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About a year ago, the New Zealand Herd Improvement Council published the now well known "Herd Improvement Report." In effect, this was a challenge to long-established and much cherished ideas and methods of dairy cattle breeding. As one of its signatories, the speaker was invited to accompany Mr. J. Annstead to the Annual Meeting of the Shorthorn Society to assist in converting breeders to the more unpalatable parts of the report and to convince them that its recommendations merited their serious consideration. Returning after a successful though strenuous tussle, my host was responsible for the following comments. He stated that "the evening reminded him of a similar occasion some thirty years previously when, at an annual meeting of the same society, he had invited along a young man to meet breeders with the same general object in view - the improvement of dairy cattle. Full of enthusiasm, sound argument, and the certainty that he was right, Mr. W.M. Singleton, late Director of the Dairy Division - then but newly arrived from Canada - was successful on that occasion in selling the Society the idea of official testing of pedigree cows - the C.O.R. and O.H.T. systems. Tonight, another young man had been just as successful in convincing breeders that such primitive methods had outlived their usefulness and must be replaced by a more scientific line of attack."

I hope the comment was not wasted. It reminded me that perhaps I was not always right; it reminded me that some day someone would similarly vote me "out of date"; and more importantly it emphasised that all so-called progressive movements owe a great deal to those who have passed from the stage. The Herd Improvement Report could not have been written but for the early efforts of Mr. Singleton in initiating in New Zealand the use of objective methods in the breeding of cattle. I believe that it was thoughts along these lines that determined the action of this Society in deciding to devote half an hour of each Conference to an address on past workers who had made substantial contributions to animal production in New Zealand.

If from these short periods we but relearn each year the lesson so aptly taught me by my friend, Mr. Annstead, these half hours will be well spent. They will not be wasted if they result merely in a permanent record in the annals of this Society, of the efforts of the many great animal men whose work during the early years of development of New Zealand, has never been adequately reported. We owe this to them as a tribute. We owe it to ourselves and to posterity so that in due course, our own efforts may be judged with perspective.

Since the central theme of this year's Conference is animal breeding, it was decided that this address should cover the activities of a prominent animal breeder of the past. Several men with notable contributions to their credit came to our notice. On the cattle breeding side, the gentleman whose name I have already mentioned, and that of our President, Mr. C.M. Hume, as the two workers most responsible for the initiation and organisation of our national cow and herd testing systems respectively, are well worthy of the honour. In each case, their life's work is at present undergoing further progressive improvement, the precise form of which is still undefined. It appeared wise, therefore, to leave them for future occasions.

On the sheep side, the Little Brothers, founders of the New Zealand Corriedale sheep, could not be ignored. Though a unique contribution and of great interest as the story of the evolution of a breed in modern times, the local rather than the national distribution of Corriedale directed our attention to the Romney Marsh. Immediately the names of Ernest Short of Parorangi, and Alfred Mathews of Wairongomai, as the two breeders whose efforts and enthusiasms are commonly reputed to be largely responsible for the widespread use of this sheep throughout the Dominion,
came forward for final selection. Short and Mathews were contemporaries, and the two great Romney breeders at the turn of the century. Much patient research into past and present records is necessary before their relative share in the great advance made by the Romney under their guidance can be correctly gauged. All modern breeders with contacts extending to the period 1900-1920, however, are agreed that these two men were outstanding in both the scope and the quality of their work and were primarily responsible for the standard which the Romney has attained. The fact that Mr. Short died in the prime of life and his stud was soon after dispersed, suggested that his influence should be the subject of this, the first paper. It was hoped that a similar tribute to Mathews of Wairongomai would be forthcoming in the not too distant future.

SHORT'S CONTRIBUTIONS:

It is frequently stated that the Romney has been so changed in New Zealand towards a type specially adapted to its environment and suited to our needs, that it is now a very different sheep from the original Romneys of Kent and from the sheep still bred in the home of the breed. This belief receives considerable support from the fact that the shipment of New Zealand Romneys sent to England for competition at the Royal Show in 1939 were so different in type from the English sheep that a considerable controversy developed as to whether they should be allowed to be entered in the Kentish Flock Book. They were not accepted, and so were not eligible for the Royal Show, though it was decided to admit their progeny from English ewes to registration(11). Any sheep man who has seen the stock of both areas is well aware of the differences. The New Zealand Romney is larger bodied, stronger boned, shorter legged, thus carrying a better carcase than its progenitor, while it also produces today a heavier, stronger fleece with more lustre and character.

It is of very great interest to note the fact that alone amongst the British Breeds with which New Zealand has become stocked, the English type has not dominated the development of the Romney in New Zealand, but that type suited to the country and its needs has been evolved from original English foundation stock. It is of even greater interest to enquire as to who was responsible for this departure from traditionalism, a departure which to date no other breed has found a custodian with sufficient courage to make. Enquiry from the older Romney Breeders brings replies with which the name of Short is inevitably associated. Though others also played their part, and the necessary economic background existed, this association has been and is admitted by men who were amongst his strongest competitors in a trade where compliments are not readily bestowed. Short is commonly credited with initiating the changes in type along the direction mentioned; with fixing many of the characters concerned in his own flock; and of setting the "standard" for the new type through sale and show ring so successfully that other breeders quickly followed the leadership given. This, perhaps, might be considered his greatest contribution. It is accordingly worth while to record Short's own description of a Romney in 1910 when his flock was firmly established(9).

"Romney character as shown in the head; good frames, level backs; fair length of body; with good thick scrag; low set but broad between the legs; massive bone, and standing well on pasterns; good black feet and nostrils; wool long in staple, dense, and well serrated (crimped) all over the body, and absolutely free from kemp."

Perhaps equally important for its national effects was the large scale on which Short worked. With the largest stud flock in the country from 1900 to 1917, attaining a level of 2,000 ewes by 1909 he contributed an average of over 500 pedigree rams per annum to the flocks of the Dominion for this period (1). In addition he had developed by 1910 a high grade flock of Romneys of some 12,000 ewes from which over several years he care-
fully selected many thousand flock rams for commercial use. He was one of the first to exploit in this way and on an extremely large scale, the sale of flock rams for grading up the commercial sheep. Since the majority of sheep at that time were still a dominant mixture of Lincoln and Merinos, with various admixtures of other breeds, this large scale use of Parorangi Romneys must have been a material factor in the rapid grading up to Romney cross breeds which occurred during the early years of this century. Unfortunately, reliable records of the breed make-up do not exist but an estimate can be made from the proportion of purebred Romneys to other long wool breeds. These increased from 20% in 1900 to 53% in 1910, 65% in 1920 to 90% in 1945 (10). This changeover in breed make-up has been a material factor in the development of the fat lamb trade to its present large scale dimensions.

Of lesser importance, but a factor not without influence in stimulating interest in Romneys both within and without New Zealand was Mr. Short's efforts on behalf of the export trade. Exports have always been a powerful incentive towards improvement in British stock-breeding and he spent much time and money in advertising the New Zealand Romney in South America generally and in Argentina in particular (9). An extensive export trade in stud Romneys was developed prior to the last war. In 1910 he took a team of Parorangi sheep to the International Exposition at Palermo, Buenos Aires, there carrying off the World's Championship against all comers including imported Kentish sheep (5) (7). The Argentine trade was largely eliminated as a result of shipping difficulties during the last war, and lack of frequent direct contacts since that time. Nevertheless, a small trade still persists and the name of Short is still widely remembered amongst sheep men in Argentina. The speaker was fortunate in inspecting a flock of some 12,000 Romneys at Heutel developed from Parorangi sheep in which the influence of the Parorangi type, particularly the Parorangi "head" was still clearly apparent.

References in various publications also make the claim that Short was the first breeder to put a definite crimp into the Romney fleece. Prior to 1903, Romneys were described as being coarse in the breech with fuzzy backs and plain wool (7). Support for this claim comes from Argentine papers of 1910 when the English breeders competing against the Parorangi sheep at Palermo, were so amazed at the crimp uniformly carried by the entries that they expressed the opinion that the Merino must have been used to obtain such a result (6).

HISTORY OF PARORANGI STUD:

Ernest Short was reputed to have waited several years after his decision to become a stud-breeder of Romneys before he could obtain the foundation stock he required. He was an admirer of the sheep of the late Robert Cobb of Raukawa, Ashhurst, (flock 22) who had the leading prize-winning flock at that time. Cobb had founded his stud twenty years before, in 1877, from sheep obtained from one of the earliest New Zealand breeders, Mr. A. Ludlam of Wairau, Hutt Valley (4). Since every stud of note traces back to Mr. Ludlam's sheep it may be of interest to summarize all that is known of his flock. Two gentlemen, Mr. W. Bennet and Mr. Leonard young, acting on the advice of Mr. Thomas Northwood, imported some sixteen ewes and four rams from Jeremiah Solomon of Northfleet, Kent, and brought them to New Zealand in the ship Cornwall in 1853. It was believed that these sheep came into the hands of Mr. Ludlam who was the first breeder of Romneys of whom there is any record. Since the English flock is no older than the New Zealand (1895) there are no pedigrees available of these animals. Short's opportunity eventually came in 1897 when he acquired 150 ewes from Mr. Cobb. To these he added a further 67 in 1901 and 31 in 1902 making a total of 248 Cobb ewes (1) (9). No outside blood was introduced through the ewe side except for 11 ewes acquired from Mr. J. O. Bachelor (Flock 45) in 1905 and 16 ewes imported from Kent from five lead-
Prior to 1904, and the establishment of the Romney Flock book, reliable records as to sires used are not available, though the stud records indicate that the rams used in the early years were also of the Cobb strain. It is also certain that prior to 1904 rams from the following breeders were tried out: Hesser, Allen, Gray, Bachelor, Howland and Wheeler. Prior to 1904 he used extensively a home bred ram Favourite (330) who was by Jumbo VIII. Jumbo VIII was a third generation of the imported ram Shadrach whose origins in 1880 are naturally veiled in antiquity (2)(5). Shadrach was used by Mr. Cobb to found his "Jumbo" line. As will be seen later the ram Favourite was of considerable importance to the stud. After 1904 the picture becomes more definite. Apart from imported rams practically all sires were home bred. From 1904-1912 a total of twelve imported sires were used. Five of these were from the then famous stud in Kent of Mr. Cha. File: Windsor 60th and Windsor 61st (1904) President (1905) Lord Nelson (1907) and Elham 157 of 1910 (1912) and the remainder from the flocks of Hesser, Quested, Amos, Miller and Palmer (7).

The rapid growth of the stud may be noted from Table I. It is obvious that the demand for numbers did not permit any effective culling of ewes until 1907-8, when the rate of increase slowed up. Selection in these early years, therefore, must have been almost wholly through the sire side.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ewes</th>
<th>Rams Kept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>680</td>
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<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>1175</td>
<td>650</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2165</td>
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<td>2062</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>2025</td>
<td>850</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>876</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>1860</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>2287</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>1031</td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>1283</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short achieved a remarkable reputation as a judge breeder and exhibitor of sheep in a very short time. When the flock book was established, his reputation was already made. In the six years ending 1910 he practically scooped the pool at the leading shows, Parorangi sheep accounting for 59 championships, 188 firsts, 143 seconds, 85 thirds, and 75 fourths - a total of 543 placings. In addition 12 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 10 silver shields were won. In 1906 he won both male and female championships at the Christchurch Exhibition, while on five occasions his sheep received the Breed Society's shield for the best ram and ewe exhibited at the leading show of the year. The year 1909 was apparently the banner year of the stud. At the four leading shows, Masterton, Hawke's Bay, Palmerston North and Christchurch his sheep won all the championships offered and over 70% of the prizes. Short ceased showing in 1910x - to encourage others to come forward - when he reached the highlight of his showing career by winning the World's Championship at Palermo with a sheep that left New Zealand as a lamb, and by

x See Appendix.

To demonstrate that his sheep were still up to standard Short entered all seven ram classes with sheep direct from pasture in Feilding Show in 1912 securing 7 firsts and 2 championships.
taking all the prizes in Romneys at the Exposition. The performance was meritorious since he met competition from the best English breeders whom he had challenged to be present as well as from South American students (8). The Buenos Aires Standard of July 9th, 1910, described the entry as "a breed that cannot be surpassed anywhere in the world" and the competition with the English entries as a "walk over" for the New Zealand sheep.

A few years prior to this, the practice of preparing sheep for showing developed. To meet this development, Mr. Short persuaded a young Kentish shepherd to leave Mr. Fil's stud in 1907 for service with Pararangi, and a large measure of credit must go to the late Mr. W. Small — later a well-known breeder on his own account — for the show reputation of the sheep under his care.

The Great War necessitated a reduction in the stud, while the serious failure of Mr. Short's health about this time necessitated further curtailment of breeding activities. A considerable part of the flock was divided between his two sons, Messrs. E.E. and N. Short, while all but a small flock of some 250 ewes were dispersed in 1921, shortly before his death. The flock was finally dispersed by his estate in 1935.

SHORT'S BREEDING METHODS:

Information on the methods of Short has been obtained from his own published statements, from his sons, employees and contemporaries, and from the records of the Romney Marsh Society. It seems clear that right from the outset of his operations, he adopted a systematic and logical approach. This is to be seen in the carefulness of his original selections, the individual identification of his ewe flock, the search for a sire of proved breeding worth, and in the intensification of the genotype of this sire throughout his flock.

The story of his original selections has already been told. That even before the formation of the breed society, he should have adopted the double cheek system of ear-mark and metal was a distinct advantage for one and progeny identification is somewhat unusual in an early sheep breeder (6). It may be remarked here that until a few years ago it was not essential for ewes to be individually identified before their progeny could be registered, and that the large proportion of purebred flocks breeding "flock rams" are still not employing an individual identification system. Throughout the whole of Mr. Short's breeding career, the ram only had to be identified for registration purposes. Even today the females are not registered as individuals. Short, however, obviously believed that to breed successfully he had to be able to recognize his female lines, and in his own words this system enabled him "to keep his bloodlines entirely separate." (6) (7).

In the mating of sheep, the normal paddock system was followed. Only in respect of a few rams — particularly World's Champion — did he employ any "hand-mating" to spread an individual ram over a greater number of ewes. In selecting his sheep for mating, Short is reputed to have worked entirely through the race-gate or from the race rail. He objected to handling a sheep, being of the opinion that if a sheep had to be handled to be evaluated it was not good enough for him. In his selection work he was guided largely by the head of the animal. "The head," he stated, "is what I always look for first of all. If I don't get character there, I discard the sheep at once. After the head, I look for shape of carcass and constitution. Wool is the last consideration as it can be bred on anything with careful mating."

Though he paid considerable attention to the class of ewe employed and to the selection of ewes for mating, he was obviously seeking improvement mainly through the sire. In his search for suitable sires, he made the importations previously referred to. It is noteworthy that practically no ram progeny of these animals over all the years of importing, and none at all after 1904, were considered good enough to warrant "single entry" or registration
as "stud" (1)(3). It is clear that the imported sheep did not
measure up to his requirements and that the only use made of them
was through the ewe side. After an original try-out, some were
not used again. Others contributed ewes to the flock, and after
two or three topcrosses with the Parorangi strain, came into
the picture as ancestors of stud rams. The imported ewes select-
ed personally in 1907 were a similar disappointment in the in-
itial stages but later played a part in the breeding of the
better rams of the stud (1).

The search for a sire was similarly disappointing insofar
as animals acquired from other New Zealand breeders were con-
cerned. Eventually he found the animal he was looking for in
"Favourite 370", which he bred himself from his Cobb strain. This
ram was used extensively and sired "Record 663" whom he consid-
ered to be the founder of the famous Record strain. "Record"
sired "Record Breaker" and "Record Breaker" sired "World Champ-
ion". To establish this strain and to fix the type of "Record"
in his flock, he was reputed to have inbred very closely in the
early stages, and to hold the strain, thereafter to have line
bred within it. The lack of official female records and of time
has not permitted the writer to check back through the detailed
Parorangi records. From the sources previously mentioned, how-
ever, it seems clear that inbreeding did occur, and even in-
volved close matings of the brother-sister and sire-daughter variety.

From the records of the Society it has been possible to ob-
tain several interesting checks of this aspect of Mr. Short's
methods. Despite the absence of female records, examination of
the pedigree of the rams used in the flock and of the single
entered rams gives the following results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAWS USED IN STUD</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Record Strain</th>
<th>Percent. &quot;Records&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
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<td>1915</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE ENTERED RAWS</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>&quot;Record&quot; Strain</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Percent. &quot;Records&quot;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>1913</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Record (663) clipped 18½ lb. as a shearing; 22 lb. as a two-
shear; selected ram hoggets of Record strain clipped up to
28 lb.; ewe hoggets at Auckland Show in 1909 clipped 21 lb. and
ram hoggets 28 lb.; in 1911 450 4-year ewes clipped 14½ lb., and in
1912 500 ewes clipped 14½ (7).
TABLE 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARY SINGLE ENTERED RAMS - (1904-1917)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record Breaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is clear that intense concentration on "Record" occurred throughout the stud of 2,000 ewes (Table 2), and that the results of this policy, as measured in terms of single entered rams (Tables 2 and 3) suggest that the standard was up to expectation. To this latter point must be added the fact that the show winning stock all came from the "Record" family. This situation suggests that it would be well worth while investigating the detailed history of this family more thoroughly than has been possible in the limited time at the disposal of the writer. It also suggests that in the early history of our sheep studs we have information of definite value and interest to the animal breeder. This awaits analysis, and the opportunity should not be neglected by students of the subject, particularly since individuals associated with the early days of sheep breeding are fast disappearing from the scene.

Reference has been made to his efforts and success in developing crimp in the Romney fleece. Though not primarily interested in wool, he did not like the long, open, tippy and plain fleece which characterised the early Romneys. His own description of this aspect of his work may be quoted. In 1910 he stated, "Six years ago I did not have anything like the perfection of wool on my sheep that I have today. The crimp in the wool is what every breeder has been after for years, and it is only some six years ago that, by very careful mating, and I might add experimental mating, I found the secret. I bred the ram "Record" who developed the crimp throughout the whole of my flock, and today I have over sixty rams from this sire breeding the crimp better than he did. His son "Record Breaker" is breeding a better wooled and better shaped sheep than his father ever gave me. "Record" is dead and no money could buy his son from me."

Short was most incensed at the suggestion of his English competitors that he must have used the Merino to get crimp (6). While his denial of personal use of any such crossing may be accepted, the uncertain early history of the Romney prior to 1895 makes it possible that the Merino may have played a part. The "M" type sheep bred by Dr. F.W. Dry, from a Stud that had used Parorangi rams, and which shows horns suggestive of a Merino background, gives colour to this possibility. Mr. E.E. Short who was in charge of the Stud since the last war, also states that sheep showing Merino characteristics have been met with in the stud, while the early records of the breed in Kent strongly suggest the use of the Merino in the early stages of development even in England. Another interesting feature both in relation to the close breeding practices followed at Parorangi and the possibility of other breeds having gone to the formation of the Romney either in New Zealand or prior to its importation, is the appearance of black lambs at Parorangi. This feature tended to make the strain unpopular at one stage. In the light of present knowledge of inbreeding, such occurrence was not unexpected.

OTHER STUDS:

Short was also extremely interested in Hereford Cattle and Clydesdale Horses. The Parorangi Hereford Stud was founded in 1900, and was finally dispersed this year. Few men have done as much for this breed. He spent considerable money in importing the best sires the breed has ever known in New Zealand. Space and time does not permit any details of his work with these
animals, except to emphasise that he also achieved an international reputation for the quality of the Herefords bred. During the forty-six years of its existence the Stud has always been considered amongst the best of the Dominion, a fact which receives more than a little support from the high average price of fifty-two guineas for all female breeding stock including calves at the recent final dispersal sale.*

The Almadel Clydesdale Stud, described by the Society in 1912 as of choice quality, was also well known (7). Like any North Island stud, however, it never attained the reputation of South Island counterparts. Short imported four stallions and five mares of this breed at considerable expense and thus contributed to the quality in this country. Descendants of his horses still play their part in our farming economy.

**SHORT, THE MAN:**

This tribute and record would be incomplete without some brief reference to the man himself. It is universally agreed that no more colorful personality has ever dominated the stage in our animal breeding world.

He was born in Wellington in 1871 but was brought up at Sandon from an early age, in sight of the district that was to be his future home. At the age of eight his father died, and he went to live with his uncle, the late Mr. W.E. Baker, of Makino, who was farming there. He made his first land venture at the age of 15 when he purchased 350 acres of bush country at Wairarapa West. He added a further 320 acres three years later and in the following year obtained 320 acres of educational lease. By the time he was twenty-one he had the best part of a thousand acres, grassed and stocked, and a capital of $350 (7). This area became the nucleus of the famous Parorangi Station which eventually grew to some 10,000 acres carrying about 15,000 sheep and the necessary cattle. Parorangi lay on the watershed between the Hangitiki and Kihitea Rivers at an altitude of from 800 to 1200 feet. In 1911 he acquired land at Chelethenham from the late Mr. E.J. Riddiford and there established the new Parorangi building, the present fine homestead. This became the Stud Farm on which the sheep were finally brought out though many were still bred on the old area.

Short was essentially a man of big ideas, of vision coupled with intense drive, imagination and ability to implement his ideas. He also thoroughly understood the power of advertising. Anyone who worked with him remembers most these characteristics. A few stories that have come down through the years testify to these qualities.

His challenge to the breeders of Kent to meet him on even terms with sheep, after a three-week sea voyage, his disappointment and subsequent successful fight to overcome the obstacle to the competition discovered only after arrival, the five thousand catalogues printed in English and Spanish, which he took with him for distribution after he had won the World Championship, the full page advertisement which he placed, from hospital, in every newspaper in Argentine and Uruguay at a cost of £5,000, and his refusal to sell his winning sheep in favour of their return to his stud, are part and parcel of his whole concept of demonstrating to Kent and to the world the superior characters of the New Zealand Romney, and of his animals in particular.

The erection of his 45 roomed "estancia" at Parorangi was a natural development. He was reputed to have given as his reason for erecting this home, a reply to the effect that the enter-

x April, 1946.
tainment of buyers of rams in his old eight-roomed house would
not permit him to ask more than an "eight guinea price" while
the new Parorangi would enable him to talk in terms of a "forty
five guinea price."

To anyone who has seen, as Short had done, the country homes of the South American estancia owners, it is
not difficult to follow his reasoning.

Though aggressive, plain speaking, and essentially an in-
dividualist, Short was also a man of great generosity. Not many
breeders today would publish in their own catalogue, and especi-
ally one for overseas consumption, a list with addresses of all
the leading breeders of the same breed of sheep. Few would
dare do so. When returned soldiers bid for his stock at the
sales after the last war he made a practice of giving the stock and
refunding the money. Many young breeders were presented
with animals to improve and develop their stock. The "Wheeler
Pavilion" at the local showgrounds, erected to the memory of a
contemporary breeder whose work he admired although personally
he was often at variance with him, was both conceived and largely
contributed to by Mr. Short. The sheep and cattle pavilions at
the Palmerston North grounds, and the Breeders' Club had a like
origin. It is also of interest to record that in 1911 Mr. Short
imported a small flock of Southdown sheep obtained from the Duke
of Devonshire. He had intended to commence breeding Southdowns
but his other wide interests persuaded him to abandon the idea
and the flock was presented to the Government which located it
at Ruakura where its descendants remain.

His public life was as energetic and widespread as his pri-
ivate activities. A director of the original Heta Dairy Co., he
served both as Councillor and Chairman of the Kiwitea County
Council. In the stock world he was a committee-man and presid-
ent of both the Manawatu and Feilding A. and P. Associations, a
prominent supporter and Master of the Hounds of the Manawatu
Hunt Club, a member of the Feilding Jockey Club, and Patron of
the Feilding Polo Club. He was one of the directors and an
original shareholder of the Feilding Farmers' Freezing Co. One
of the foundation members of the Romney Marsh Sheep Breeders'
Association, he served as a Council member from its inception
in 1914 and as Vice-president from 1912 to 1922. He was also a
member of the Hereford Council.

Ernest Short died in 1924 at the age of 53. In his passing
I believe that it can fairly be said that New Zealand lost a man
whose life's work was devoted successfully to the improvement of
stock throughout the Dominion. To this Society, no more fitting
comment can be made, in conclusion, than that which precedes the
story of Parorangi in the publication "New Zealand, Its History,
Commerce and Industrial Resources" (7).

"Agriculture is a Science. In other words it is 'knowledge
reduced to a system.' It is nothing less than a system of
science that has placed the owner of Parorangi in one of the
highest positions in the Dominion as an Agriculturist and breed-
er of Romney Marsh Sheep, Hereford Cattle, and Clydesdale horses."

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

My thanks are due to the members of Mr. Ernest Short's family for personal statements and opinions, for access to private documents and records, and for photographs of early sheep and of the Record strain. I am also indebted to two employees of Mr. Short who were with him for a great part of the period under review; the late Mr. Donald MacDonald, and Mr. Harry Brooker. My thanks are also due to many stud breeders of Romney who prefer to remain anonymous, and to the Romney Marsh Society for access to early records.

APPENDIX.
TYPE OF UNIMPROVED ROMNEY 1895

IMPORTED EWES 1907

TYPE OF RAM BRED 1910

THE "SHORT" HEAD

RECORD 663

RECORD BREAKER 1651

WORLD CHAMPION

RECORD BREAKER 3rd