blood selected with great care. Let us leave home and see how the much abused mustang of California often perfect in build, symmetrical in form, with an elegance of motion, hardy, long-winded, full of life, they were perfect as saddle horses, many of them very handsome, showing traces of the thoroughbred in every contour of their bodies and in every action of the muscles. Of course there were exceptions, probably debased through mating with outside animals, but in numerous instances showing clearly after 200 years, the fine thoroughbreds imported by Cortes at the conquest of Mexico and turned loose by his followers. These horses have been known to go a hundred miles in a day, carrying a man and heavy Mexican saddle with but indifferent care.

My only excuse for writing horse in an article on the breeds of cows, is to still further tenant my theory that blood will tell. In the Farm and Household of October, is a description of a Holstein-Friesian that gave 97 pounds and 5 ounces in one day, or, 20,412 lbs 3 ozs in one year. These are extraordinary results, obtained after great labor and unceasing care. These Holstein-Friesian are a fine race of cattle, and anyone owning rich, low, marshy, soft ground, with plenty of green pasture, with soft ground for them to stand on it will answer well to keep this breed. But to expect them to go through the brush and hunt up a living on the stony ground, they cannot do it. The Ayrshire will, and march all day. They are hardy good feeders and moderate fair milkers; crossed with the Short-horn they are very good, maturing early, and the steers at three years old will weigh 1000 pounds and over. The Short-horn is an excellent breed and although somewhat neglected of late, for crossing with other breeds, cannot be beaten—the old standard stock retaining its place in the different breeds and for these reasons probably taking all things into consideration, should find a home here; still not entirely to the exclusion of other breeds.

The Jersey cow, to my thinking, for anyone willing to take care of a cow as she should be, and desiring good milk and yellow butter for home consumption or to sell, could do no better than have this breed. They will not forage like the Ayrshire, nor keep fat like Short-horn, as they are milch cattle and put their surplus food in the milk pail. On an observation and handling and milking cows for 24 years, and examining dairies in this state and elsewhere, leads me to conclude that for the average farmer, a cow of a mixture of Jersey, Short-horn and Ayrshire is all that can be desired here. They are good milkers and the steers mature early.

There is a class of cattle in Canada that combine these requisites—I forget the name—they are red in color, of good size and mules, but different in respect to the Polled Angus in that they are good milkers. Many persons pooh, pooh the idea that blood has anything to do with good quality because forsooth, fine milk and butter cows are found without any record, being termed, only common stock. If it were possible to trace up the genealogy of the animal, it would be found that somewhere along some good blood was infused which has accidentally cropped out. I have failed to see a good milker in a Mexican or Texan cow, and what do the steers weigh at three years? about 500 pounds less than a good Short-horn. Cross with a good blooded bull and see the result. And another thing, a farmer is far more likely to take proper care of a high priced animal, while a poor one is left to shift for itself. Feed does not make the breed, but goes a long, long way to help; for whatever breed you have and give no care, but make hat-stands of their hip bones, and try and determine as an experiment how little they can live on, you will realize the old saw: "If you starve your stock, they will starve you."

Rich Quartz Mines.

The quartz discoveries on Salmon river are of an encouraging character. One quartz claim is said to show a value of \$595 to the ton and 78 per cent. lead. Fifty-two claims have been staked in a distance of one and a half miles. These mines are in Stevens county, Washington Territory. They are on what was once included in the Moses reservation, and are situated some 35 miles south of the 49th parallel line between the United States and British Columbia. The claim owners have decided to put in a smelter as soon as practicable. These mines are 100 miles from the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Some specimens exhibited to us were very rich in galena and silver also.—[Kittitas Localizer.]

Late New York papers announce the return to Mr. Henry Villard to this country and his location in the Mills building, near his old office, as the agent of a German syndicate of bankers looking for investments in American railway securities. A man of Villard's intelligence, broad views and energy cannot be kept under. He will, doubtless, again before a great while, come to the front prominent in the management of large enterprise. The Pacific Northwest owes more to him, probably, than to any one man for bringing to the attention of capitalists and others the many varied resources of its region; for the construction of the O. R. & N. Co. and its collateral railway and steamship lines and for the speedy completion of the N. P. R. R. Indeed, it is probable that the former road would ever have been built, or the latter to this day completed. He has, when in power, shown himself the steadfast friend of Portland and of Oregon, and will ever be remembered by the people for his many generous deeds and energetic enterprise. It would be a good thing to see him again in control of the policy of the railroads centering at Portland, with the proper management of which properties Portland is so largely and directly interested.—[Kane's Illustrated West.]

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Mustang Liniment, 2.40 grains.
Boneset and Summer Savory, 10.210 grains.
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