

"Kerries at Lackham"

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KERRIES AT LACKHAM.

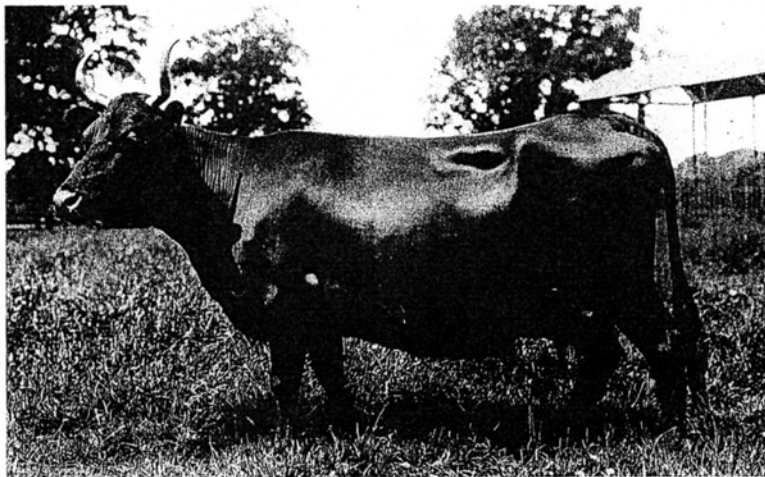


THE MIDDAY REST.

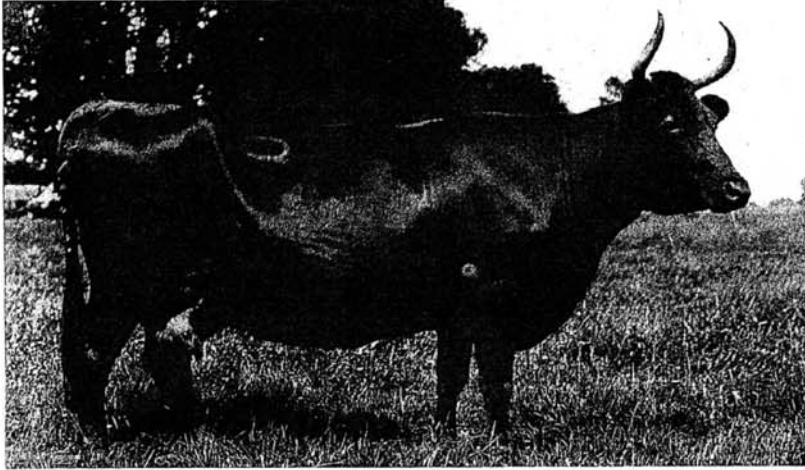
It is always interesting to illustrate such a beautiful herd of pure-bred Kerries as we show to-day. The old breed possesses far more claims to popularity than would appear from the comparatively small number that one sees in the country and at shows. It seems to have flourished among the Kerry mountains as far back as history goes, and is identified by some writers with the original cattle of the country which it resembles in type. It is only in comparatively recent times, however, that it has received the attention given to first-rate pedigree stock. In 1879 the County Kerry Agricultural Society endeavoured to commence a Herd

Book on their own account, but difficulties arose, and the project was never carried out. Yet before that attention had been directed to the merits of the breed. In the year 1872 the

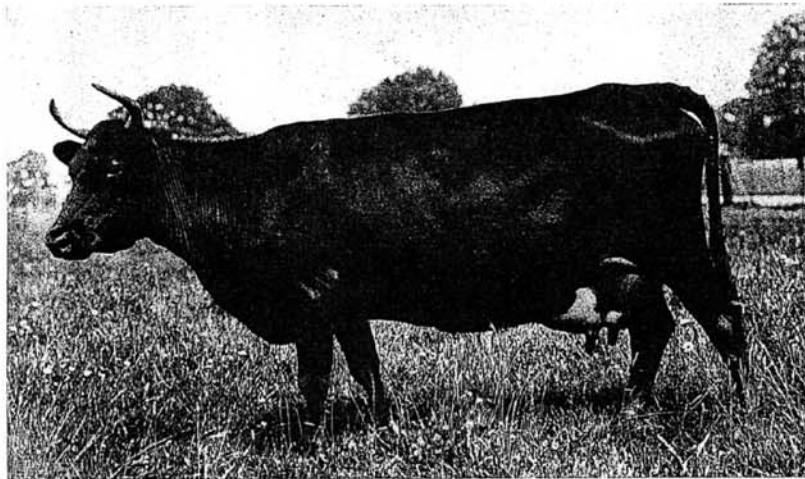
late Mr. R. Olliphant Pringle wrote, "The Kerry is, properly speaking, the only existing native breed of cattle in Ireland." He then goes on to note the difference between Kerries and Dexters. It is very interesting to note the measurements he gives of a Royal Dublin Society's prize fat Kerry cow. Her height at shoulder was 38in.; her girth 72in.; shoulder top to tail head, 42in. Kerry cattle were shown for the first time at the cattle shows of the Royal Dublin Society in 1844,



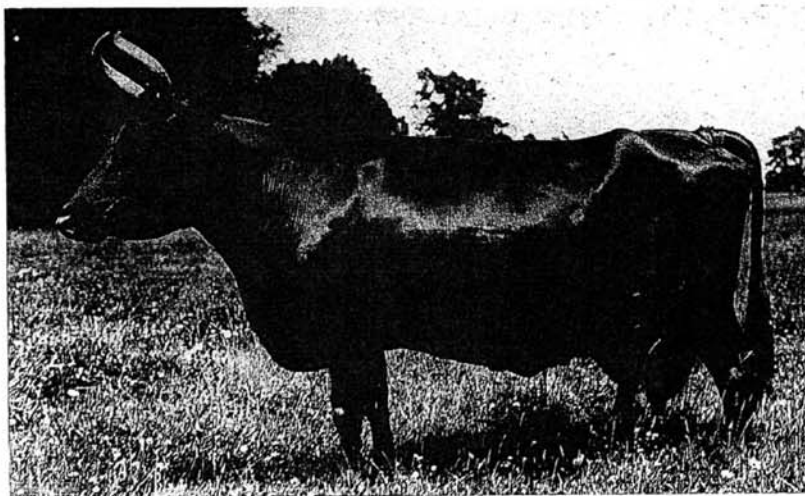
MOLLIG DHUBH.



BALTIMORE.



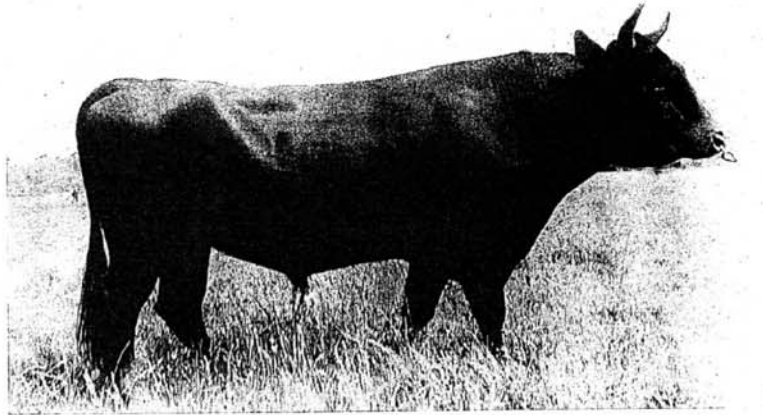
QUEEN.



KATHLEEN

but a long time passed before they were generally recognised as a separate class in the leading agricultural shows. Early in the year 1887 the Royal Dublin Society established a Herd Book, and so put the affairs of the breed on a firm basis. Before that, in 1878, they had come into notice at the Paris Exhibition, and perhaps that was the principal ground of their later popularity. The breed grew largely in favour and in fashion, the celebrated herds being in possession of the Duchess of Devonshire, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Duchess of Newcastle and the holders of other names equally distinguished. The English Kerry and Dexter book was founded in 1882 and the society incorporated in 1899. The first issue was published in 1900. The King is patron and a life member of the society. While he was Prince of Wales he used to have a number of exceptionally fine Kerry cattle at Sandringham. The standard description of the Kerry as it is to-day is: The cow should be long, level and deep, her colour black, her head long and fine, her horns fine at base, mottled or white tipped with black, upright and cocked, her eye soft and prominent, her bone fine, her coat in summer like satin, in winter long and thick, her udder should be soft and large, but not fleshy, protruding well under the belly, the teats being placed square and well apart, the milk veins prominent and large, the tail should be well put on and have at the end long, fine black hair. The Kerry cow should not weigh over 300lb. live weight when in breeding condition. The bull should be whole black, without a white hair, should have a long head, wide between the eyes, of masculine character, throat clear, horns medium length, mottled or white, with black tips, turning backwards, withers fine, back straight from withers to setting-on of tail, which should be long and fine, tipped with black hairs. The Kerry bull should not weigh over 1,000lb. live weight when in breeding condition. In describing its habits and qualities it is stated to be eminently suitable for all classes and all soils, an excellent milker, a ready fatterer, small feeder and capable of thriving under adverse circumstances. The Lackham Estate, comprising some 2,000 acres, has been in the hands of the present owner, Mr. George Llewellyn Palmer (who purchased it from Sir George Errington), for some fifteen years. Lackham is mentioned as a manor in Domesday Book. It afterwards belonged to the Baynards, who entertained Henry VIII. in the old house which was pulled down late in the

eighteenth century, when the present house was built by the Montagues, who then owned it. It afterwards changed hands several times before the present owner bought it. The herd was started in 1900 with animals purchased from Viscount de Vesci, Abbeyleix, Ireland; the Marquess of Lansdowne, Bowood; Messrs. R. Tait Robertson, Malahide, Dublin; and R. Barter, Cork, and has from time to time been added to by stock bred by the Earl of Clonmell; Messrs. R. H. C. Harrison, Shiplake Court, Oxon; D. M. Rattray, Ballyunion, County Kerry; C. Brinsley Marlay, Mullingar; T. Waits, Redhill, Surrey, and other well-known breeders. Undoubtedly the pick of the herd is Mollig Dhubb, in the opinion of many a typical specimen of a Kerry cow. Quoting from a description given in the English Kerry and Dexter Herd Book, the Kerry is essentially "a small light, neat, active animal, showing great quality and in many respects leaning to the type of the Jersey." All the above points are well defined in this cow, and in addition a fine head, perfect horns and a splendid skin go towards making about as good an example as one can find. This cow has been shown five times, and has taken the following prizes: First, Dairy Show, 1904 and 1905; first, Royal Counties, 1907; third, Bath and West, 1907; second, Royal, 1907; second, milking test, Dairy Show, 1905; and third, milking test, Royal, 1907. The heifer Lackham Rose was bred by the owner, and was born March 20th, 1905. Here again is an excellent type of Kerry. Standing rather higher on the legs, perhaps, than she should do, she has all the other attributes which are necessary in the breed, as has been proved by her successes at the various shows



LACKHAM COUNT.

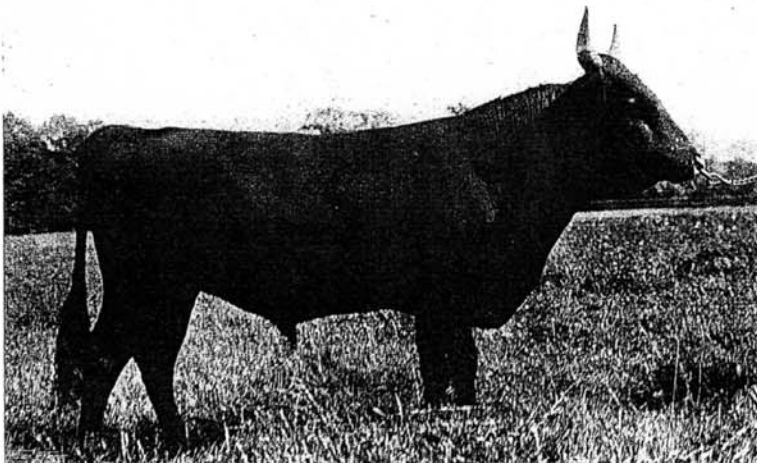
this year. She has been exhibited three times, and has taken first, Royal Counties; first, Bath and West;



LACKHAM ROSE.

Kathleen, the oldest cow of the herd, was calved in 1892, but is still a most profitable cow, giving, when in full milk, about 40lb. a day. She is the dam of Lackham Noble, of which mention will be made later. Queen, another good example of a Kerry, has bred some excellent stock, and is the favourite of the herd. Both these cows are old prize-winners, Kathleen winning the Blythwood Cup at Dublin in 1899 and Queen in 1901. Coming to the bulls, photographs are given of two fine examples of what a male Kerry

should be—good heads and horns, fine skins and level backs. Lackham Count was purchased from Mr. D. M. Rattray and has been shown four times, taking first and championship cup at the Bath and West, third at the Royal and reserves at Oxford and Portsmouth in 1906. Lackham Noble was bred by his owner, is eighteen months old and, as before stated, is the son of Kathleen, herself a noble prize-winner. This bull has been shown twice, and received first and championship cup at the Bath and West this year and second at the Royal Counties. The De Bertodano cup has now been won two years in succession, and every endeavour will no doubt be made to produce an animal worthy of the honour next year, when, if again carried off, it will become the absolute property of Mr. Palmer.



LACKHAM NOBLE.

As a milking cow the Kerry is the most suitable that exists for small families. It does not give a large quantity as compared with the short-horn, but it does yield freely in proportion to its size. A milking record is kept of this herd at Lackham, and the yield of five cows will give the reader a fair indication of the productiveness of the breed. It will be seen that the daily average is from 1 1-8gal. to

2½gal. of milk. The best cow was 312 days in milk, and the worst only 106 days; but this one ought scarcely to have been included, as she was kept dry in order to be made right for the shows. Queen milked 312 days, gave 7,418lb. milk; average daily supply about 2½gal. The corresponding figures for Clonbrock were 249 days, 5,403lb., average about 2 1-5gal.; Lackham Fern, 286 days, 5,756lb., average about 2 1-8gal.; Prude, 297 days, 3,073lb., average about 1 1-3gal.; Mollig Dhubh, 106 days, 2,228lb., average about 2 1-10gal.

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