The Jersey Cow.

By Richard Reid.

For more than two hundred years the Jersey has existed as a distinct breed of cattle. Their origin is more or less shrouded in mystery. There are many theories as to what crosses produced them, but no one has satisfactorily solved the problem. The sacred cattle of India closely resemble the Jersey in many particulars; but, whatever their prehistoric origin, we know that in the seventeenth century the Channel Islands were stocked with cattle from Normandy and Brittany, in the northern part of France. But in 1789 the States of Jersey enacted laws forbidding the importation of cattle from France, and, a few years later, the introduction into the Island of any member of the bovine race; a single exception was made in favor of steers for beef purposes.

Whatever benefits should result from keeping a breed strictly pure, the Jersey should possess these in a supereminent degree. Bred on an Island where no other cattle are allowed, by a rural population who were interested in the butter products only, there being little demand for milk, and combined with a system of mating for a special purpose for generations, we have, as a result, to-day, the highly-developed modern Jersey, that holds the proud position of "Queen of the Dairy."

The Jersey is the purest bred of all the domestic animals, the long line of special breeding fixing the characteristics so firmly that every animal of the breed possesses the prepotency to transmit its own qualities to its offspring. As a proof, cross them with any dairy or beef breed, and the result of the first mating will show that the Jersey characteristics will predominate over that of any other.

One of the causes which has led to the wonderful improvement of the breed on the Island is that no bull is admitted for registration unless he has scored a certain number of points in conjunction with his dam, and the bull scoring the highest must remain in the parish for a length of time, at a nominal service fee, thus safeguarding the vital interests of the breed.

The earliest record of importation of Jerseys, consisting of twelve cows and heifers, into England, was in 1747, for the Duke of Richmond, at an average cost of £4 9d. In 1812, Lord Braybrooke imported twenty-three cows and a bull, at an average cost of £19, and to-day it is something rare to find an estate in England without one or more of the fawn beauties to produce the rich cream and milk for the nobility, and at the same time add beauty to the landscape of that picturesque country.

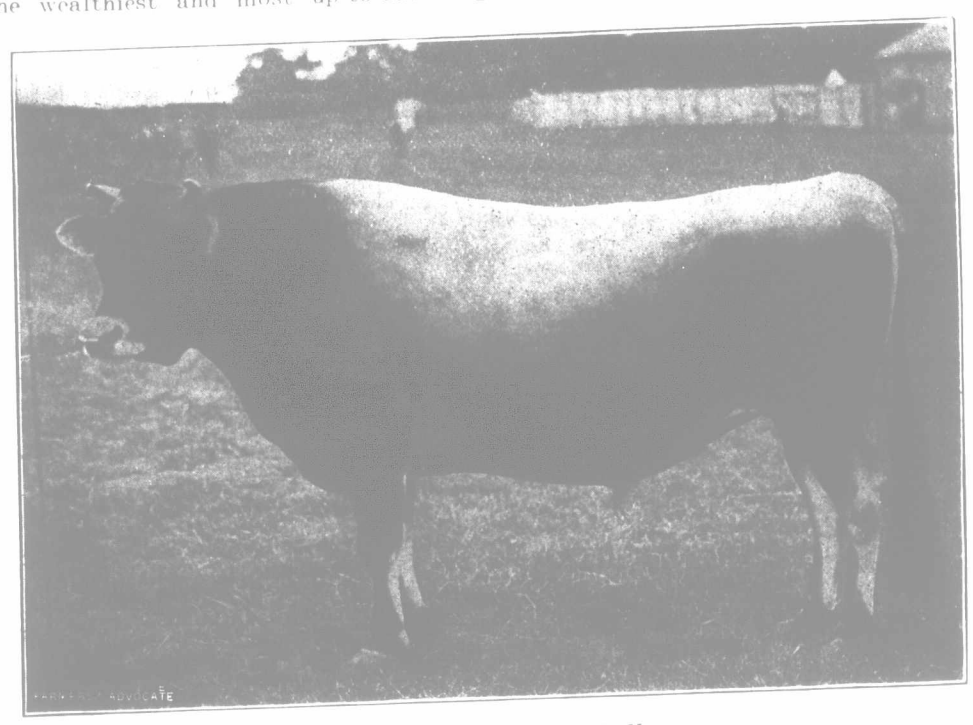
The first importation of Jerseys to America dates back to 1817. The Jersey cow was at first the fashionable ornament for rich farmers' lawns; but as her excellent dairy qualities became known to practical men, she became an important factor in the development of the dairy industry in the United States and Canada. So prime a favorite has she become that to-day there are many more registered Jerseys on the American continent than of any other breed of the bovine species; as a fact, there are more in the United States than all other dairy breeds combined, and the Jersey cow has attained this proud position solely on her ability to produce the richest milk and cream, and the highest quality of butter, at the lowest cost.

There is no breed of cattle on the continent to-day that sells for as high prices as the Jersey. At Mr. Cooper's annual sales, held in Coopersburg, Pa., there has been a steady advance in prices during the last ten years, one breeder paying $10,000 for an aged bull, and the same purchaser, in the following year, $10,200 for an eight-months-old calf from the same herd, the females selling from $500 to $3,600 each.

The first noted herd of Jerseys in Canada was established in St. Lambert, Que., by R. H. Stephens, from a foundation procured from the Royal herd at Windsor, and sometimes referred to as the Dauncey-bred cattle. There has been no strain of Jerseys that has exerted so great an influence for lasting good on the dairy interests of this continent as the St. Lamberts. The females of this particular family were all large framed, deep-bodied, strong-constitutioned cows, having shapely udders, and being heavy producers. There are very few Jersey herds in Canada to-day that do not contain one or more animals possessing St. Lambert blood. Much credit for the development of this family must be given to Valancey E. Fuller, late of Hamilton, Ontario, and the late Captain Rolph, of Markham. So great has been the demand from the United States for pure St. Lamberts, that there are very few left in Canada. Too much cannot be said in praise of the work done by the late Mrs. E. M. Jones, of Brockville, in the interests of the Jersey breed in particular, and of dairying in general. This esteemed lady's work—"The Poor Man's Cow"—has found its way into the home of almost every buttermaker on the continent. It has been translated into several languages, and has done much to revolutionize the care and feeding of the dairy cow, and the handling of her products.

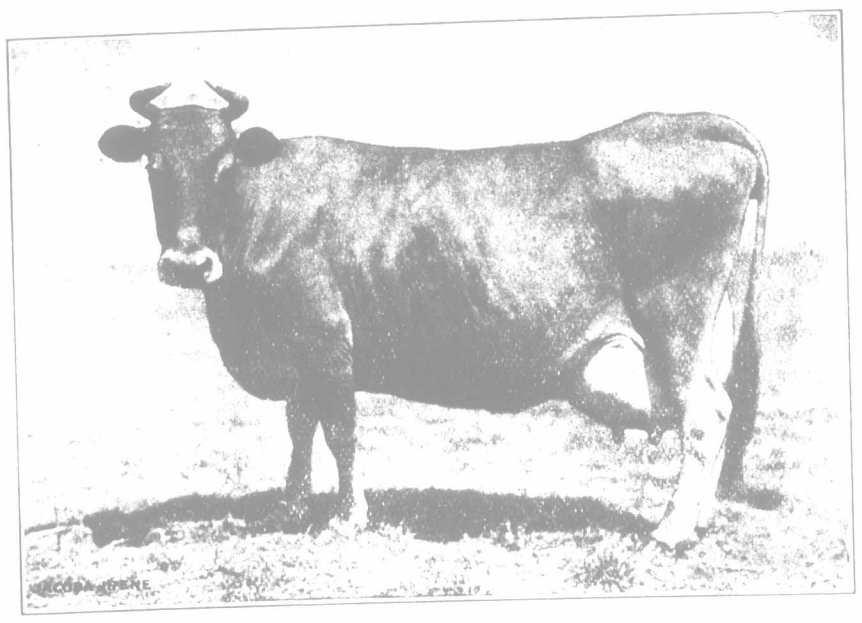
During the last five years there has been an introduction of many Island-bred cattle into this country, and their influence on the native-bred animals has not been very marked as yet, but there is no reason why the result of such a cross should not improve the appearance of our native Jerseys, and retain at the same time, and possibly improve, their usefulness at the pail.

There are many Jersey herdbooks on this continent for the registration of this particular breed, but the two most important are those of the American Jersey Cattle Club, of New York, and the Canadian Jersey Herdbook, of Ottawa. The first volume of the former was published in 1871. This Club was incorporated in 1880, and is to-day the wealthiest and most up-to-date organization



A Typical Jersey Bull.

of its kind in America. The rules and regulations governing registration are very rigid. No animal is admitted for registration unless it can trace in unbroken lines to the Island. The Club has an agent on the Island who looks after the exportation of all cattle to America. Some 500 were sent across the Atlantic last year. Up to date, there have been registered in this book 86,938 bulls, and 232,055 cows. There is also a Register of Merit for cows making 700 pounds and over of butter in a year. These tests are supervised by representatives of State Agricultural Experimental Stations, and are, therefore, authenticated tests. The numbers entered to date are: Bulls, 43; cows, 527. No bull is admitted until he has four daughters which have passed the test. To September 11th, 1909, nineteen Jersey cows were recorded. The most notable is Jacoba Irene 146143, A. J. C. C. Her test began January



Jacoba Irene.

25th, 1908, and ended January 24th, 1909. This cow gave, in the year, 17,253.2 pounds milk, averaging 5.523 per cent. butter-fat. Estimating butter at 83 per cent. fat, allowing for losses in creaming and churning, this would make 1,126 pounds 6 ounces of marketable butter. Weight of this cow, 950 pounds; age, 9 years 10 months at the beginning of the test; cost of feed, $96.13; and, estimating the butter at 25 cents a pound, there is a profit of $185.16. Jacoba dropped a calf in 1908, and one in 1909. Two other cows entered in the Register of Merit this year made over 1,000 pounds each of butter. From the illustration it will be seen that Jacoba has a wonderful constitution, and the power to assimilate a large quantity of food.

The Canadian Jersey Herdbook was established in connection with the Nantional Live-stock Records at Ottawa in 1906, on lines almost identical with that of the American Jersey Cattle Club. To January 1st, 1909, there have been recorded 683 animals, and 125 transfers of animals have been registered. The Canadian breeders are slow in transferring their patronage from the wealthy and influential Club to the south of us to that of the younger and weaker organization in our own country, but a feeling of patriotism, if no other, should induce the Jersey men of Canada to support the Club that is just as reliable, and in time will wield as great an influence as that of our lustier cousin across the line. A Record of Performance has been instituted by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa for all dairy breeds. The Jersey breeders have not as yet availed themselves of the privileges of this Record to any great extent, although some 15 cows are under test at present.

The value of a dairy cow is not the amount of her products, but the net profit on a year's work, and this is where we claim the Jersey cow leads all others, especially in the production of cream and butter. Short-term tests are of very little value to the practical dairyman. The only true test is the net profit for a year. There have been three public breed tests on this continent: 1893, at World's Fair, Chicago; 1901, the Pan-American, at Buffalo; 1904, Louisiana Purchase Exposition, at St. Louis. At Chicago there were three tests: (a) a 15-day test for the economical production of cheese; (b) a 90-day test for the economical production of milk; (c) a 30-day test for the economical production of butter. Three breeds were entered for each test, Jerseys, Guernseys, and Shorthorns. In test (a) and (b), 25 cows from each breed were entered, and in (c) 15 cows from each breed. The results showed that the Jerseys (1) gave more milk, (2) made more cheese, (3) made more butter, (4) gave more solids other than butter-fat, (5) required less milk to make a pound of cheese, (6) required less milk to make a pound of butter, (7) produced a pound of butter at less cost, (8) made cheese of higher quality, (9) made butter of higher quality, (10) demonstrated their ability to profitably assimilate a greater quantity of feed and return a net increased profit.

At Buffalo there were three classes: (a) net profit butter-fat alone considered; (b) net profit butter alone considered; (c) net profit in total solids. Ten breeds, 5 cows from each breed, were entered from May 1st to November 1st. The results showed that in tests (a) and (b) the Jerseys stood second, close up to their cousins, the Guernseys. There is no doubt that if the test had extended over the full year, the Jerseys would have outstripped all competitors. In class (c) the Jerseys stood seventh.

At St. Louis there were two tests: (a) economic production of butter for 120 days; (b) economic production of milk for all purposes of dairying. Three breeds were represented in test (a), Jerseys, Holsteins, and Brown Swiss; these and Shorthorns in test (b). The result showed that the average net profit per cow in test (a) was: Jerseys, $39.52; Holsteins, $29.23; Brown Swiss, $23.13. In test (b): Jerseys, $53.91; Holsteins, $46.85; Brown Swiss, $38.69; Shorthorns, $30.18.

A typical Jersey cow should combine beauty with utility. To many, "Handsome is that handsome does" but there is no denying the fact that beauty of form should play an important part in