



Saskatchewan Believes in the Dairy Cow. Ayrshire, Holsteins and Jerseys at the Saskatoon Agricultural College.

The Guiding Power of a Correct Ideal

Its Selection is the First Duty of the Live Stock Breeder

F. E. ELLIS, B. S. A., Halton Co., Ont.

THE call to-day is for more and better breeders of live stock. The past couple of decades have witnessed a marked improvement in the live stock of the Dominion of Canada. Credit for this improvement, which has extended to all classes of live stock—horses, cattle, sheep and swine—must be divided between the importers or dealers on the one hand and the breeder on the other. In some lines, notably horses, the importer probably deserves more credit than our Canadian breeder for the improvement effected. Even in the case of dairy cattle, where the work of the breeders is of first importance, the importer has exercised a tremendous influence. In a couple of dairy breeds that have been with us for almost 70 years, imported animals still claim the chief awards in the show-ring, and, in not a few cases, at the stall as well. But from now on, the importance of the importer as a factor in live stock improvement, must decline, and future progress in Canada will rest more and more with the breeders on this side of the water. War, grim master of the present, will leave in his trail influences that threaten to change many well established customs and practices; for instance, going to the older countries for the best pure-bred breeding stock. It does not require much foresight to see that the natural increase of European herds will be required for many long years to replace the destruction of European live stock wrought by war. American importers will find it increasingly difficult to secure shipments, and dealers who have heretofore made regular trips to Great Britain and France, will now turn to the home breeder to fill their orders. Our breeders will measure up to the new demands made upon them, just in proportion as they have the guiding power of a correct ideal.

An ideal is the first essential to success in any field. Without it nothing worth while can be accomplished. An ideal is to the breeder what the rudder is to the vessel; without it he would be a helpless wanderer. An ideal firmly fixed is the only power that can carry the young breeder through the many discouragements and disappointments which he must inevitably meet and lead him on to the mount called Success. Let me illustrate:

The Case Illustrated.

A few years ago, during one of my then frequent visits to Oxford Co., Ont., I watched, along with a well-known fancier of the Holstein, the placings at a local show. Practically all of the competing animals in the black and white section

were from two neighboring herds. And practically all of the awards went to one of these herds; in fact, the only prizes won by the inferior herd of the two, were in classes that the more successful exhibitor had not the animals to fill. I asked my friend if Exhibitor No. 2 was a new man in the game. He informed me that, quite to the contrary, he had been in the breeding business for over a decade, and was one of the first men in the

neighborhood to own a registered Holsteins. Then he gave me an outline of the development of the two herds.

"Both of these herds," said he, "were established about the same time. It must be a dozen years at least since Ted and Alec, the two exhibitors at this show, came over to my farm to get their foundation stock. They came together and went away with some real nice females, just a few head each and of equally good quality. They started even in the breeding business—until they bought their first bulls. The successful man here to-day, Ted we call him, paid a right good price for the best bull calf in a neighboring herd. Alec took a cheaper, and, therefore, a poorer animal, from the same herd. The two have followed the same plan ever since. Ted had worked consistently for his ideal; Alec apparently has never had an ideal. Any registered bull was good enough if cheap enough, and he is to-day reaping the fruits of his misguided economy."

During the years that the writer was connected with the editorial department of Farm and Dairy, I visited several scores of pure-bred dairy herds, and met many Ted's and more Alec's. It is a fact, as regrettable as it is true, that a large majority of owners of registered stock in Canada are not worthy of the name of breeders. Their work is not constructive, and their herds are steadily deteriorating in their hands. Almost every neighborhood furnishes its quota of herds in which the old foundation cows are the best animals owned. Wherein lies the trouble? Merely the lack of a clear-cut ideal.

A Few Guiding Principles.

More pleasing is the impression left with me by my associations with the great and successful in the breeding world; and without an exception these men have been breeders with an ideal. Most

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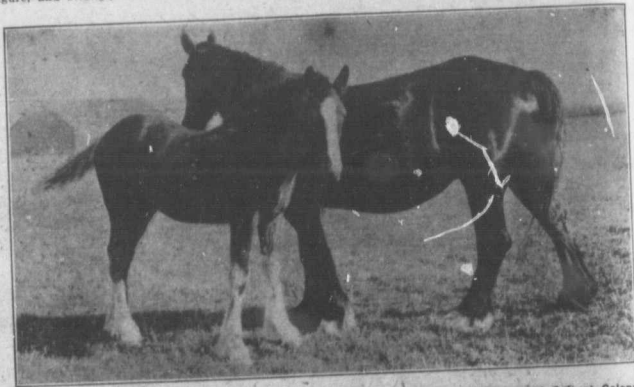
Community Breeding in Successful Operation

How Six Breeders Cooperate in Securing Good Bulls

R. F. HICKS, York Co., Ont.

DURING the 15 years that have elapsed since we entered the ranks of Holstein breeders the bull problem has been ever present in our plans for the improvement and advancement of our herd. About 16 or 17 years ago Alta Posch was making her world's record of 27 lbs. butter in seven days as a two-year-old. Her owner, Mr. Rettle, offered her bull calf at a very moderate figure, and strongly advised us to purchase him

for our herd sire, but we delayed action long enough to permit another to step in and secure him. However, we are sometimes permitted to profit by our mistakes. In the fulness of time the 20-lb. cow arrived, and with that advent, how to secure the son of a 20-lb. cow for a herd sire was very often present in our meditations. The solution, and apparently only solution, was found about six years ago, when jointly with five neigh-



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