

HOLSTEIN NEWS

THE HOLSTEINS AT OTTAWA

G. A. Brethen, Norwood, Ont (The Judge) has introduced the following notes on the Holstein cattle shown at the recent Dominion Exhibition in Ottawa. I might mention that the rules adopted by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America in assigning values to the different points of a typical Holstein animal as well as females, are 30 points out of 100 to "hair and handling" and an equal number of points to "mammary system." Experience has taught me that a 20 per cent value on these qualities is just. Therefore to be consistent I must give them the attention they deserve, other points getting full consideration according to the value placed upon them by the highest authorities known to the breed.

The conformation of many of the animals shown at Ottawa I had studied previously, from the ringside. When it came to close examination, however, by both hand and "eye," I was surprised, agreeably in some cases, and in other animals, surprised in some of the most prominent shows. The handling, disposition, it was indeed a great privilege and experience to handle this grand exhibit brought to Ottawa at the Dominion Exhibition, but it teaches me, as I heard a prominent Ayrshire judge recently express it, that "ring-side" is not the place in some cases previous decisions were reversed, but when you take into consideration the changes that even two weeks would make in an animal, giving all honor to previous awards, those reversals were not so marked and were almost if not entirely satisfying myself why they should be. "Mercesia," Vale, Grand Champion male at Toronto National, is undeniably a very smooth bull of great strength and power, with the exception of a rather short, beefy neck, is of pleasing conformation throughout. He is certainly a credit to certain consideration in any company. As he appeared at Ottawa, however, after a hard campaign in the show-rings, intensified by a rather close finish preceding the competition, he had a "dead to the world" expression, which contrasted very unfavorably with the bright, elastic step and stately carriage of Hardy's "Prince Hengelder Pietsie," who has abundant tribute of any worthy sire, "prepotency." These points, in addition to superior length of both body and quarter, good depth, smooth middle, high quality of veining, beautiful, long, clean, well-erected neck and great substance of the Avondale, made me think that it took a competitor "in fit" to beat.

Mr. Sangster's beautiful 3-year-old bull, a frequent winner and a model-fronted bull, showed somewhat at a disadvantage in competition with the more mature bulls of greater stature and superior fitting. His most serious drawback is lack of middle, but this may be overcome with age, and his calves certainly have sufficient to escape criticism on this score.

F. Bell's entry was fourth, the best handling bull in the ring, but too short and make for the Holstein type. The same type as in aged class was followed when the high-erected, well-to-do "Madam" Newman was selected to win over the somewhat plainer son of "Fontaine Aria." The Hardy bull, like the second prize bull in the aged class, is altogether too short and bulky about the neck to make a high-class show bull. Although wanted to the right kind of show, these bulls should prefer excellent breeders. A nice son of Jewel and Poeh, 357 lbs butter in 7 days, decidedly lacking in the substance of the winners, was placed third. The winner in the yearling class, bred by Messrs Ludlow, and afterwards made male champion, had the most beautiful head and neck as the winners of the previous classes, combined with a smoothness and ability that compared favorably for his age with the champions of the year. The owner is an amateur show-man, which proved a serious obstacle when competing for the championship with such ring-regulars as Messrs Loran and Dickie. Second went to a showy, though much lighter bodied bull, owned by Colony Farm. Third to the plainer, rather unattractive of Hardy's, but a bull that showed more winning development than any male in the

different classes. The senior and junior bull calves presented a very great variety of types and dissimilarity of age which made consistent judging a matter of some difficulty. In the senior class went to a Colony Farm entry that excelled in depth and masculinity, while the junior winner, the young set calf in the class, was certainly a better handling quality than some of its larger competitors. Second prize went to Mr. Sangster's "Frisch" of Hardy's that had many strong points, but was too seriously lacking in heart girth to be a first prize animal.

Mr. Sangster showed a well-bodied calf that would easily have gone to the top but for a lack of masculinity in head and neck. Aged Cows The aged cow class, with 16 entries, proved one of the sensations of the show. "Madam Poeh," the senior female champion at Toronto, had no cinch in winning over her two more lengthy dairy type competitors, "Frisch of Orchard Hill," the Hardy string, and "Drotsky Sadies Vale," of Colony Farm, and it was only after a matter of hours and examination of udders when emptied that the judge decided her general smoothness, uniform depth, well-balanced udder and perfectly elastic, hardy counter. He also balanced a slight deficiency in spring of rib as compared to the other fair. He was the second choice of the counter, but stronger in shape of udder and placing of rear teats the Toronto winner would have had a position a couple of places lower down.

"Rhoda's Queen," the well-known Winter Fair, dairy test, milk record cow, owned by Mr. Sangster, was a fine example of development and handling qualities showed too plainly the evidences of age and a lack of ruggedness to win in such strong company.

When you consider the many good cows that had to be left out it will give some idea of the quality type and finish possessed by the winners in this class. The fact that dry and fresh cows compete in one class certainly makes the task of selecting the winners a most difficult one. The Three-Year-Olds "Belle Model Johanna," the two-year-old winner of the Ontario and best probably the best veined female in the show, headed the three-year-olds. Although in milk about nine months, she carries a good udder, with well placed teats, and has any amount of substance, length and depth. The three-year-old Toronto winner, now also owned by Hardy, of much the same type as the other, but lacking the wonderful vein development of the former, was second; while the Colony Farm entries, two beautiful heifers in any company, were placed third and fourth. This was a very strong class.

"Koba De Kol," the Colony Farm entry, although not enjoying as attractive a finish as some of the others, due to the long, heavy milking period, has any amount of type and depth and excels performance from "muzzle to switch." The more closely fitting, and more the more she strikes one as being, if in proper fit, a model in type and performance." She was a decided winner with the judge, and a strong candidate for higher honors later on.

Avondale showed a wonderfully good heifer in Poeh's Pietsie, the 2-year-old, but she lacked in length to the other heifer in everything but name. The Colony Farm heifer, "Kathleen Pauline De Kol," winner of second place at Toronto and a favorite with many for premier honors at that show, has not done so well since coming, and at Ottawa showed a somewhat "tucked up" appearance, which seriously injured her chances for highest honors. The latter show, she was not a strong winner. Fred M. Bell had a good type heifer that showed to disadvantage on account of not being fresh, while Mr. Sangster has a good handling daughter of Rhoda's Queen of nice type, but lacking in substance and containing a good higher in such "hot" company. Many good heifers could not get in the money. This was another fine class.

Mr. Bell came to the front with an easy winner in the senior yearling class. This heifer was of nice type, carrying a good udder and a beautiful handler. Hardy was second and the Colony Farm entry, Colantha Payne, the Colony Farm entry. This heifer was brought out in almost

perfect shape, and is a very strong, well-balanced heifer throughout. She has a beautiful head and neck, with a very strong muzzle, plenty of depth, with a nice well sprung jaw, good barrel, straight top-line and showing extraordinary udder development and well-placed teats. She was afterwards made Grand Toronto female, and was certainly a strong winner in any company owing to all-round balance and multiplication of strong points. Mr. Sangster's second with another daughter of Rhoda's Queen that could go to the top in almost any company. Hardy was third and Colony Farm fourth.

Avondale carried off the honors in the heifer calf classes with three beautiful daughters of the first prize aged bull. These were a very typical bunch, and later on aided in securing for Avondale the first few breeders' young herd.

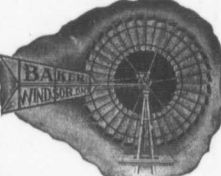
Colony Farm was the runner-up with some good entries of much the same type as the winner. The herd prizes went to Hardy and Colony Farm respectively, with Neil Sangster as the runner-up. At Ottawa, as I believe in Toronto, the female classes were particularly strong, with every indication of an abundance of even better classes at future shows. Bull classes exhibited too much variety in type to make as strong a show as would be expected at a show of this kind, but probably this also will be corrected as breeders study more closely the standard adopted for the breed.

Altogether the Dominion Exhibition, Ottawa, 1912, provided a worthy show of Holstein and whites, and every credit is due to those who were in the face of almost innumerable odds, brought out their animals, exhibiting the bloom and finish, of the majority of those shown at this the greatest fair in its history.

Note the illustrations of the champion bulls described in this article that appear on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

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