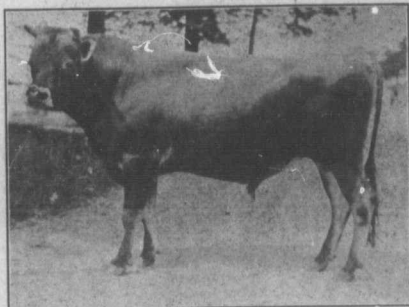


A Day with the Pinehurst Jerseys

Being the Story of a Little Visit with Chas. Ruiter & Sons by a Farm and Dairy Representative.

CHARLES Ruiter & Sons are well known in Jersey circles throughout Canada. In their own province of Quebec, they are prominent in all live stock matters. Their herd has achieved a reputation at the leading exhibitions of the province and the herd reputation as consisting of profitable producers, is even more enviable. It was because of their success in this latter line of work, that I was first induced to visit the Ruiter farm. I was talking with Prof. Barton at the last Ormstown Show and incidentally commented on the weak showing of Quebec bred Jerseys. "You must not take the Jersey showing here as representative of the Jerseys of the province," replied Prof. Barton, quick to defend his adopted province, of whose live stock interests he is the chief custodian. "Two of the most profitable herds in Quebec are Jerseys. I would recommend you to visit either Edwards and Alexander, or Charles Ruiter & Sons, if you would see Quebec Jerseys at their best. Both of these herds are good ones."

A couple of days later found me in the Bedford district and, taking advantage of the Professor's tip, I wheeled out to the Ruiter farm, about one mile from Cowansville, which, by the



Canadian Fairy Boy, the Herd Sire at Pinehurst.

her, he bred up a herd that to all intents and purposes were pure bred, but which, not being registered, were not so profitable from the stock standpoint. In breeding this herd, however, Mr. Ruiter and his sons gained valuable experience that has stood them in good stead since they purchased their first registered animals eight years ago. The first purchase consisted of two heifers from

G. C. Bean, of Coventry, Vermont. One of the original purchases was sold the day previous to my visit. Two years later, two heifer calves were gotten from E. M. Kimball, of Vermont. These four animals represent all of the registered females purchased in founding the

present Ruiter herd of 33 registered animals, including 17 milch cows. Pure-bred sires have always been selected after careful consideration of their probable ability to

bring the herd a little nearer to the ideal held by Mr. Ruiter and his sons of just what an ideal Jersey should be. "What we are striving for at Pinehurst Jersey Stock Farm," they told me, "is an animal weighing about 900 lbs., with a reasonably straight back, capacious barrel, large, well-shaped udder with good teats, handsome head and as much style as possible. Just a happy medium, so to speak; not as refined and delicate as the Island cattle and not at all coarse and beefy. They must also give us on the average when mature, at least 400 lbs. of butter each year. It has been our experience that if our Jerseys weigh much more than 900 lbs., they are inclined to be a trifle coarse and sometimes even a little beefy."

Dairymaid of Pinehurst, one of the matrons of the herd, may be taken as a specimen of the best cows in the Ruiter herd. Dairymaid is not a sensational producer, but she is very far from a poor producer and her record is all the more creditable when we consider that she repeats her good production year after year. As a two-year-old Dairymaid produced 296.8 lbs. of butter, reckoned on the 85 per cent basis. In her three-year-old form she produced 410.1 lbs.; at four years, 401.6 lbs.; five years, 483.3 lbs.; and six years, 438.8 lbs. Ponto, one of the first registered cows purchased, had a production last year of 444.7 lbs. of butter. Other records that I noticed were 467.8 lbs. of butter; 438.9 lbs.; 399.5 lbs.; 344.4 lbs.; 367.8 lbs.; 399.8 lbs. and 351.8 lbs. of butter. "And we have young cattle coming along which we are confident will do even better," Mr. Andrew Ruiter informed me.

The Ruiters have every confidence that further purchases of female stock are unnecessary. Their present herd sire shows the quality that they demand in a sire. Canadian Fairy Boy is a great grandson of Noble of Oaklands and a grandson of Raleigh's Fairy Boy, C. I. Hudson's \$8,800 bull. As I had my camera along, the illustration here will give a better idea of the quality of this animal than any word picture of mine.

The arable land, between 55 and 65 acres, is
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The Buildings at Pinehurst Have Been Built With Jersey Dividends.

way, is one of the most beautiful rural villages that it has ever been my pleasure to visit. For my visit to the Ruiter farm I was amply repaid. Not only did I find a fine herd of Jerseys, but witnessed the results of a couple of most interesting experiments with alfalfa—for the Ruiters are well balanced farmers and, along with good stock, they run a well managed farm.

The farm itself I found to consist of 150 acres of slaty loam with 10 or 12 acres of sand and some muck. Only a little over a third of the whole is under plow, and there are frequent outcroppings of slate throughout the big, rough pasture. This small proportion of arable land is a characteristic of farms in the Bedford district. This feature, which is a disadvantage from the standpoint of crop production, seems to work directly to the advantage of the Jersey breed. Heavily bodied animals are at a disadvantage on rough, hilly pastures, while the Jersey fills the bill to perfection and consequently are numerous in the district.

The Herd Established

This farm was purchased by the senior member of the firm, Mr. Charles Ruiter, 33 years ago, its condition at that time being best indicated by the price paid,—\$3,500, \$2,000 cash and \$1,500 on mortgage. But we are more concerned with the development of the herd than of the farm proper. Mr. Ruiter purchased his first Jersey 21 years ago, a pure-bred female but not registered. From



Pure Bred Sires Have Always Been Selected After Careful Consideration of Their Probable Ability to Bring the Herd a Little Nearer the Ideal.