

tained at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for the last six years with Ayrshires, Guernseys, Shorthorns and French-Canadians, is as follows:

Cost of Production of Milk:	
Ayrshires	52.36 cents per 100 lbs.
French-Canadians	57.64 " "
Guernseys	63.47 " "
Shorthorns	68.47 " "

The reader will see that the French-Canadian stands second.

Production of Butter:	
French-Canadians...	10.84 cents per pound.
Guernseys	10.97 " "
Ayrshires	11.88 " "
Shorthorns	14.54 " "

The cost of production for French-Canadian cows is somewhat lower than that of any of the three other breeds for butter. Some years, said Professor Grisdale, the French-Canadians made very much better records than that.

The percentage of profit from butter actually churned at the Buffalo test was as follows:

French-Canadians	134.2 per cent.
Jerseys	130.4 " "
Guernseys	129.7 " "
Polled Jerseys	125.6 " "
Red Polled	119.6 " "
Ayrshires	119.6 " "
Holsteins	97.1 " "
Brown Swiss	95.3 " "
Shorthorns	92.8 " "
Dutch Belted	79.9 " "

At the Ottawa Experimental Farm there were last year seven French-Canadian cows in milk, and taking the year's record, they produced by the sale of butter \$77.48 per cow. Taking into consideration that of these animals two were heifers, the return is very creditable. Of the individual records of those seven cows, Zamora is the best, with \$109.02; Fortune D'Oka comes next, with \$99.81; Poupee next, with \$97.01, and Inoquette, \$76. One of the heifers gave \$48.05; the other heifer, \$44.54, and a young cow, \$67.97. For a young herd it is a very good record.

The average percentage of fat of the Canadian cow's milk is between 4 and 5 per cent. It is scarcely ever below 4 per cent.; it is often above 5 per cent., reaching sometimes 6 per cent.

Briefly stated, the strong points of the French-Canadian cows are as follows:

They are the hardiest and the thriftiest dairy cows in existence.

They are very easy to keep.

There are no better foragers on pasture.

They are kindly, very tractable, and easily milked.

They are sure breeders; they seldom miss getting in calf.

Said Professor Grisdale, in the address above referred to: "We have never had a cow that failed to calve at the right time, and all breeders report the same thing. They are the surest breeders of any cattle that I know of."

They are the cheapest butter producers in existence. In that connection the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture of the Dominion, speaking before the National Live-stock Convention at Ottawa on the 5th February, 1908, said: "The Ayrshires, the Jerseys, the Holsteins and the Guernseys are all good dairy cattle, and each of them may prove to be the most profitable under certain conditions. I am myself a breeder of Guernsey cattle, with which I am well pleased; but I must say that the French-Canadian cow is the best-paying butter-producing machine which stands on four legs to-day."

WHY IS THE BREED NOT MORE WIDELY KNOWN?

Here it may reasonably be asked, why is the breed not more widely known, and why do the farmers who have it not make an effort to improve it and get more out of it than they do?

The answers to these questions are found in Professor Grisdale's address, and I will again quote him. "There have been many difficulties surrounding the development of this breed. First, they had to overcome the evil reputation worked up against them during the 30 years of prejudice and official condemnation. The people, during that period, became of the opinion that the cattle were of no earthly use, that they might as well get rid of them; the sooner the better. They allowed them to go down, to become less productive and neglected them generally. It has taken, probably, 35 years to overcome that setback.

"Then they are too easily kept. That may sound like rather an unusual statement, but it is true. They are too easily kept; that is, the farmers see them looking fairly well on very little feed, and they say: 'Oh, well, these cows don't want any more food, and we won't begin to give them any more.' So they give the Canadian cow enough to produce a certain amount of milk every day; but if they fed her better she would give

much better response. Just to give an example of what she can do. We purchased a cow from a farmer in the Lake St. John district six years ago. Since we have had her she has never produced less than \$100 worth of butter in a year, and in six years she has given over \$600 worth."

Then, again, there are not enough of records of herds and of individuals. That is coming though, and in a couple of years a sufficient number of them will have been made to overcome that setback. Finally, the breed has not been advertised properly; indeed, it has never been advertised at all.

THE HERDBOOK.

When the Foundation Herdbook was closed, 31st December, 1896, there were 5,307 cows and 922 bulls entered. In 1905, when the books were nationalized, there had been registered 6,593 females and 1,746 males. One hundred and twenty-eight animals were registered in 1906; 194 in 1907; 167 in 1908. The first volume of the Herdbook has just been issued. It contains 1,571 pedigrees.

The number of animals registered increases slowly, chiefly because there has been very little demand for the cows, and the farmers neglect to register. Many of them appear to think that the only reasons there are for registering at all are to permit them to compete at exhibitions; or, once in a while, when they sell a bull.

PROMINENT BREEDERS.

Amongst the prominent breeders, Arsène Denis, of County of Berthier, Que. (who keeps between 80 and 90 head), not only has the largest herd, and the most uniform herd as to type and color, but he is the most progressive, and has done more for the all-round improvement of the Canadian cattle than any other breeder. By using the two bulls, Prince Elegant and Vainqueur, which he found somewhere (so to speak), and brought into his herd, he has done more to build up the breed than all that has been done by the other breeders put together.

Mr. Denis has bred and developed the Champion family, one of which was at the Pan-American test, and came out first or second there. Now the females of this family are to be found all over, easily heading the list, both as dairy cows and as show cows. Mr. Denis is President of the French-Canadian Cattle-breeders' Association of Canada.

T. B. Macaulay, the Vice-President of the Association, keeps quite a herd of French-Canadian cattle at Mount Victoria Farm, Hudson Heights, Que. He has done a great deal in the last seven or eight years in the interests of these cattle. His ambition is to build up a special strain of the breed, which will be remarkable for its milking qualities, to confine himself to one or two families, and to follow line breeding within these families very closely.

Among the other noted breeders may be mentioned Hon. N. Garneau, who, though he never kept a large herd, has done a great deal in advocating the interests of the breed; Ls. Sylvestre, St. Théodore d'Acton; Ls. Thounin, Repentigny; Joseph Coulombe, St. Norbert (Berthier); Ged. Garceau, Pointe-du-Lac; the Trappistes Monastery, Oka; the Ursulines Monastery, Roberval. The reader is already aware that the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has a herd of Canadians.

Many new herds have been started lately by a number of our foremost men in Canada, such as Sir Wm. Van Horne, in New Brunswick; near Montreal, Sir Hugh Allan, Sir Lionel Guest, Hon. S. A. Fisher; Macdonald College, at Ste. Anne de Bellevue. A herd is at present under consideration for British Columbia.

Quite a number of States through the Union have herds; in fact, they have made such progress over there that they have formed a Breeders' Association, of which C. E. Colburn, Portlandville, N.Y., is President, and opened a record book.

CONCLUSION.

Canadians do not need to import from abroad expensive animals to improve their dairy stock, for they have in the Dominion itself a race that is entitled to the very front rank, and which has before it a great future. Combining, as this breed does, unequalled hardiness, ability to pick up a living on rugged pasture, and to thrive on ordinary food, docility, beauty, marked profitableness, abundance and richness of milk, persistency in milking, thriftiness, which permits a greater number of heads to be kept, it is evidently the stock par excellence which Canadian dairymen should use to improve their herds. J. A. COUTURE, Quebec Co., Que.

Even the wild animals accommodate themselves to changed surroundings. "Years ago," writes A. A. Titus, in the Winnipeg "Farmer's Advocate," "a coyote avoided a four-strand barb-wire fence. Lately, I built a fence of nine-wire woven and three strands of barb woven on top by hand, the whole being 56 to 58 inches high, and one coyote went over it weekly, in sight of the herder. In the early days coyotes looked at little lambs, but feared to go near the ewes to get them. Now, a faithful herder, a gun and a pack of killing hounds are just little enough to guarantee security, and they cannot do it if the bushes about the pasture are large enough to shelter."

THE FARM.

Poisoned the Sparrows.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is a well-known fact that the English sparrow does an enormous amount of damage during the year to the grain crops of Eastern Canada. The quantity of grain wasted by these birds during harvest, and afterwards, where they have access to granaries and poultry-yards, would go a long way towards paying the farm taxes. Nor do they confine themselves to the destruction of grain. They are detrimental to the farmer in other ways. They are the worst enemy with which our field and orchard birds have to contend. The annual decrease in the number of our beneficial birds is quite noticeable, especially the swallows and orchard birds, whose nesting habits bring them within the limits of the sparrow's special territory. Eggs innumerable are destroyed each spring by these little tyrants, many young birds are killed, and the old ones driven from their homes, to find nesting places where best they can later in the season, allowing only one brood, where otherwise there would have been two. Now, every broken egg and every young bird's death means increased activity in insect life, as innumerable insects are destroyed every summer by each swallow and each individual of our song-birds (of which there are many species), whose special sphere is the orchard. Spraying for the destruction of insects could almost be dispensed with if we could only exterminate the English sparrow.

The discussion in "The Farmer's Advocate" last winter would surely stimulate some, at least, to try some of the ways suggested. Shooting is effective for only a short time, as the flock soon gets wise, and stays at a farm where there is no gun. Sparrow matches have done much to rid the locality in which the hunt was carried on, but the main feature of the match is the supper, and when it is over the sparrows again gather from other quarters and lead a quiet life till spring. Just here I would like to ask farmers to protect the little owl which often frequents the barn dur-



Pure-bred Yorkshires.

Winners of first prize in their class for sow 9 months and under 15, first for barrow and for sow 6 months and under 9, Ontario Winter Fair, 1909. Exhibited by R. F. Duck & Sons, Port Credit, Ont.