

The Holstein-Friesian Cow.

BY WM. WAGNER, OSSOWO, MAN.

The farmers of Manitoba and the Northwest, I think, have pretty well come to the conclusion that to follow purely grain raising does not pay as well as mixed farming, and in some instances to allow the dairy interest to predominate. Leaving grain raising aside for a moment and looking at the dairy business of a farm, there are two essential necessities for a dairy farmer:—

1. Knowledge.
2. The cow.

I say knowledge first, since without it the product of the best cow will be a failure. Now, how are we to get this knowledge? To afford the opportunity of gaining such knowledge, the Dominion Government will establish, under the able superintendency of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, in each province, a dairy school free to all who wish to learn how to make the best product out of milk, and how to market this product to the best advantage. After a man gets this knowledge, let him go into business and buy cows. He may use such knowledge by establishing a home dairy, or he may join a factory or a creamery. An educated dairyman is a good patron.

2. The "cow" is the chief machine for a dairyman; and to have a proper and paying machine is his object. He must, as Mr. William Warfield very rightly observes, clearly understand that there can be no accurate aim unless the work aimed at is fully seen and kept clearly in view.

In my opinion the cow to be chosen by a Manitoba dairyman must come from a race (or breed) which is of renowned free milkers; easily acclimatized, and which has a record of early maturity. I truly believe these are essential points which a dairyman of Manitoba and the Northwest should always keep clearly in view.

There is a country, three parts of it surrounded by the German ocean, bleak in its appearance, and subject to the storms from the north, where every piece of good pasture has to be taken from the sea and fought for; farther inland the ground rises, some of it is good agricultural land, and some sandy, giving only scanty food for sheep and cattle. They drive their cows out in the middle of May and have to stable them about the middle of October. The grain which they grow is wheat, rye, oats, barley, sometimes corn, but with limited success. The name of that country is East Friesland, the home of the black and white cattle, known amongst us as the Holstein-Friesian. There is no particle of blood of the Holstein in the Friesian. The Holstein, or, properly speaking, the "Angler", is at least one-third smaller, and brown in color, and also a good milker.

I have before me a book, the "Rindvieh Schlaege Ostfrieslands" (horned-cattle race of East Friesland), by Professor Dr. A. Wegner, director of the Agricultural College at Norden, from which I will give a few extracts, proving my assertion that the black and white cattle of East Friesland are the best adapted to dairy purposes for this greater western part of Canada:—

1. These cattle are easily acclimatized.
2. They are good milkers, which they have proved here already.
3. They mature early.

I will give here extracts of the produces of

milk, and, at the same time, the amount of feed:—

In a herd of 15 cows the average was 22 pounds of milk per day for 237 days. During the summer they were pastured on the gulse land (dry upperland). Their winter feed consisted of 11½ pounds marsh hay; 10 pounds straw; 15 pounds of roots; ½ pound bran; ½ pound rye, and ½ pound oil cake, all ground. You will see there is no over-feeding to get the 6,006 pounds of milk for the season of 237 days. One of these cows gave 9,080 pounds, and they used 31 pounds milk for one pound butter (cream raised in flat dishes).

In 1886 I gave a prize of \$50 to the Woodlands Agricultural Society for the best kept register of milking. I found that Miss Proctor, of Woodland, had the most scientific work done, and, during the five summer months, by a splendid pasture, and from their excellent herd of Short-horns, they used 30½ pounds of milk to one pound of butter, who never came up to anything to the average of the Friesian cattle in the flow of milk. At the Experimental Station of Hildesheim the butter fat was in summer 3.33 per cent., and, during the winter 3.39 per cent. They used, to one pound of butter, 13½ to 15½ liters milk (about 27 to 31 pounds), and during the winter 14½ liters (or about 28 pounds) milk.

Mr. A. B. Wallis, at Dybeck, Sweden, says his herd of 150 Friesian cows averaged 6,000 pounds of milk, and a few good milkers 10,000 pounds, and more. The average weight of the cows of this herd is 1,200 pounds.

I think that I have shown to you a good milking quality on a common feeding, and I will try to prove to you the early maturity.

According to Dr. Wegner the small farmers have their heifers calving at the end of the second year, sometimes sooner. From the register kept by Count Wedd Gordens of his herd of forty cows, it appears that the average calving time is two years and three and a-half months. One of them calved when one year, four months and twenty-two days old, and although she was kept in the herd for several years never became a good milker. It is impossible to give a true statement of oxen and steers as to weight, since the most of these kind are killed when two years old, either for the home market or export, but we have found in his book the weight of bulls.

Baron Rhedin, of Rhedin, bought in 1878, two bulls one-year-old weighing 800 pounds each, and in 1879 two with respectively 800 and 1,000 pounds; in 1880 two bulls one-year-old, one 800, and the other 1,400 pounds.

Mr. Oscar Andrae, at Billingshausen, near Dassel, gives the weight of his Eastfriesian bull, Osiris, as follows:—One week old, 100 lbs.; 10 weeks, 200 lbs.; 19 weeks, 300 lbs.; 25 weeks, 405 lbs.; 30 weeks, 500 lbs.; 36 weeks, 595 lbs.; 43 weeks, 700 lbs.; 49 weeks, 800 lbs.; 55 weeks, 900 lbs.; 62 weeks 1,007 lbs., and at 2 years, 8 months, 1,726 lbs.

As to butchers' meat we find that an ordinary cow fattening on pasture gives an average of from 450 to 600 lbs. of butchers' meat, and from 60 to 100 lbs. of tallow. The difference between live weight and butchers' meat, clean, is 55 per cent.; not counting tallow, head, hide, etc.

Calves ranging from one week old eighty-one pounds, to eight weeks old 175 pounds, averaging from 57 to 64.5 per cent. of butchers' meat, net.

They have in East Friesland a herd book, but the peculiarity of that association is that not every animal whose parents are inserted in the herd book will also find a place with them. No. When a person makes application of entry, the inspector of the district is sent out there to see if the applicant has all the peculiarities belonging to the East Friesians well developed. Not a bad idea. We could learn something of these people yet.

I am myself no breeder of pure-bred cattle, although I have always had a registered sire. Lately I have used a Friesian bull from my neighbor, Mr. Everest, of Ridgemere Farm, and I am highly pleased with the offsprings. They are mostly all after the sire.

When writing this it was only my intention to draw the attention of your readers to this particular breed of cattle of which I have read in American and Canadian papers, that they give more milk than the Jersey, Ayrshire, etc., but not so much butter fat, which may be true or not. Now, a dairy man does not want only butter or cheese, but also to raise calves.

You know skim-milk is skim-milk all over the world, and when feeding a calf with skim-milk, which is better for the calf—one quart or two quarts? If you do not know it, ask the calf.

Clydesdales—Our Scottish Letter.

April has been a busy month amongst Clydesdale breeders. The chief events have been the Seaham Harbour, Keir, Kilmarnock and Hartwood sales; and the shows at Stranraer, Kilmarnock, Maryhill, Colinsburg and Ayr. The general results of all these have been satisfactory, and, on the whole, there is every cause for congratulation that matters Clydesdale are in so comforting a condition.

Some of the more notable prices realized at the sales may be commented upon. Gladys, a four-year-old mare, by Castlereagh, drew £210 at the Seaham sale. Rowan, a five years old, by the same sire, drew £336. She was apparently popular in the north of England, and was placed fifth in the brood mare class at Ayr. Aunt Bessie 8676, of the same age, and by the same sire, made £204 15s. The three-year-old filly, Molly, by Ardnacraig, drew £168. The Seaham Harbour stud is identified with the name of the great horse Castlereagh, and it is interesting to look at the prices made by his produce at the sale. Three brood mares made an average price of £250 5s. each. One three-year-old filly made £94 10s. One three-year-old stallion made £273, and two two-year-old fillies made £70 17s. 6d. each.

At the Keir sale the stock realized very good prices, and the sale was undoubtedly a success. Ten brood mares made an average of £79 16s. each, the highest price being £108 3s. for the thirteen-year-old daughter of Darnley named Darling of Easterhouse 5946, and the lowest £53 11s. for the seventeen-year-old mare Keir Kate IV. (558). Three three-year-old fillies made the splendid average of £152 5s. each. Four two-year-old fillies made £91 17s. 6d. each. Five yearling fillies drew £43 1s. each. The grand, big, well-colored four-year-old stallion Brooklyn 6547, drew no less than £735, at which price he became the property of Mr. Gilmour, of Monttrave.

It was at the Duke of Portland's sale, however, that the highest prices were secured, and the best average obtained. Eighteen females of all ages made an average price of £126 18s. 8d. each. The nine-year-old mare Rosewater 5702 drew £128 2s. The eight-year-old Princess Alice 6626 made £210, Loyalty 6627, of the same age and yield, made £297 3s. She is by Lord