

few weeks, it will save her from the evil results of that habit.

Another method that may prove effective for this habit is to tie up the tail, and put a seven-pound weight in the inside of the hair. This extra weight keeps the animal from switching the tail so easily. There are some other methods, but not so humane as the above. Docking would not secure the desired effect.

Brant Co., Ont. GEO. I. SUTHERLAND.

Unsatisfactory Syndicate Experience.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have just read your editorial on stallion syndicates. You think that the evils of syndicating would be done away with by having several farmers form an organization, and then make a purchase. Well, that very thing was tried up here a few years ago, and I don't think any unscrupulous horse-owner ever did up a lot of farmers worse than we were done up, as the writer of this was one of the fleeced. This is the way it was done: When enough stock was subscribed, a meeting was called to choose a couple of the members to purchase a horse. One of the men chosen was this fall acting as expert judge, at fall fairs, and the other—well, at the present time he is standing his trial in Manitoba on another horse fraud. Those two worthies went to a certain horse firm, and entered into a secret arrangement, which was that they should pay \$2,400 for a horse, and they were to reserve back \$200 in cash and \$400 in stock, for which they agreed to take a horse which was not worth much more than half what they paid for him. Unfortunately, we did not find them out in time to save ourselves, but we took their ill-gotten gains from them and let them go, instead of having them sent down for fraud. The horse proved to be a worthless animal, only leaving fifteen colts from eighty-five mares, and, after running him at a loss the second year, we accepted about one-quarter what he cost us, and no doubt he was used again and again to fleece the dollars out of other farmers. S. H.

[Note.—Exceptions to all rules. This case would seem to have been one of the unfortunate exceptions. Nevertheless, the syndicate, organized from within, not by a promoter from without, has been the means of introducing good horses into many districts. The experience indicates, however, that, no matter what the system, utmost vigilance should be exercised by every party to the contract. Let us have the experience of others.]

The thirty-second volume of the British Clydesdale Studbook, about to be issued, will be, we are promised, the largest ever published. What's the matter with the Clydesdale!

LIVE STOCK.

Holstein-Friesian Cattle.

By W. G. Ellis.

These are what are known on the Continent of Europe as North Holland cattle. But in Holland, as in the British Isles, there are many different types of the bovine race. We in America gave to these cattle a new name, Holstein-Friesian, which, although not correctly designating the land of their nativity, wards off confusion, and they are described by the Holstein-Friesian breeders of America as being large black-and-white, improved cattle, bred in North Holland and the neighboring provinces—and their descendants.

The first volume of the Netherlands Herdbook for North Holland cattle gives the following information: "The pedigree of the Netherlands (North Holland) cattle dates back farther than two thousand years. The form, proper to the breed, is owing entirely to climate, housing, feeding, tending, and manner of treatment, having remained the same for hundreds of years. Hence, the cattle have attained a distinct type, which, through inheritance, remains constant to itself."

This type has undergone a gradual change in America, chiefly owing to the fact that their rations here contain a larger proportion of rich, concentrated food than they are in the habit of receiving in their native land, the general quality of Holstein-Friesian milk product, as a consequence, being much improved. It is largely owing to this fact that the prejudices existing 20 years ago against these cattle are non-existent to-day.

The earliest knowledge of Holstein cattle being imported into America was about the year 1613, when a few were brought in by Dutch settlers. One hundred and eighty years later, The Holland Land Co. were known to have shipped to America eight head of Dutch cattle. For some reason, these animals did not do well. At different periods during the next seventy-five years small importations were made, but the importers, either through ill-luck or carelessness, made but little headway—so little, that in 1861 there was known to be but one pure-bred Holstein animal in America. That

same year, Winthrop W. Chenery, the first president of the American association of breeders of Holsteins, made an importation of a bull and four cows. A few years later, Hon. Garrett S. Miller made another importation, consisting of a bull and three cows. Others quickly fell in line, and in 1872 the first herdbook in America was printed, registering 56 bulls and 77 cows.

About ten years later the fame of these exceptional animals spread into Canada, and excited the attention of many of Ontario's prosperous farmers, who paid as high as \$700 for a Holstein-Friesian cow. A. C. Hallman, New Dundee; Wm. Shunk, Sherwood; R. S. Stevenson, Ancaster; R. Howse Crump, Masonville; H. Bollert, Cassel; D. E. Smith, Churchville; T. W. Charlton, St.

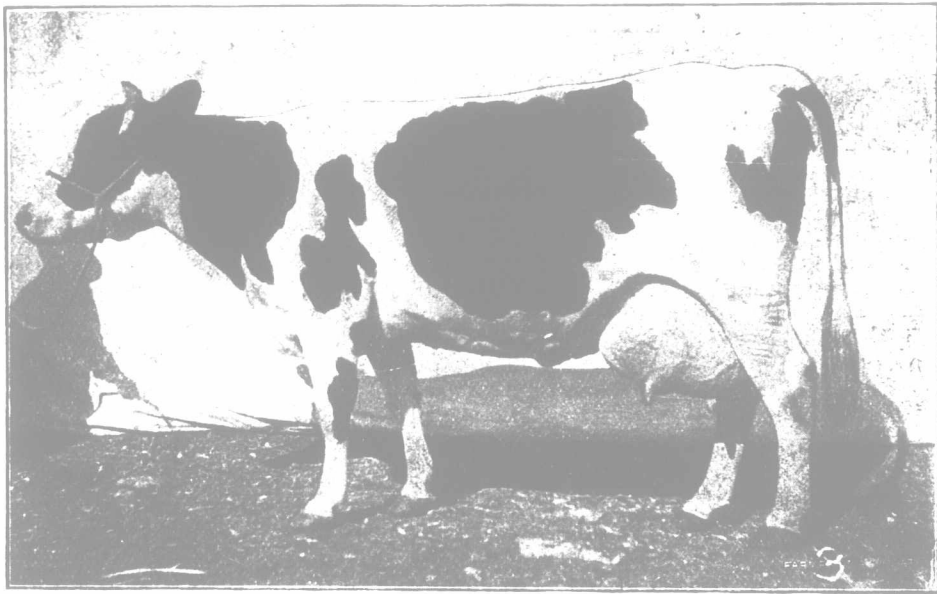


Beauty and Utility Combined: Canadian-bred.

George, were conspicuous among the early Canadian importers, and many of these pioneer importers still occupy positions in the front rank of Canadian Holstein-Friesian breeders.

The Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada issued their first herdbook in 1892, breeder A. C. Hallman securing the honor of registering the first bull and the first cow. This first volume contains the registration of 400 bulls and 714 cows. Since then, in the face of national prejudice, the black-and-white cattle have grown into strong favor, and to-day the records of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association stand out in marked contrast with those of other dairy breeds, for which we are indebted to the general excellent performance of Holstein-Friesian cows. It is a breed of dairy cattle among which it is hard to find culls.

The Holstein-Friesian breed excels in milk production, it is superior for veal production, and valuable for beef production. The calves are



Colantha 4th's Johanna.

large at birth, and grow and fatten with great rapidity. The breeders in North Holland and West Friesland have always avoided in-and-inbreeding. Consequently, this breed has maintained a high standard of vital force, and does well in almost every climate, including that of Northern Russia. In Canada they are as hardy as our native cattle. Individuals of this breed naturally possess strong, vigorous constitutions. They are good feeders, being by no means choosy in the quality of their food, consuming freely the roughage of our farms. Farmers appreciate this characteristic, as it is hard to realize on roughage, but easy to dispose of the more costly commercial grains.

The young breeder, in reading about some of the extraordinary performances of this breed, becomes

possessed with anticipations not likely to be realized under ordinary conditions; but as quantity of production and persistency of milking during long periods are well-known characteristics of this breed, he should probably anticipate a yield from a two-year-old, fairly well cared for, of from 5,000 to 6,000 pounds of milk in ten months, increasing each succeeding year, until, at five years old, he should expect from seven to nine thousand pounds. Of course, if he wishes to give them exceptional care, and feed very heavily, their yields may easily run from 11,000 pounds up. It is difficult to put a limit. For instance, in 1880 the cow Aggie made a record of 18,004 pounds of milk. Five years later, the owner of Aggie commenced a record of his cow Clothilde; extraordinary

precautions were taken to remove all chance of doubt as to the accuracy of the record, and her record for the year was 26,021 pounds. However, the average breeder should be well satisfied if he can secure dairy animals which would give him an average of eight or nine thousand pounds in ten months, and he need have no doubt whatever of obtaining such yields from matured Holstein cattle generally.

The directing of public attention to the valuable dairy qualities of the Holstein breed during the nineties was accomplished by the conducting of public milk tests at fairs, and the publishing of privately-conducted performance results. Although these methods were good, the breeders required something different, consequently our Canadian Association, at their 1901 annual meeting, decided to adopt a system of registration of performance, to be known as the Record of Merit. Canadian

registered animals, entered for a record test, are properly classified according to age, the date of calving, date of test commencement, and date of test closing is noted. The total quantity of milk and butter-fat produced is recorded.

The test is conducted under the inspection of an appointee of the superintendent of an agricultural college or an experimental station. The inspector, along with each and every person assisting, including in every case the owner of the animal, is required to make a very sweeping affidavit before a commissioner, notary public, or justice of the peace. In case the result is considered abnormal, a 24-hour test is immediately made under the direction of a different inspector, the expense of which is borne by the Association.

At first these tests were confined to seven-day periods, but now a breeder may have conducted a seven, fourteen, or thirty-day, or other length of time, test. Also, he may have a successful seven-day animal given another seven-day test eight months after calving, in the same lactation period, providing her condition conforms to the rules governing the test.

It is gratifying to note that Canadian breeders generally are taking advantage of the Record of Merit test opportunities, and, although the standards set for the different ages are quite high, the Holstein-Friesian cow, under fair treatment, easily accomplishes the task.

In 1907 the Association decided to accept the proposition of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and establish, in addition

to its Record of Merit, based on official 7-day or 30-day tests, a Record of Performance the same as other dairy-breed societies have adopted, publishing thus in its herdbook yearly records of production made under officially supervised private tests. While the Association does not guarantee the reliability of these tests, still the conditions are such that fairly accurate records of production are insured. Up to the latter part of October, 325 Holstein cows had been entered for Record of Performance test, of which 51 had already qualified, by completing their yearly records and fulfilling the breeding conditions.

The American Holstein-Friesian Association has, from its overflowing exchequer, liberally encouraged official and authenticated tests, with the result that a very large number of high records of per-