

French Canadian Cattle.

Our Canadian Breed.

Origin.

The early settlers in Canada came principally from Normandy and Brittany. These provinces are separated by but a narrow stretch of sea from the Channel Islands, the home of the Jerseys and the Guernseys. The cattle of the mainland and of the islands were of the same blood, and those which the colonists brought to Quebec, and from which the present French Canadian cattle are descended, were thus very closely related to the Channel Island breeds. Even now the resemblance is so close that many a light colored, pure-bred "Canadian" cow can almost pass as a dark Jersey. The "Canadians" have in fact been aptly named the first cousins of these other breeds, but their residence for two hundred and fifty years in the Province of Quebec has developed in them certain distinguishing characteristics, hereafter referred to.

Registration.

In 1886, the Quebec Legislature gave an official standing to the breed by establishing a herd book, of which Dr. J. A. Couture, of Quebec, is the worthy and indefatigable secretary. Animals of acknowledged pure blood, and of superior dairy qualities were admitted to registration for ten years, but since 1896 none have been, or can be, entered, except the descendants of the foundation stock already recorded. The whole number of animals now on record is about 8,000. Their advance in popularity of recent years has been very marked, and they may emphatically be described as the rising dairy breed of Canada. In the United States also, a number of far-seeing breeders have adopted them, and an American herd book has been lately established. They are bound to spread rapidly south of the line, especially since their achievements at Buffalo.