

FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME

We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

TORONTO, ONT., JANUARY 10, 1918

No. 2

"The House of Holstein"—Are Its Foundations Secure?

A Criticism of the Short Term Record by One of the Breed's Best Friends—F. H. Stevens in the Holstein-Friesian World

WE read in St. Matthew, chapter seven, twenty-fourth to the twenty-eighth verse, of two householders, one of whom build upon a rock and the other upon sand. We all know the story.

In our short-time official record a foundation of sand?

The growth of the Holstein-Friesian cow popularity has for the past 25 years made history unprecedented by any race of domestic animals. This popularity has had as its foundation the seven-day test, and in view of the past achievements it might at first thought seem unwise to consider moving our Holstein structure from this foundation.

For more than a decade, each year has seen added to the membership of the Holstein-Friesian fraternity dozens of wealthy men who have taken up the breeding of Holstein cattle as a fad, as an accessory to a country place, or from the sporting spirit which causes other men to take up the breeding and developing of the race horse. Doubtless, in nearly every case, the matter of financial gain is also considered, and also in nearly every instance these ventures have been a success from a financial point of view. These breeders always have the worthy ambition to become leaders in their new field, as they nearly always were in their business, and, believing the old adage that like begets like, they are willing to pay the ever-increasing prices for the descendants of the largest record animals.

A Gaze for Seven-day Records.

This demand for the extreme seven-day records has naturally made its own supply. We have learned if a cow isn't required to do too much throughout the year, she will, at freshening time, take from her stored-up fat and energy and make phenomenal records for a short period of time. Expert handling and feeding have been involved and 30, 40 or even 50 pounds per week records have followed each other so rapidly as to leave the mass of Holstein-Friesian breeders in amaze. Seeing the financial success attending the remarkable achievements of the few, the breeders have, generally speaking, fallen in line, with more or less successful endeavors to keep in the race until I fear the real dairyman, whose business is to make milk continuously at a profit, has been lost sight of.

How long will such methods endure? Already we are hearing our great seven-day records talked of disparagingly. There is no question among intelligent men that the accuracy of these records is not safeguarded in every conceivable way, and with possible rare exceptions they are correct, but even so their real value from an economic point of view is questionable.

Aren't we building our Holstein-Friesian house upon the sand? Will there not come a time when the buying public will demand more than a seven-day record, and when our present basis of value will be swept away and must be replaced by long-time production?

Real Measure of Dairy Ability.

Almost any breeder now is ready to admit that the long-time production is the real measure of the dairy cow's value, but as long as the buying public and not seemingly willing to let long-time records enter seriously into their calculations, just so long will most breeders work for the immediate dollar rather than for the future welfare of the breed. I believe the officers of our association should make

great the incentive for long-time tests, and the greatest and most far-reaching incentive would be to evolve some system whereby the cost of making these tests would be greatly reduced. It would seem that this work could be supervised after the present method of the cow testing association, and somewhat reduce the cost of inspectors, and some advisable to offer money prizes for yearly herd records in which every milking member of the herd would take a part and would in that way get a year's record.

What would doubtless arouse even more interest would be a futurity, for sires, classified as to ages, two-year-olds, three-year-olds, and so on. It might be well to make these futurities not only for the individual animal, but for groups of five, ten, or perhaps even more daughters of the same sire in the same age divisions.

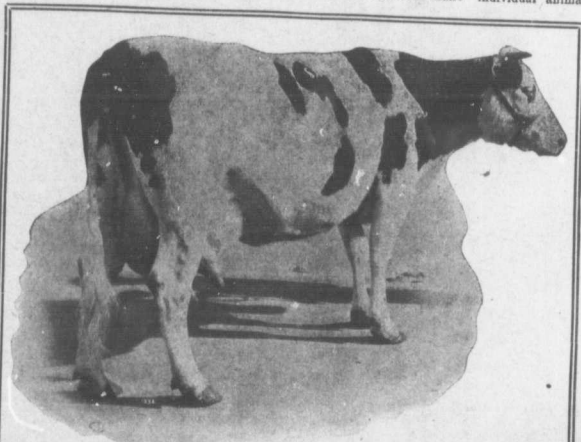
I can conceive no greater honor for any sire than to have ten of his daughters make more milk and butter in a given year than the ten daughters of any other sire. Perhaps there are other inducements more practical than these that would tend to the more general adoption of the long-time tests.

The Dairy Farmer's Problem.

The problem of the dairyman is becoming each day harder to solve. His produce goes largely to a class of people who must depend on it as a cheap food, and no matter what the cost of production may be there is a limit to what he can sell it for. His labor is continually advancing in cost, as are also the feeds for his cattle. Through Federal enactment the by-products of the distillery are unavailable, and the proposed enactment of the coming legislature will also very likely remove from the market brewers' dried grains and malt sprouts, so that a half of our former tonnage of high protein by-products will no longer be available. This, of course, will tend to greatly increase the price of those remaining. We as Holstein-Friesian breeders should be prepared to equip the dairyman with the cattle of proved ability in long-time production, for he must have animals of this class in order to survive.

I am not sure but it would be the part of wisdom with the future of our breed in view to entirely abandon the seven-day test. Very likely this would react to our immediate disadvantage. A moving house is not a comfortable habitation."

But the long-time production is the rock upon which the foundation for the permanent success of any breed of dairy cattle must be built.



Zarlida Clothilde 3rd DeKol, World's Champion Milk Producer

THE world's championship for milk production now comes to Canada. A likeness of the new champion may be seen above. Her home is the Colony Farm, Essondale, B.C., where she made her great record. When forwarding her photo, the farm superintendent, Mr. P. H. Moore, could send her official record for only 330 ures, as certificates for the last 35 days had not been returned. The tester's figures, however, are given for this period.

7 days' milk	831.31 lbs.	Butter	31.121 lbs. Strictly Official
30 "	3,337.7 "	"	122.23 "
60 "	6,718.0 "	"	233.96 "
90 "	9,940.5 "	"	338.62 "
120 "	13,009.8 "	"	442.28 "
150 "	15,900.7 "	"	544.58 "
180 "	18,572.4 "	"	638.46 "
210 "	21,031.2 "	"	725.32 "
240 "	23,260.0 "	"	806.11 "
270 "	25,292.7 "	"	878.43 "
300 "	27,277.7 "	"	950.28 "
330 "	28,902.9 "	"	1,010.42 "
365 "	30,469.2 "	"	1,071.6 " Tester's Figures