

Profitable Ayrshire Herds I Have Known

Gilbert McMillan, Chateaugay Co., Que.

To write this article thoroughly would be something like writing my autobiography, as it appears to me that my connection with the Ayrshires extends about as far back as my memory.



Gilbert McMillan

In my connection with the Ayrshires, Providence has been kind to me; my experience has been picked up in herds that have made history for the breed; so to make mention of the profitable herds I have known will require a mention of all the herds which I have worked, as not one of these were of the unprofitable kind.

My first initiation to the Ayrshire game was given me at "Barcheskie," known in every clime where Ayrshires have penetrated as the fountain-head of many of the most noted blood-lines within the breed. To Canadians the mention of "Barcheskie" conjures up the names of "Duke Clarence," "King's Own," "Lucky Girl," "Heathflower," etc.; to me it recalls "Traveller," "Field Marshall," "Orange Blossom," "May Mischief," etc., equally famous in their day; but alas! Barcheskie is known now only as a matter of history; but in the Ayrshire breed the work carried out there will stand out longer even than a monument of granite.

From a purely commercial standpoint I do not know of a herd to-day that can equal Barcheskie (or rather Craigaoploch, where the dairy herd was kept) 15 or 16 years ago. Of course no individual records were kept, nor forcing practised, but what I am basing my assertion on was the measure stick in the cheese vat on the production of the entire herd of 80 head.

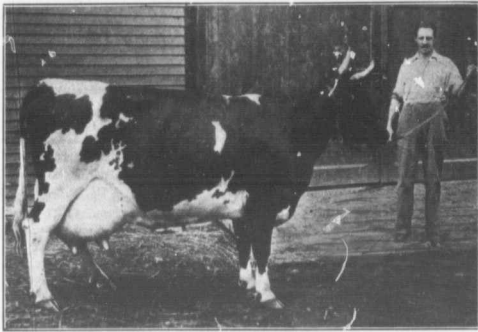
WITH CANADA'S CHAMPION HERD

Leaving Barcheskie, my next move was to a herd better known to the readers of Farm and Dairy, namely "Burnside," which might properly be named the "Barcheskie" of Canada; and it has this advantage that it still goes on. While my actual connection with Burnside was short, I have practically been in touch with it ever since and its record as a milk producer for the Montreal market is almost too well known to need mention. While no great efforts have been made to make big individual records, I know of very few herds that have the returns in dollars and cents equal to that of "Burnside," and as R. R. Ness will tell you to-day, the steady returns from his milk have done more to make him than the sales of his stock.

My next move was to the old-established "Ridgesside Herd" in Connecticut. This herd was established in 1863, its founder being one of the original members of the American Breeders' Association. This was one of the first herds in America to profit by the superior value of Ayrshire milk as a food for babies, this milk being retailed at 15 cents a quart under the name of "Heygia"

milk long before the certified milk trade was thought practical.

My next step was to the "Barclay Farm" herd in Pennsylvania, one of the pioneer herds in the Advanced Registry movement that has now become so popular. And I believe I have the honor of milking for the first three months of their



"Jean Armour," the New Dairy Queen of the Ayrshire World

Jean Armour has now to her credit the splendid record of 23,174 lbs. of milk and 774 lbs. of butter fat, equal to 963 lbs. of butter produced in one year. This exceeds the former world's record by over 2,000 lbs. of milk, but does not quite equal it in butter fat production, as Netherhall Brownie 9th produced 629.9 lbs. of butter fat. Jean Armour was bred and owned by John McKee, Norwich, Ont., and is now in the herd of Mrs. Ehardt, West Berlin, Va. Canadian breeders will all rejoice in the triumph of this Canadian bred cow in her American home.

test the first three two-year-old heifers to go over 8,000 lbs. This was considered something abnormal then, but which looks small in comparison with the records of to-day. A great deal of credit is due to the late Mr. Oakey for the work he did in helping to start the movement and the records made then on Auchenbain Denty 9th and Finlaystone Maggie 2nd still read well with the records of to-day. It was here I first began to see how far short we were of knowing the full capabilities of our cows and what could be accomplished by intensive work. Many of the lessons learned there have proved invaluable to me.



"Cressville Vale," Another World's Champion Milk Producer

The cow here illustrated, owned by the Fred F. Field Holstein Company, Brockton, Mass., has recently completed a record of 29,634 lbs. of milk in one year, making her the greatest milk producing cow in the world. Notice the similarity in type of this cow and the champion Ayrshire cow of the world illustrated above. Could we offer better proof of the relationship between dairy type and producing ability? Breeders of dairy cattle would do well to study these illustrations and fix this type in their minds as an ideal to be sought after.

My next move was rather a long one, but it still found me allied to the Ayrshire and under conditions almost ideal for her development. While all the herds I have already mentioned have gained fame and honor, I firmly believe

(Concluded on page 22)

The Story of a Pure Bred Herd

Fred V. Woodley, Norfolk Co., Ont.

At the time my father stepped aside from active farm life, some 10 years ago, and gave the reins over to me, the dairy herd on the farm was composed of nine cows of what we then considered very fair animals.

They were of mixed breeding, no special breed or line of breeding having ever been followed. They were as good a herd of milkers as was ordinarily found and at that time where no special care was taken as to the selection of sires and so forth. No individual milk records were kept. The largest cheese cheque ever received from the nine cows for one month was the sum of \$45.

It began to dawn upon me about the time that I took over the farm that there might be an improvement made in the dairy, and I decided to purchase a pure bred Holstein sire and watch the result. My first sire was bought

from Mr. S. G. Kitchen, St. George, and we used it with good results. Soon after I discarded two of my poorest cows and replaced them with two splendid Holstein grades. I gradually kept trying to improve and graduate them for three or four years until I had a herd that was a marked improvement over the herd with which I started.

MY FIRST REAL START

Six years ago this month I attended Mr. J. W. Richardson's first sale and before I got away I had purchased a heifer calf and Mr. Richardson had the \$100 which I happened to have with me. By the time I had the calf home I began to think that I was fast becoming a subject for the insane asylum, as the money which I had paid looked to me to be larger than the calf; but it was the best investment I ever made.

The more I looked at the calf the more forcibly did it come to me that I would be for ever developing a pure bred herd at the rate I was going. I decided that, make or break, I was going to purchase a few cows and a sire for a foundation. As we have only the 100 acres of land it seemed to me that if two neighbors could combine their herds it would give them a better market for their surplus stock, as every second year they could make a combination sale and dispose of such as they deemed fit. I spoke of the matter to my brother-in-law, who was also endeavoring to develop a pure bred herd, and we adopted the plan then and there.

SOME OF MY HERD BUYS

I next purchased a sire and also a heifer from the herd of Frank R. Crandell, Michigan, and a cow from H. E. George, Putnam. The following winter I purchased two cows and a heifer from W. H. Simmons, New Durham. These cows were right good ones. One of them, Katy Kents De Kol 2nd, which I have owned and milked for four years, has in the four seasons given over 41,600 lbs. of milk which, valued at 90 cents a cwt., amounts to \$369. I sold a

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