

A Story of Success Through Good Stock*

W. F. Bell, Carleton Co., Ont.

Twenty-five years ago, when we first started in dairying, our herd was of nondescript breeding and the cows were poor producers. The cows we now have, largely pure bred Holsteins, produce from 10,000 to 15,000 lbs. of milk a year per cow. At the request of Farm and Dairy I will give a brief history of my experiences in dairying and how I have managed to double and treble the average production of my herd.

At first we bought our cows as we wanted them, selling the ones that looked like good beef in the spring. Ten years ago, on the advice of a breeder, a pure bred Holstein calf was purchased to head our herd. The first few heifers that we raised were very pleasing to the eye, of uniform color, and their production so far surpasses that of their dams that we decided to give up buying cows altogether and raise our own.

FAT HEIFERS BEST MILKERS

Just here we made a mistake that I would warn others against. We allowed the butchers to pick out the fat heifers, thinking that they could not make good dairy cows. We have since found that a thrifty heifer will flesh up before she calves and again when dry between calves. In the Sep-



It is a Pleasure to Own Young Stock Such as This

Well bred and pure bred young stock is the most it sells for more than common stock and is a source of satisfaction as well. Farming takes on a new meaning when we have such stock around us as are here pictured. These calves are owned by A. E. Hilt, Oxford Co., Ont.

tember 28th issue of Farm and Dairy was a picture of a cow that had this characteristic to a marked extent, but that cow, a grade Holstein, will produce over 11,000 lbs. of milk in her lactation period. The loss of such a cow as this from the herd is hard to calculate in dollars and cents. And we lost several before we discovered our mistake.

The very fact of our grade Holstein cows developing into such splendid milking machines that were so far ahead of their dams led us to ask ourselves, "Why should not pure bred Holsteins do even better?" The idea so appealed to me that five years ago we bought two pure bred cows at a dispersion sale. They dropped two fine heifer calves in a short time. This was our start off as breeders of pure bred Holsteins.

PATERNAL DISAPPROVAL

This purchase met with the strong disapproval of my father, in that the price was more than four times what we were in the habit of paying for cows. Now after five years the one whose disapproval and censure I received is, if possible, even prouder of my herd than I am myself, as they certainly made good. My father has retired from active farming and is living in a large place near us. When any of his friends call on him, the first thing he wants them to see is my pure bred herd of dairy cattle.

We have since added to our herd by purchase, always being careful in selection. The resulting progeny has shown steady improvement, and we know that it pays to raise cows that give from 10,000 to 15,000 pounds of milk a year.

FEEDING AND BREEDING GO TOGETHER

It was only two years ago that I gained a thorough appreciation of the value of feeding as well

as breeding in the production of milk for profit and in the upbuilding of the herd. I now believe that it is impossible to separate feeding and breeding in the improvement of the dairy herd. Our improvement has been much faster since we combined the two. Our standard of production has been much raised and cows that once passed go straight to the butcher.

We believe that herd improvement is impossible without the help of scales and a Babcock tester. We weigh the milk from all of our cows every milking, and we find that it pays. We not only can locate the unprofitable cows, but if anything is wrong in the feeding it is quickly noticed. We make it a point to find a reasonable explanation for every decrease in the milk flow. The scales and the Babcock test are in the same relation to the dairy cow as the steam gauge is to the boiler. In running a steam engine if the pressure changes we immediately rectify by adding fuel or water, as the case may be, to bring the pressure up to normal. So with the cow.

TO OTHER DAIRYMEN

To the dairy farmer who is plodding along with such cows as I myself kept for 15 years I would say: Keep a pure bred bull and breed only from the best cows. Feed and care for them so that they will have a chance to do their best for you.

Be sure they will respond to good feed and care. Do not be discouraged if you do not get as quick results as you expect. Stick to it everlastingly and give your cows as good care as you possibly can, for I have found that good cows will use up just about as we use them.

It is only since we got into pure bred cattle that we have really gotten satisfaction out of our life's work—dairying. We take great interest in improving our dairy herd. They look well to the eye and almost unconsciously we give them better care. We have three-year-old heifers that will give us an average of 1,500 lbs. of milk per month for four months. One of our four-year-olds has given us over 2,000 lbs. of milk in 30 days. Get into pure breeds! It pays! It satisfies!

Mistakes.—The mistakes in breeding that we are making here in Nova Scotia are not peculiar to us, but we are practicing some of them to an alarming extent. Scrub sires predominate. Even when pure bred sires are used the good results that would follow are lost in many sections through lack of consistency in breeding. Many of our bulls are purchased by the agricultural societies. In these societies will be a few men favoring each of the milk breeds. To please all an Ayrshire is purchased one year, a Jersey next, and so on. Or a good bull may be followed by an indifferent sire of the same breed. We are gradually learning, however, and through the good work of the Agricultural College and the Farmers' Institutes we expect to see our province rank with the best.—E.F.E.

Breed More Pure Beef Cattle

John Gardhouse, York Co., Ont.

All kinds of meat are high. There is a great scarcity of even medium quality feeding steers, let alone really good ones. It is very important, therefore, that the farmers of this country should turn their attention more than ever to the breeding of more pure bred beef cattle. Would it not be well for the farmer to stop and figure out for himself the difference he would have in profit by



Pure Bred Intelligence

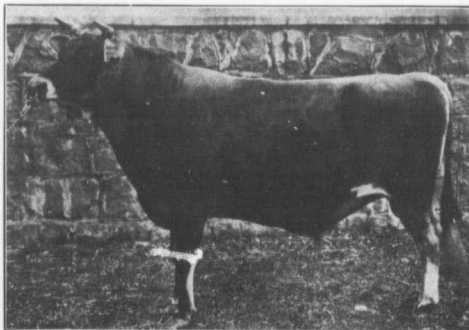
breeding and feeding well bred, first class animals compared to animals such as we too often see in the stables of many of our farmers, as well as on the live stock markets? We have not the time nor the space to go into figures at this time to show why farmers should breed more pure bred beef cattle. That is something any farmer may do for himself. We will only give a few reasons why such a course should be profitable for the farmer and a great benefit to the consumers.

Never in the history of this country has beef making been on so sound and profitable a foundation. The outlook for years to come is certainly promising. Meats of all kinds are high in value, and everything points to a continuation of good paying prices to the intelligent breeder and feeder of high class cattle.

We farmers should breed more pure bred beef cattle in order that we may have a more sure foundation from which to breed good feeding steers. It is certainly not enough that we breed pure bred cattle alone. Paper is very little good unless you have the animal. But it is most important that we breed cattle of the right type. And the right type is the pure bred, thick fleshed, early maturing kind.

A first class animal will only occupy one stall!

(Concluded on page 17)



Pure Bred and Well-Bred, A Source of Pleasure To All Who See Him

The Jersey bull here illustrated, Sulitana's Golden Jolly, is considered by many the handsomest bull of the breed in America. He is of ideal dairy and breed type. His high merit as an individual is further proof of the old rule of breeding that "Like begets like." Both his sire and dam are among the greatest animals of the breed. He is owned by T. S. Cooper and Sons of Pennsylvania.

*Mr. Bell was a successful competitor in the Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy this year. This is one of a series of articles that will be contributed by Mr. Bell and other successful competitors, as required by the rules of the competition.