

The American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club

Bulletin Four

November, 1914



Photo by C. S. Plumb

Fig. 1. THE DEXTER COW, HARLEY COY, (1655) and
Mr. R. Tait Robertson, her owner. First Prize
Royal Society of England Show.

—OFFICERS OF—

The American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club

President, - - G. M. CARNOCHAN, New City, New York
Vice President, C. H. BERRYMAN, Mgr. Elmendorf Farm,
Lexington, Ky.
Secy-Treas., - - - C. S. PLUMB, Columbus, Ohio

OBSERVATIONS IN BRITAIN ON KERRIES AND DEXTERS

BY CHARLES S. PLUMB

The writer spent about two weeks during the past season in England, Scotland and Ireland. As the Secretary of the American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club he was especially interested to see something of these cattle, and of the men engaged in breeding them in Europe. It may be stated in the beginning, that Kerry and Dexter cattle are not common in England, nor are there many of them in Ireland outside of the southwestern section. The 1913 volume of the English herd book lists eighteen herds of Kerries and twenty-six of Dexters, these occurring in both England and Ireland. Some of these herds are very small and attract but little attention.

These Irish breeds of cattle are exhibited at several agricultural shows in England and Ireland. The largest and most important displays are made at the shows of the Royal Agricultural Society of England; the Bath and West of England and Southern Counties Society, and the Royal Counties Agricultural Society, in England, and at the Royal Dublin and the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society shows in Ireland. None of the shows held in England are at permanent locations, but are annually held in different locations. This year the writer attended the Royal Counties show, which was held at Portsmouth, in southern England, and the Royal Agricultural Society show, held at Shrewsbury in western England. The judging at the Royal Counties show was on June 10, and that of the Royal Agricultural on June 30th. The entries at the Royal Counties show were comparatively small, and but few persons were present to witness the judging. The small size of the exhibit here, as well as at the Royal Agricultural Society show at Shrewsbury, was in part due to the absence of cattle from Irish herds, these cattle being barred on account of the occurrence of foot and mouth disease in Ireland. The competition at these two shows was not nearly so strong or as interesting among the Kerries as with the Dexters, in fact the Kerry show at Portsmouth decidedly lacked in numbers and quality. The Dexter show was quite attractive, especially in the female classes. The writer is impressed with

the opinion that the champion Kerry bull at Portsmouth was hardly a credit to the breed, lacking in masculinity and being very upstanding, with a poor middle. The Kerry cow, Minley Mistress, that was first prize and champion at Portsmouth, was third at the Royal at Shrewsbury. She was an extreme dairy type of cow, with very lean head and neck, and somewhat lacking in width at chest, but she had considerable depth of rib, with good capacity both as a feeder, and at the pail, though her udder might be improved in its front quarters. Black Child, first at Portsmouth, a choice little Dexter cow, with beautiful head, capacious body, and shapely udder, was fourth in class at Shrewsbury. Yet the Dexter exhibit was a distinct credit to the breed at the Royal Counties Show, and was most carefully judged.

The Royal Agricultural Society Show at Shrewsbury, when one considers the lack of cattle from Ireland, was a very creditable and interesting exhibit of Kerries and Dexters. Had the twelve entries of Mr. R. Tait Robertson of Ireland been present, as well as cattle of others, the show would have bordered on the sensational. Twenty head of Kerries and thirty-four of Dexters were entered in the competition, and most of the cattle were there. Without going into much detail, brief reference must be made to several of the prize winners. The first prize and champion Kerry bull, La Mancha Life Guard, shown by John L. Ames, was a fine specimen of a bull of the breed, showing plenty of set character, graceful in outline, thin at the withers, strong of back and deep of rib, with well placed legs. This bull shows good quality. This is a well known prize winner, receiving first and reserve championship in 1913 at the Royal Dublin Show, and also being first and champion at the Royal Agricultural Show in 1913 at Bristol. He was bred by Mr. R. Tait Robertson. The Dexter bull, Jack Robin, a four-year-old of unknown breeding, shown by His Majesty the King, was a popular favorite for the premier honor which he received in the Dexter class. He is a very loose set, stylish fellow, inclining to the dairy type, with an expressive countenance, an alert disposition, and with a strongly supported back, a deep middle and nice carriage of legs. Cowbridge Prince, shown by Mr. B. de Bertodan, was a creditable second to Jack Robin. One rarely sees such a beautiful cow as the first prize and champion age Dexter cow, Harley Coy, shown by Mrs. E. Morant. It is impossible to find imperfections of consequence in this little cow, for she truly is much in little, with plenty of style and quality. An attractive, intelligent head, slender neck, near-

ly placed shoulders, capacious body, wide and full hind end, beneath which is situated a model udder in form and capacity, with large milk veins and good sized teats, she stands close to the ground on four well-placed legs, a model of what a Dexter cow should be. Later Mr. Robertson purchased this beautiful little cow, and the writer had ample opportunity to look her over at Malahide. The general exhibit of both Kerry and Dexter cattle was highly creditable.

In July the writer made a short visit to Ireland, visiting the herds of Mr. R. Tait Robertson, of The Hutch, Malahide, near Dublin; the Duke of Leinster, of Carton, Maynooth; and Mr. S. J. Brown of Ard Caen, Naas. These herds are all convenient to Dublin, the two latter being in County Kildare, from 20 to 25 miles from the city. Mr. Robertson's herd is about eight miles from Dublin, and con-

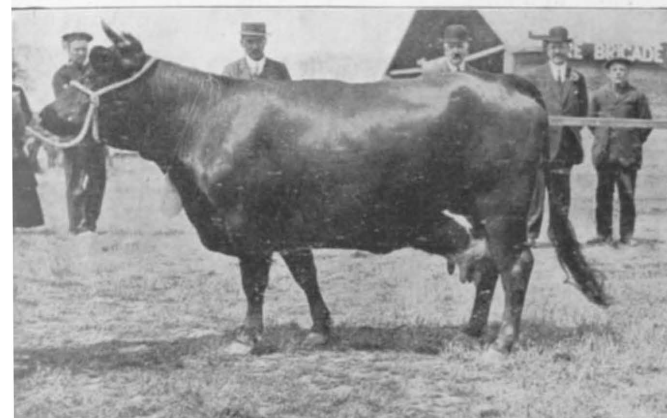


Fig. 2. Dexter Cow, Black Child (2003), First in class at Royal Counties Show at Portsmouth, England, 1914.
Photo by C. S. Plumb.

tains very choice specimens of both Kerries and Dexters. Mr. Robertson is a noted breeder and dealer in these two Irish breeds, as was his father before him. At the time of my visit the champion Dexter cow, Harley Coy, previously referred to, was in Mr. Robertson's possession. He also had La Mancha My Mistake, a very fine specimen of a Kerry bull, and a remarkably promising Kerry heifer, each of which may be regarded as fit for the best of company. The little Dexter bull, Home Rule, a first prize winner at Dublin and Cork, was also in this herd. Can Can, a seven-year-old Kerry cow, second in class of fifteen at the Royal Show at Bristol in 1913, was also brought out for inspection.

tion. Mr. Robertson has either bred or brought out many of the best known show cattle, and it is apparent that he is prepared to offer warm competition at future shows.

The Carton herd of the Duke of Leinster at Maynooth consists of about thirty-five Kerry females, these being on pasture at the time of my visit. It was a very uniform herd, that presented an attractive appearance for this very reason of uniformity. Here and there were to be seen individual cows that had the evidence of being large producers. This is an extensive and very beautiful estate, with good buildings and fine pastures. The herd at Carton offers great future possibilities.

One afternoon was spent in a trip to Ard Caein, the estate of S. J. Brown, Esq., near the attractive town of Naas, about 25 miles from Dublin. Mr. Brown has a number of very choice Kerry cows, including well known prize winners, including Gort Dainty, a Blythwood Bowl winner for the best Kerry or Dexter in milk at the Dublic Dairy Show in 1913. She was also the champion at Belfast in 1913. Mr. Brown, who is an attorney, is greatly interested in the development of the Kerries, as is also his capable manager.

The cattle seen by the writer on the three farms visited in Ireland, were more uniform in character and more attractive than he expected to see. The evidences of constitutional vigor and of milk production were very apparent. When we consider that almost nothing has been done by the British people to improve these Irish breeds through a study of pedigree and recorded milk and butter fat production, it is a wonder that they are as good as they appear. The Irish government is doing something now in behalf of these cattle, by buying bulls and placing them out for service in communities. Mr. Brown is the only person that I know of who attempts to keep records of production.

The fact is the Kerry and Dexter breeds are not seriously promoted in Ireland, even by the government. Though the Kerry is the native cow of the Island, the people have sadly neglected it for the Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus. One finds the Shorthorn extremely popular in Ireland, and commonly seen at most of the Agricultural Society shows, while the native breeds are rated as of minor importance.

As yet Kerry and Dexter cattle are not high priced, in comparison with most other breeds. One may purchase at very modest prices. It seems as though importation will be the only method by which many Americans may secure these cattle, because but few females are to be purchased

in this country. Yet the cost will not be prohibitive to people of modest means, who desire to start with the right kind of a herd.

The writer visited the offices of the English Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society in London, at 19 Bloomsbury Square. The Society publishes a herd book each year, volume fourteen being for 1913. Messrs. Hammond and Craufurd, the efficient secretaries, were most courteous and rendered the Secretary of the American Club most kindly service and attention. In Ireland the Royal Dublin Society publishes a herd book from time to time, but the number of animals registered is small, and no herd book has been published now since 1909. Only animals of registered parentage are registered by the Dublin Society, while the English Society

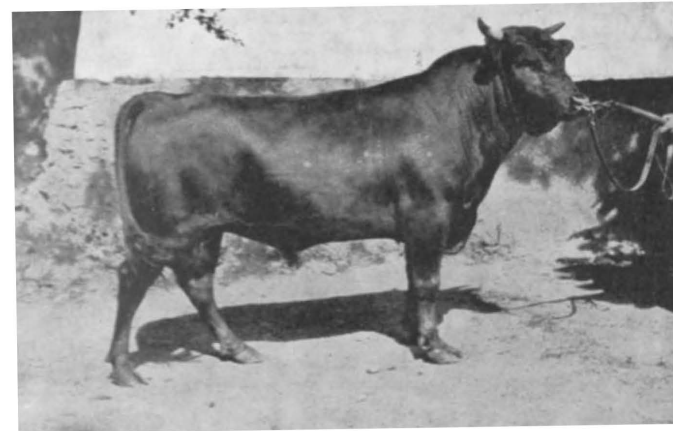


Fig. 3. Kerry Bull, LaMancha My Mistake, owned by Mr. R. Tait Robertson, The Hutch, Malahide, Ireland.
Photo by C. S. Plumb.

registers animals of unknown parentage, if approved by inspection. It is to be hoped that the English Society will find it wise to soon limit registration to stock of registered ancestry only. There is ample foundation stock for that purpose. However, the people of Great Britain have somewhat different views on that subject from some of their American cousins.

The writer especially wishes to express his appreciation for much kindly attention and hospitality from Mr. R. Tait Robertson through whom his visit to Ireland became a most pleasant and profitable one.

THE DEXTER FOR MILK AND BEEF

The *Farmer's Gazette* of Dublin (May 16, 1914), contains the following communication credited to an American correspondent:

"This breed is gaining an increasing number of supporters in America as regards milking qualities. Dexters cannot be valued too highly. One cow I have yields regularly for several weeks after calving up to 35 pints daily, and gave in her last milking period 650 gallons in seven months when she was within a little over three months of calving again. She is now making another record, having given since 9th March up to 15th December 684 gallons of milk, and is still giving about a gallon a day. Another cow (this one is a very small specimen of the breed, standing about 38 inches high) gives regularly in a period of ten months over 600 gallons. She is a very rich milker and a splendid butter maker, although now eleven years of age.

"These cows have only had the very plainest living, and are by no means exceptions. I noticed that at the 1913 Royal Show in England one of the Dexters yielded 47 lbs. 10 ozs. of milk (about 4¾ gallons) in 24 hours, while many others of the same breed came very close in amount. This was as much, if not more, than some of the cows of the larger races yielded. This breed does not require nearly as much food to produce a gallon of milk as does, for instance, a Shorthorn. The quality of the milk is also of a high standard. Not only do they milk well, but they are apt fatteners, and their beef is excellent in quality. So much is their beef in demand at the Smithfield fat stock shows that the butchers are reported as buying all the steers and heifers of this breed that are for sale before the first day of the show is over. Well-fed steers and heifers when between 1½ and 2½ years of age weigh from 6 cwt. to 9 cwt.

"If greater size be required for feeding, a cross with the Aberdeen-Angus will produce just the right kind of beast. Hereford-Dexter and Shorthorn-Dexter make useful crosses for beef, while for milk production the Red Poll Dexter and Jersey-Dexter are worthy of consideration."

THE FIRST IMPORTATION OF THE KERRY TO AMERICA

Bulletin three of the Club for November, 1912, contains an article by the Secretary on The Introduction of the Kerry to America. Since the publication of this bulletin the author has found in the memoirs of the Pennsylvania

Agricultural Society, published in 1824, a statement by Mr. Reuben Haines of Germantown, Pa., to the effect that he had "imported from Ireland the celebrated Kerry cow." That is the extent of the information, but it makes it apparent that at least one Kerry cow was brought to the United States at some time prior to 1824. More information on this point is desired.

KERRY AND DEXTER REGISTRATION BY THE CLUB

The following numbers of Kerry and Dexter cattle have been registered from the beginning of registration up to and including December 31, 1913:

Kerry males	Nos. 1 to 15
Kerry females	Nos. 1 to 51
Dexter males	Nos. 1 to 18
Dexter females	Nos. 1 to 91

Total175

This is not a very large showing, but when we consider how few of these cattle there are in America, it is perhaps as much as might be expected for the length of time the Club has been doing business.

COUNTY KERRY, IRELAND

Quoting from the 1912 edition of the New International Cyclopaedia, Kerry is a maritime county in the southwest of Ireland, in the province of Munster, bounded north by the estuary of the Shannon, and west by the Atlantic Ocean. Area 1859 square miles. The surface is very rugged, wild and mountainous. Kerry contains the lakes of Killarney. The manufactures are inconsiderable; oats and butter are the chief exports. The fisheries on the coast are extensive and profitable. Chief towns, Tralee, the county town; Killarney, Kenmare and Dingle. Population, in 1841, 294,100; in 1901, 165,726.

THE SALE OF LADY GREENALL'S KERRIES

The following from the *Live Stock Journal* (London) for March 28, 1913, relates the sale of this famous herd. American Kerry breeders will find this information of value for future reference:

The dispersion of Lady Greenall's well known entire herd of Kerry cattle, which has been so distinguished in the show yards for many years, was an event which had been looked forward to with great interest by Kerry breeders,

and the large company which assembled at Walton Hall, Warrington, on Wednesday, March 19th, bore witness to the esteem in which this famous herd was held in the Kerry world. Among those present were Mr. T. Waite, vice president of the English Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society; Col. Lockhart-Ross, representing the Knight of Kerry; Mr. Beattie for the Duchess of Newcastle, and representatives of the Marquis of Lansdowne and Viscountess Castlereagh, Capt. Ames, Miss Robertson, Mr. Patrick Trope and Mr. R. Tait-Robertson from Ireland, Mr. Proctor, Mr. Skidmore Ashby, Mr. Trawler, the representative of Capt. Ormrod; Mr. T. W. Hammond, representing the English Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society, etc. Luncheon was served soon after twelve o'clock, and the auctioneer, Mr. William Bainbridge, lost no time in commencing the sale at one o'clock. The sale

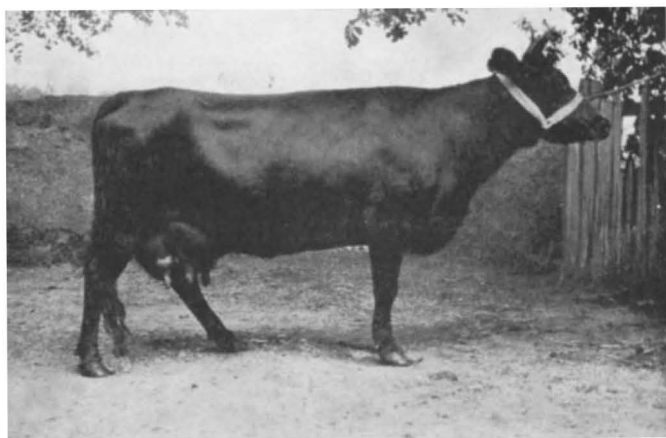


Fig. 4. Kerry Cow, Walton Can-Can. Second prize in class at Royal Society of England Show, 1913.
Photo by C. S. Plumb.

was held in the large riding school, which was a great comfort to all concerned, the morning being blustery, with occasional showers.

The animals were brought out in ordinary condition and were a robust, healthy lot, the cows being good milkers and the heifers very promising for the pail. The first lot, Walton Homely, was purchased at \$87.50 for the Knight of Kerry. A nice quality heifer and a good milker became the property of Viscountess Castlereagh at \$130. The Knight of Kerry secured lots 7 and 8 at \$130 and \$165, respectively, the Duchess of Newcastle obtaining lot 9, Walton

Jonquil 2d, a large framed cow with capacious udder, at \$175. Capt. Ames was fortunate in getting Walton Fame, a nice type of cow with a good bag, at \$180. The "plum" of the sale now came into the ring, Walton Dewdrop, almost an ideal Kerry, with a beautiful head and horns, well sprung barrel, a grand udder, and quite one of the best. This cow, a yielder of over five gallons of milk per day, was greatly admired, and, as the auctioneer naively remarked, "you all know her." Started at \$100, the bids ran up mostly by \$25 bids to \$325 by Mr. Robertson. Mr. Waite, however, would not be denied, and capped it with \$350, when she became his property. She goes to augment his well known herd of good milkers, and he is to be congratulated on securing such a worthy specimen of the Kerry breed. Her week-old bull calf realized \$62.50, being purchased for the Duchess of Newcastle.

Interest was centered in Walton Can-Can, a splendid milker, which Mr. Robertson secured after some lively bidding at \$210, and Raherry, another grand milker, which Mr. Waite finally obtained at \$250, being hard pressed by Mr. Robertson. The remainder of the females met with a ready demand, Capt. Ames, the Knight of Kerry, Lady Castlereagh and Capt. Ormrod being the principal buyers. The bulls also met with a fair demand.

Sir Gilbert and Lady Greenall, who were present all through the sale, were warmly congratulated on its success, and many regrets were expressed at the disposal of so fine a herd.

The following were the principal prices and buyers:

COWS AND HEIFERS

	Guineas.
Walton Homely, calved 1910. Knight of Kerry.....	15½
Walton Hester, calved 1910. Mr. Platt	16
Walton Fenella, calved Feb. 10, 1910. Lady Castlereagh.....	26
Walton Garnett, calved 1910. R. Tickle.....	18
Delplum 18th of Carton, calved March, 1909. Knight of Kerry	26
Walton Feather, calved 1909. Knight of Kerry.....	33
Walton Jonquil 2d, calved May, 1908. Duchess of Newcastle.....	35
Walton Fame, calved 1908. Capt. Ames.....	36
Walton Dewdrop, calved 1906. T. Waite.....	70
Walton Dewdrop's bull calf by DuvRetmore. Duchess Newcastle	10½
Walton Jonquil, calved May, 1905. Capt. Ames.....	26
Walton Can-Can, calved 1905. R. Tait-Robertson.....	42
Raherry, calved April, 1904. T. Waite.....	50
Maple 4th of Carton, calved March, 1899. Capt. Ames.....	19
Walton Jonquil 4th, calved Nov., 1910. Knight of Kerry.....	17
Walton Goodness, calved 1910. Mr. Lister Kaye.....	15
Walton Peony, calved April, 1910. Dr. Picton.....	18
Walton Glitter, calved 1910. Mr. Knowles.....	16
Walton Gipsey, calved 1910. Lady Castlereagh.....	17
Walton Glow, calved 1910. Capt. Ames	21

Walton Harpy, calved 1910. R. Tickle.....	21
Walton Harvest, calved 1910. Mr. Lista Kaye.....	18
Walton Jonquil 6th, calved July, 1911. Duchess of Newcastle.....	22
Walton Jonquil 5th, calved June, 1911. Lady Castlereagh.....	23
Walton Can-Can 3d, calved July, 1911. Capt. Ames.....	19
Walton Bashful 7th, calved Aug., 1911. Capt. Ames.....	17
Walton Maple 6th, calved July, 1911. Capt. Ormrod.....	17
Walton Jeanie, calved August, 1911. R. Proctor.....	16
Walton Harebell, calved 1911. Knight of Kerry.....	16
Walton Halma, calved 1911. Knight of Kerry.....	17
Walton Harem, calved 1911. R. Proctor.....	19
Walton Harmony, calved 1911. Knight of Kerry.....	16
Walton Hasty, calved 1911. Dr. Bond.....	16
Walton Lanky 2d, calved July, 1912. Capt. Ames.....	26

BULLS

Duv Ratmore, calved April, 1910. Knight of Kerry.....	25
Walton Maeldrum, calved April, 1912. Miss Robertson.....	20
Walton Ferdinand, calved April, 1912. Lord Lansdowne.....	21

The cows and heifers average 20 pounds, 15 shillings, 6 pence (\$101.12); the bulls, 23 pounds, 2 shillings (\$112.49). The total for 52 lots was 1087 pounds, 5 shillings, 6 pence (\$5,305.00); average, 20 pounds, 8 shillings, 2 pence (\$99.36).

AN IRISH OPINION OF THE KERRY AND DEXTER FOR HILLY REGIONS

A writer in the Irish *Farmer's Gazette*, December 7 1912, gives expression to the following:

Mention having been made of hilly districts, what breeds are most suitable for these? Undoubtedly those hardy little native breeds, the Kerries and Dexters. See them on their native Kerry hills, as nimble as goats and quite as hardy, yet with great udders yielding the best of milk and plenty of it. Round by the gloomy Gap of Dunloe the Kerry peasant women offer the visitor the nourishing milk of their Kerry cows, and a splendid food it is. Of no half the size and weight of the Shorthorn, and thriving luxuriantly where a Shorthorn would be a mere bag of bones in a week, the Kerry gives a large quantity of milk in comparison, and of first class quality too. At the Dairy Show the winners yielded no less than an average of 22 lbs. and 19 lbs. of milk per day—a small enough yield compared with some we have seen—and giving an average percentage of 4.86 and 4.0 per cent of butter fat respectively. And likewise is it with the Dexter. For the small farmers of Ireland it would be hard to beat our own little breeds. They are docile and thrifty, and as suited for the black high lands of Derry and Donegal as for the milder heights of Mangerton and the Macgillycuddy Reeks.

KERRY CATTLE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Farmer's Gazette, May 2, 1914.

A correspondent writes as follows to the *Farmer's Advocate*, South Africa: "Seeing that your farmers would like to know more about the 'Kerry' cattle, it is with pleasure I can furnish you with the following facts. Knowing the country well, I know what a good cow the 'Kerry' is for them. The Kerry cows, once your friends, are always your friends. They milk for seventeen years and more if fed for milking, and being extraordinarily hardy, their milk is amazingly nutritious. They roam freely, only being brought in at night, when about to calve or when in milk. They are black in colour, and rather small. It is the cheap-

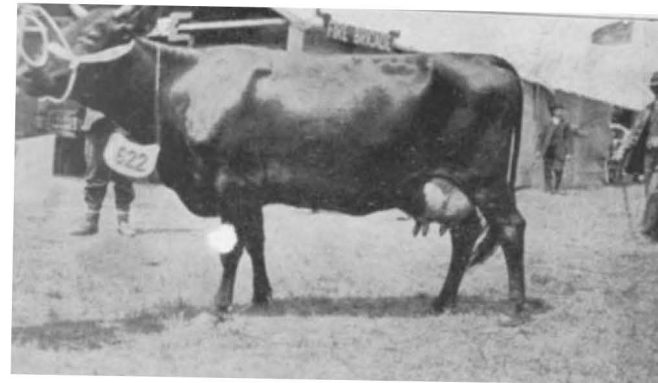


Fig. 5. Kerry Cow, Minley Mistress (1253 F. S.) First prize and Champion Royal Counties Show, Portsmouth, England, 1914. Photo by C. S. Plumb.

est cow in the world to buy and keep, doing well on poor pasture and mountain shrub. It has been proved to thrive very well in Africa. The average price for ordinary Down-calvers in calf is £15, 15s., but for stock raising prices vary from £20 to £40 for the best. I understand that the demand has been greater than the supply lately."

THE DEXTER IN AUSTRALIA

In the issue for 31st January last of the *Melbourne Leader*, says *The Farmer's Gazette* of April 18, 1914, a tribute is paid to the excellence of the Dexter or, as it is termed, the Dexter-Kerry. The *Leader* states that the