

Sussex, N.B., of 10,494 lbs. milk, containing 560.44 lbs. fat; and, although this is no phenomenal record in this enlightened day of balanced rations, etc., if we go back 12 years we shall see that this record is unsurpassed by few, if any, of the dairy breeds of Canada of that decade.

At the National Dairy Show held in Springfield, Mass., in Oct., 1916, we found the Guernsey in the flesh, and if you were of strict religious scruples and did not wish to break the tenth commandment, which says: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's ox," i.e., his Guernsey cow, you should not see Mr. Marsh's grand champions. There were exhibited at this show 259 Jerseys, 204 Guernseys, 162 Ayrshires, 160 Holsteins, 103 Brown Swiss and 9 Dexter Keries, making a total of 897. And just here I wish to pay tribute to the Canadian Ayrshire breeders for the grand success which they achieved at the National. We see by these figures the Guernsey was the second largest exhibit. The amount of prize money offered for this breed was \$3,278. This did not include cups, ribbons and trophies, which compared favorably with that offered for any other breed.

I desire to call special attention to the grand champion male, Ladysmith's Cherub 30760, and the grand champion female, Imp. Princess Bergere, 33074 illustrated with this article. In these animals we do not find "the birds of Paradise," the name so frequently applied to the blue ribbon winners by the misinformed critics of the show-ring, but actual dairy animals, combining those two desirable characteristics much sought by every dairyman, namely, "form and function."

In the class for cows with advanced registry records the grand champion cow stood third, she having a record of 516 lbs. of fat in nine months and fourteen days. The sire of the grand champion bull, as well as his dam, is also in the advanced registry, the latter having a record of 510 lbs. fat as a three-year-old. Can the grand champions of any other breed boast of a like performance? Another beautiful cow, Langwater Dairymaid, has a record of 812 lbs. fat and sold at auction in October, 1916, for the record price of \$6,150.

The public auctions of 1916, together with the private sales, show that the breed is in great demand in America, and as proof of same I shall quote the highest average of sales conducted by L. F. Herrick for past nine years.

On May 16, 1907, he sold for H. Thomblby, Madison, N.J., 74 head at an average of \$334.05. On September 21, 1909, he sold for A. G. Lewis, Geneva, N.Y., 92 head at an average of \$381.50. On May 11, 1911, he sold for F. Philips, Nova, P.A., 78 head averaging \$477.88. On October 10, 1913, he sold for F. G. Beham, N.Y., 52 head, averaging \$484.90. On September 10, 1915, for J. L. Hope, N.J., 81 head averaging \$533.76. On May 16, 1916, for J. L. Hope, N.J., 85 head averaging \$574.35, and at Langwater Farms, Mass., on October 10, 1916, 75 head at the record average of \$1,075.42. I ask the reader if these are indications of the Guernsey smoke going up or coming down?

I have observed in the past in the prize lists of the different exhibition associations of Middle and Western Canada a constant decline in the prize money offered for the Guernsey breed; and I believe I am not too optimistic when I say that some of the associations are looking forward to the expulsion of the Guernsey from the prize-list, due to the breed being poorly represented. Now, I ask if this will encourage the breeder to improve his exhibit or will it induce him to forsake one of the foremost dairy breeds and cross over to the enemy, the "scrub cow?" Will this not also prove a stumbling-block to the prospective breeder? Cannot something be done to remedy this? I would suggest that the associations have recourse to the scale of points for the Guernsey breed. This score could be reduced 25 per cent., and this substituted by 25 per cent., for fit, or again the scale could be left as recommended by the breed, and 25 points added for it, as I believe stress should be laid on condition, and any animal not scoring a reasonable number of points, these to be decided by the associations, should be debarred from participating for prize money. There is in Canada an abundance of judges capable of scoring this breed, and it would be the

duty of the associations to see that these regulations were rigorously enforced.

I cannot see why a breed that has proved itself as meritorious as the Guernsey breed has, should be considered undesirable for the Canadian dairies, and I appeal to all dairymen and officials, in whose hands are placed the destiny of the Guernsey breed in Canada, to give this matter serious consideration. Throw aside all Phariseism and work for the dairy interests of Canada.

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SIMON MCGINN.

POULTRY.

Some Farm Flocks are Profitable.

With eggs selling at a record price for this time of year, hens are being disposed of and comparatively few chickens were hatched early. In fact, there is every evidence that the season's hatch will be below normal. The price of feed and the failure of many flocks to lay during the winter has discouraged some poultrymen and is largely responsible for the decimating of the flocks. A good strain of fowl, properly housed and fed, will produce eggs practically every month of the year and the birds will give a substantial profit over the cost of feed. There are farm flocks and commercial flocks making money for their owners, but they are cared for and there is no slacking off in the ration even when wheat nears the \$4.00 per hundred mark, and other grains are correspondingly high. If the birds are worth keeping they must be fed liberally. Failure to feed a sufficient quantity of the right kinds of feed was one factor which resulted in the low egg yield last winter.

W. E. Phoenix, a Middlesex County farmer, claims that his one hundred hens pay him well. They commenced laying in December and continued laying all winter. The sum of forty-one dollars was realized for eggs from March 15 to April 15. During that time an account was kept of the feed consumed and at market prices it amounted to sixty cents per day to feed the entire flock. In the morning equal parts of oats, barley and wheat were fed; at noon, alfalfa leaves were scalded and thickened with corn chop, oat chop, shorts and bran, equal parts. At night wheat and barley were fed. The birds are housed in a pen 10 by 40 feet in dimensions. About one-quarter of the front is in glass and the sashes are so arranged that they pull out at the bottom and slide down, thus allowing fresh air to come in at the top. The pen is cleaned out regularly once a week and during the entire winter the birds were kept healthy and certainly paid their way.

The natural method of incubating and brooding is followed. At the middle of May eight hens had brought out and were raising seventy-seven chicks; twelve more hens were sitting, so if the latter hatch is as good as the first there will be a grist of chicks on this farm. The hens and their broods are placed in ordinary coops in the orchard. While the hens are cooped the chicks have their freedom. Oatmeal and hard-boiled eggs, with a few bread crumbs added, comprise the ration for the first week. After this the chicks are gradually put on a mash made by scalding oat dust and thickening it with shorts. This is put in the oven to dry until it crumbles, then it is fed. A little wheat and corn is also fed. The mash is continued practically all summer. With reasonable success in raising the birds, Mr. Phoenix should have a large flock of pullets in the laying ranks next winter. The high price of feed does not worry him because when feed is high eggs are generally correspondingly high, and the aim is to keep a flock that will pay its way.

Right at this time of year there are many hens that are forced to pick for their living, and some of the growing chicks are on short rations. Such conditions are not conducive to filling the egg basket, or to raising a thrifty lot of pullets. Rather than stint the entire flock, it is better to cull out the old birds and feed the younger birds more liberally. The hens have got to be fed if they are going to produce eggs.

Swat the Rooster.

For economic reasons the male bird should be removed from the flock as soon as the breeding season is over. If he is a valuable bird that is to be kept over for next year, pen him in a coop by himself. If you do not purpose keeping him for breeding purposes next spring, behead him now. He will make as good a pot pie in June as he will in October and about seventy cents' worth of feed will be saved, besides preventing the loss of many dozens of eggs. Fertile eggs spoil quickly, while the infertiles can be kept for a much longer period of time. A fertile egg left under a hen twenty-four hours, or left half that time in a hot pantry or store window becomes unfit for human consumption. The germ commences to develop and then dies owing to the cooling off, causing decay to start. An infertile egg may become stale but it does not readily spoil. The consumer, the egg dealer, and the storage men prefer infertile eggs during the hot weather especially. The farmer's wife should select infertile eggs for packing for next winter's use. There is no logical reason why the male bird should be left with the flock at the end of the breeding season. Then swat him early and help reduce the loss which has amounted to over ten per cent. during summer seasons in the past. The producer must bear this loss because dealers figure on a certain percentage of the eggs spoiling when setting the season's price. The loss can largely be eliminated by marketing infertile eggs.

Keep Vermin Out of the Chicken Coop.

So far this spring the weather has not been particularly favorable to the rapid growth of chicks. The cold and wet prevent them from getting out and scratching and dusting as much as they would if the temperature were higher. If in a brooder they keep close to the hover, and if being brooded by the natural method they huddle around the old hen. By the artificial method there is little danger of the chicks becoming infected with vermin, but it is almost impossible to keep chicks free from lice if they are with the hen. These pests of the poultry yard leave the old birds and cling to the bodies of the tender chicks, sapping their life blood.

It is necessary to adopt methods to keep vermin from gaining the upper hand. Many flocks are reduced in numbers from the effects of lice alone. The hen should be dusted with insect powder several days before the hatch comes off, and the coop should be kept clean. Even then there is likely to be a few lice escape destruction, and as they multiply rapidly the chicks become infected. Look under the wings and around the head for vermin. These are the places frequented. A little grease rubbed on these parts will rid the chicks of their tormentors. It stands to reason that chicks cannot thrive if their bodies are infested with vermin, and as they are unable to successfully combat them it is necessary for the poultryman to aid the birds. The greatest damage is done when the chicks are young. When a month or more old they are stronger and, to a certain extent, are able to protect themselves. Insect powder should not be dusted on the hen brooding young chicks, as the powder among the feathers apparently smothers the birds. When they are three or four weeks old there is less risk in dusting the hens. Do not take any chances this spring, but examine the flock frequently and if it is infested apply some form of treatment. Grease for the young chicks and commercial louse killer for the older birds are the remedies recommended.

There is little use treating the birds and allowing lice and mites to run riot in the pen or coop. There should be a general clean up in the spring. Disinfect the pen and put clean straw in the nests. Mites hide during the day in cracks and crevices of the roosts and pen. A little kerosene applied to these parts will exterminate them. Give the hens a dust bath, which will go a long way towards keeping their bodies free from lice.



Princess Bergere.

Champion Guernsey cow, Springfield, Mass., 1916.



Ladysmith's Cherub.

Grand champion Springfield.