

most appropriate, as by following this motto they are able to sell cheaper, to take some of the profits which the middleman makes and altogether to make a big step in the reduction of the high cost of living.

In conclusion, I may say that I do not think anybody who has read the foregoing description can fail to be impressed by the remarkable success that has been achieved by the Cowichan Creamery Association during the last twenty-five years, but the point which I would particularly like to emphasize is this: "What are you doing in your district?" It is not going to do any good saying "the whole thing is very creditable but we could never do it in our district" and I feel sure a lot of you will think, that, but let me ask "Why not?" The man who started Cowichan Creamery at first had no idea they would end up by running the Association on such a large scale. Of course, if you like to say that the Town of Duncan and Cowichan District is a lot better than your own well and good, but I do not think any Canadian would care to admit that fact, so get busy. Call a meeting of the local co-operative society and see what can be done to control the middleman and put the farmer in a position to have a say in regard to the prices of the products which he buys and sells.

E. C. C.

Fitting Dairy Cattle for the Show.

The breeder of pure-bred dairy cattle who has at heart the interests of his breed and who aspires, ultimately, to the success enjoyed by the large breeders, must sooner or later enter the show ring. Every breeder ought to exhibit some place, if it is only at the local fall fair. The show ring is the best possible school for the breeder since it is here one may expect to find such characteristics and factors in breeding as size, type, strength, constitution, udder development, veining, breed standards, etc., applied by the judge in such a manner that all who desire to do so may benefit from his decisions. Just in passing it may be noted that if the dairy cattle judge functions at our exhibitions and shows as an arbiter of dairy cattle standards, it is necessary that he should be selected with the greatest of care. Sometimes, it must be admitted, our shows fall short of accomplishing their true purpose in as much as the judges in successive years have different ideals as regards type and the breeder whose cattle may please one judge will be disappointed the following year. Judges should be chosen—and their selection insisted upon by breeders—whose combined work in the ring will tend toward a standardization of type in the herds of all exhibitions. Not only is this advisable, but, because there are many exhibitions including several large ones, all of which may be visited by a number of breeders, the standards of type for all should be in close conformity.

In addition to the value of a show or exhibition as a school for breed type and conformation there is the fact that events of this kind are reliable indicators of the kind of live stock kept in the surrounding territory. Shows reveal the character and progressiveness of the live stock breeders and are, in fact, splendid advertising mediums. The breeder owes it to his business to exhibit. Few successful exhibitors wait until they can "clean up" a show before entering the ring. There are tricks in every trade, and experience is necessary in exhibiting as in breeding or feeding. At the same time it can only be secured by trying, and the wide-awake breeder who has definite ideals toward which he is working need not be afraid to enter the lists. In some respects the best way to achieve ultimate success in the show ring is to fail at first.

GETTING READY FOR THE SHOW.

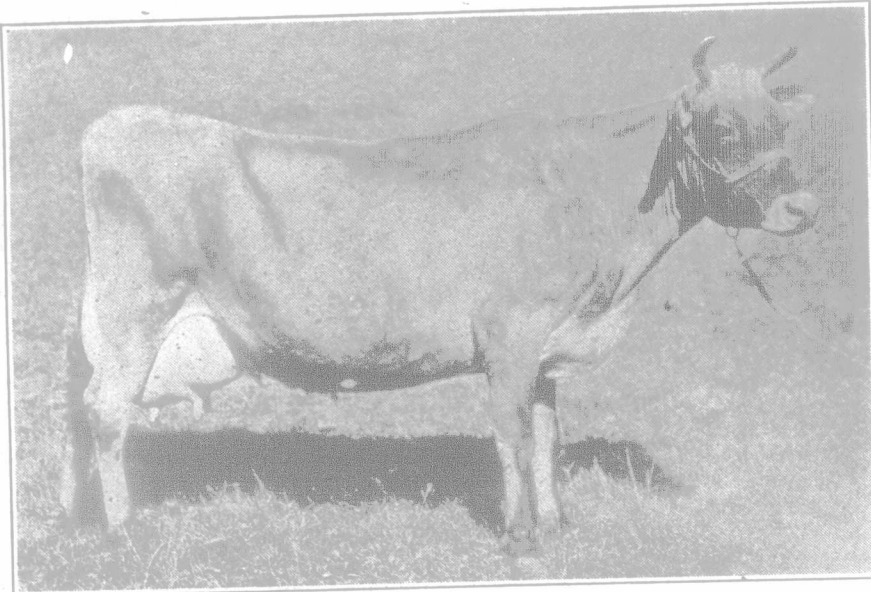
As soon as one show is over it is never too early to begin getting ready for the next one. Successful exhibiting in stiff competition means plenty of work. This in itself is often the reason why so many breeders do not exhibit, but it should be remembered that it must be considered worth while by other breeders if they will exhibit in spite of the necessary work. If a considerable number of animals can be shown, an effort should be made to show in as many classes and groups as possible. It is doubtful policy, however, to show in all classes merely because one has animals of the correct age or breeding. A good animal is the only advertisement worth while, and while all cannot get in the prize money, it is no disgrace to be left out of the prize money except in a poor class. One occasionally sees classes where the first prize winner is none too deserving, although the best in the class, while in other classes the competition may be so keen that those outside of the money are splendid examples of the breed. It is therefore up to the breeder to use his very best judgment in selecting members of the show herd and a second choice is advisable for every class in case something happens to the first choice. It is wisdom also to select the show herd with an eye to the "progeny of dam" and "get of sire" classes, since the same animal may do for two or

more entries. Some breeders with large herds show two or more animals in the same class. This may be because there are several likely animals in the herd or because two animals may represent different types, and if the judge does not like one he may choose another. We prefer, however, to see a breeder stake all his chances in the ring on one type—that which he considers most desirable. Generally speaking, a five-year-old cow in milk, a three-year-old in milk, a dry cow three years old or over, a two-year-old heifer in milk, a senior and junior yearling heifer and two senior and two junior heifer calves will constitute a complete female herd. The male part of the herd contains the same age classification except that aged bulls are three years old or over and not four or five as in the case of cows. The bulls should be of such type, age and relationship that they can head the various herd and group classes, and if no three-year-old bull is available a two-year-old will do to head the senior herd. Thus thirteen animals, not counting substitutes, would provide an entry in every class provided by most shows, if the relationship of the animals were right.

FEEDING THE SHOW HERD.

Once the individuals of the show herd are selected it is a good idea to stand them together, as such an arrangement will enable the breeder to see how they are coming along in relation to each other, and it will be more easy to care for them. The reason for picking out substitutes early is so that they may be given the same care as the others, and they too should be separated along with the show herd. This separation should be made at least six or eight weeks previous to the first show. The first thing to do is to get the animals accustomed to the halter and lead rope. This can be done by leading them to water, by frequent exercise individually, and to some extent by keeping them haltered in the stable instead of standing in stanchions. Nothing is so disastrous to success in the show ring as an untrained animal that cannot be made to show off to the best advantage.

Feeding and conditioning are next in importance, and experienced showmen have pronounced a ration of bran, corn, oats, oil meal and salt to be the most practicable, because these are common feeding stuffs, comparatively easy to procure at the fairs. One ration recommended for cattle not badly run down is composed of three parts bran, three parts corn, three parts oats,



Financial King's Interest.

Jersey, mother of nineteen calves, that finished a test with 400 pounds fat after passing her twentieth birthday.

one part oil meal and fifteen pounds salt to every one thousand pounds of grain. If the animals are badly run down the bran may be omitted and the corn and oats each increased to five parts. From four to six weeks of this ration should put the animals in good flesh. Those who recommend this ration advise feeding three times daily and as much grain as the animals will clean up well. Coarse ground corn and rolled oats should be used so as to add bulk to the ration and aid digestion. Some also advise wet feeding of grain and feeding separately from other feeds so as to get the most rapid results. Silage may be fed and is very beneficial, but since silage is not available at most fairs it is wise to gradually cut off the silage for a week prior to the first fair. If the hide of certain animals is not in good condition, some additional oil cake in the ration will help. Some breeders rely on bran and oat chop to condition the hide.

CONDITIONING THE HIDE.

The condition of the animal's hide in the show-ring is important as indicating "quality" and "condition." Hence considerable attention should be paid to this aspect of fitting. The first step in treating the hide is a thorough washing, using plenty of soap and water. If necessary, washing should be repeated in order to get each animal clean and all stains removed, but too frequent washings tend to make the hair grow long and rob it of the oil necessary to make it lie straight and sleek. After washing, rinse all the soap out thoroughly and blanket as soon as possible. Blankets should cover the shoulders and hook bones of the animal, and should be fastened so as to stay on. This may be accomplished by a strap to pass around the throat and

by tape lines from the back end around the hind legs so that it will not slip from side to side. For best results flannel blankets are used next to the hide and underneath the outside one—which may be of old bran sacks washed clean, so long as the herd remains at home. When at the show light cotton blankets of any attractive and pleasing color, with perhaps the name of the herd printed on the side, are very effective. Animals with heavy, dry hides will require heavier blankets if the hide is to be well conditioned, and some showmen seem able to condition any hide for the ring. Frequent, if not daily, grooming is necessary, but severe curry combing should not be given. Sometimes coarse sand paper tacked on a block of wood is used instead, taking care not to affect the hide and working the way the hair lies. Use a soft brush for brushing and after the animal has been gone over, a flannel cloth dampened with olive oil will remove any remaining dust. Sometimes a hide is stiff and when felt in the usual way seems tight and almost likely to crack. This means work ahead and probably some extra oil meal in the ration. After brushing such an animal it is a good thing to rub well with the hair, using the palms of the hands so as to cause friction and warmth, which will bring out the oil. Working the hide with the hands will induce pliability, and perhaps a good coat of olive oil under an extra blanket will make the animal sweat. This oil may be rubbed in at the next grooming, and the condition of the hide improved by painstaking treatment in this way. Care should be taken not to use colored oils on white animals. Any stain can be pretty well removed from the tail by frequent washing with soap and water, with perhaps a few drops of bluing in the rinse water to help bleach it out. Brushing the tail is likely to remove some long hairs from the switch, which looks better in the ring if it is nice and bushy.

THE HORNS AND FEET.

Some exhibitors pay considerable attention to the horns of an animal, training and polishing them so that they make the head look more stylish. The horns may be turned in the desired direction while the animal is young, and there are several devices for doing so. The tips may be turned backward where desired by tying the animals to a manger and fitting metal caps to the tips from which wires or light ropes can be carried to pulleys at the rear wall of the stall, and these ropes weighted sufficiently to turn the horns. Other devices can be secured to keep the horns from spreading unduly. To some extent at least the shape of the horn can be made to conform to the ideal by trimming. The horn should appear neither rough nor too fine, and a coarse and fine rasp along with emery cloth of varying degrees of fineness can often be used to good advantage. After using a rough rasp to remove the rough surface, the fine rasp will help to shape the horn and remove the marks of the coarse rasp. A steel scraper or a piece of glass used lengthwise can follow next and then the emery paper, using the finer grades last and lengthwise of the horn. Polishing is not necessary until arrival at the show grounds, because the horns are likely to get scarred in transit.

The feet of show animals must be in good condition. If an animal's feet hurt, it cannot do well on its feet, and if it does not stand squarely it will not show to best advantage in the ring. A hack saw, chisel and mallet are sufficient for this work, and the hoof should be trimmed so that the halves will not pinch together, and so that the foot will present a neat appearance. Toes that are too long can be sawn shorter, and any hard horn on the bottom of the hoof that prevents the animal from standing squarely can be loosened with the chisel. Sometimes an unruly bull will require to be thrown before this work can be done, but if it is necessary to do this he may learn all the more quickly who is "boss."

CLIPPING AND TRAINING.

Clipping is advantageous in most instances, as it can be used to bring out the individuality of the animal and accentuate its dairy qualities. Just as the hair on a beef animal is curled or crimped so as to make it stand out and emphasize breadth and fleshing, so the clipping of dairy animals can be made to impart that angularity and wedge shape so much sought after. Skilful clipping of the under part of the body will also bring out any appearance of veining and milkiness connected with the udder. The tail is usually clipped from about six inches from the end of the tail bone, and the greatest of care is necessary in any clipping that is done to see that the clipped portion is made to blend well with the unclipped. It is not advisable to clip the hocks unless the hair is rough, and some do not like to clip the head either, but if it is done the animal should not be allowed to go into the ring with the hair standing out straight from the face, as it will do until it gets long enough to part. The neck is usually clipped and sometimes the line behind runs from in front of the shoulders below to behind the withers on top, but if this is done it is difficult, unless the clipper is an expert, to hide the clipping line. The body of the animal is not clipped unless for some special reason, known only to the owner.

Training animals for the ring is very important, and quietness and kindness are essentials. If time will permit, lead each animal around for a few minutes daily and get it accustomed to stand for some time in the position in which it shows off to the best advantage. Some cows, especially high-producing animals, are quite nervous; bulls are usually so. These should be gradually accustomed to handling so that when they are led into a crowded ring or when the judge approaches them they will be on their best behavior. Animals that have been poorly trained will start suddenly when touched and probably lower the back so as to detract 50 per cent.