

Issued  
Each Week

# FARM AND DAIRY

AND

# RURAL HOME

Only \$1.00  
a Year

Vol. XXIX.

FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 27, 1910.

No. 4

## COW RECORDS.—THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE DAIRY INDUSTRY\*

D. Drummond, Ottawa, Ontario

### The Influence is a Great One, though Difficult to Estimate. History of Records, Some things they do and some Comment on their Possibilities

IT might almost be said that we are living in a record age. We find all big commercial institutions, railways, factories, etc., keeping records of floor space, of cars, of engines and of employees, in order to find the earning power of each of them, both gross and net. In agriculture records of production are observed also by poultry keepers and dairymen. In almost all countries making any pretence as dairy countries cow records of some kind are being kept.

Probably the most valuable and complete are those of Sweden and Denmark. There they have a system of food values in connection with them, from which the cost of individual production can be very closely estimated. In this country it is only of recent date that any united efforts have been made along this line, but records seem to be growing in popularity, so that now we have official and semi-official records for 7 days, for 30 days, for 7-day periods eight months after calving, yearly records, private records of all kinds and the cow testing association records.

The reason for the introduction of the work in Canada was the remarkable revelation made wherever records were being kept of the difference between individual cows in the same herd, and of the great difference between the production of different herds. And we are not yet awake to what future records may reveal and what lessons we may learn from them.

It is impossible to calculate in dollars and cents or in pounds of milk or pounds of fat, the influence of cow records on the dairy industry. We might give illustrations of herds that have improved their average production some 20, some 30, some 40, some 50 per cent since their owners have commenced to keep records and from that calculate what it would amount to for the whole country; but we know that it does not always work out that way, and at any rate improvement takes time.

#### DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE.

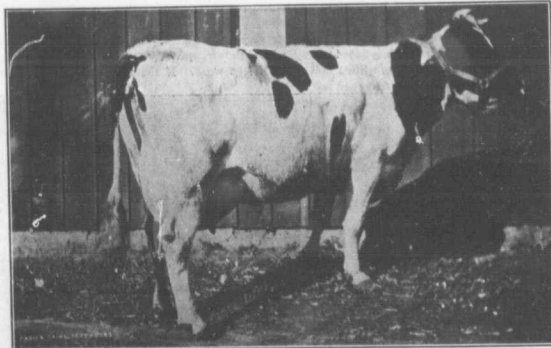
Who can measure the influence of this Fair? Who can tell the influence of the Farmers' Institute, or all other such institutions, and tell us its value in dollars and cents? Cow records come under the same category because they are to a very large extent educational. They teach better feeding, better business methods, better

\*An address delivered at the Eastern Live Stock and Poultry Show in Ottawa last week.

breeding methods. They call forth the best efforts of the intelligent dairyman. They create a friendly rivalry between neighboring dairymen, especially if these men are disposing of their produce at the same point. They also interest the young men, and to them it is that we look for the greatest influence.

#### BETTER FEEDING.

The majority of farmers know that they are sending so much milk to the creamery or cheese factory, or to whatever place they are disposing of their milk. They take the total only. When that total shows signs of diminishing they, at least the best of them, start some other method of feeding and may by so doing increase the total. But ask them which of their cows are doing it or if all are doing it, and they cannot tell.



Francis 3rd, a Cow with the Highest 7 Day Record Ever Made in Canada by a Canadian Bred Cow

Under the supervision of Mr. C. S. Wood of the O. A. C., this Holstein cow, owned by D. C. Platt & Son, Millgrove, Ont., recently completed a seven day official record of 29.36 lbs. butter—the highest record ever made in Canada by a Canadian bred cow of any breed. Experts who have seen this cow claim that she is a strong candidate for the world's record. She has been twice champion in her 3 and 4 1/2 year old form, over all ages and breeds, at the Ottawa Winter Show.

Those who keep daily milk records of their individual cows are in quite a different position. Without better feeding it is impossible to properly weed out a herd. Some cows may have been receiving all the food they can assimilate and turn into milk, whereas others can make use of a considerable larger quantity and give good and profitable returns for it. The only way to discover these cows is by keeping records. There are many good cows in the country, if they were only well fed.

Cow testing work calls for the best efforts of our intelligent dairymen in providing better food, better care and attention for our hard working cows. Through records the effects of neglect, exposure and lack of proper feed are recorded. These have the effect of making the owner or care-

taker reflect and think whether or not he is doing his best by his cows.

#### BUSINESS METHODS.

Farmers are proverbially poor business men. Many of them are satisfied if at the end of the year their bank account is increased and they feel that they can conscientiously say we have made so much honestly and without injuring any of our fellowmen. But if anyone of them was questioned as to which of his operations paid best, was it cows, horses, pigs, sheep or crops, in most cases he could not answer. Cow records have a great influence on the farmer in teaching him that accounts are useful. He learns this through making a beginning with records. He soon begins to look at the amount of feed consumed and commences to calculate the cost and find out from that which cow is most profitable or if there are any that are paying a profit. He is soon able to tell whether or not his farm operations are profitable, or whether he is as Professor Roberts says, "working for 50 cents a day and boarding himself."

Do each one of your cows pay a profit? Do you know that each does? If you don't, then keep records. The expense is small. It is business. The men who are following up the milk records are not the failures among dairymen. On the contrary they are the most successful. The production of milk and its products can be made far more profitable through better feeding and better business methods. One of the principal means towards this end is the keeping of cow records.

All breeders of the various kinds of dairy cattle have started some kind of records within the last few years. Some have adopted one kind, some another. All are more or less valuable. Some records have been started to boom the breeds; some to assist breeders in the better

selection of male animals, as well as to aid them in culling out the poorer females. They are all of too recent origin to enable us to collect data that will most effectually illustrate their influence on the dairy industry.

But when we study the history of all the dairy breeds, we find that records or reputation has played a large part in their improvement. It will be noticed that the homes of all the dairy breeds are small and restricted in area. We can easily understand how the reputation of an animal might easily be told all over the district where that breed was. Also owing to most of the produce being manufactured at home and taken to the markets, by the farmers themselves, where they were always meeting others in the same work, this and that cow or bull would be dis-