

FARM AND DAIRY

RURAL HOME

SOME BIG THINGS BEING DONE BY NEW YORK STATE HOLSTEIN BREEDERS

An Editor of Farm and Dairy visits several leading American Holstein breeders and finds out how they do things. Big Prices for the Right Cattle. How they are Bred and Cared For.

PRICES so big that one can hardly believe them prevail for Holstein cattle of the most popular breeding in the United States. Until one goes and sees it is difficult to understand how there could be value in the animals for these prices, and, indeed, the same may be said of many Holsteins raised in Canada that have been sold in recent years! Two weeks ago one of the editors of Farm and Dairy spent several days in New York State amongst leading Holstein breeders, made the personal acquaintance of these breeders, saw their high class stock, photographed them, and brought back information and pictures to be published in Farm and Dairy, in order that our Canadian breeders may have a better idea of just what is doing in Holstein circles in the United States.

Amongst the more noteworthy Holstein individuals we saw, were several world record females; the \$10,000 bull, purchased about a year ago at public auction by Jno. Arfmann; Pontiac Koradyke, the greatest living Holstein bull, and which commands a regular service fee of \$500; and the great King of the Pontiacs, which sire is at the head of the world's greatest herd of Holstein cattle.

BIG PRICES FOR POPULAR HOLSTEINS

Occasionally we hear remarks to the effect that "This Holstein 'craze' will soon die out." We are told that high prices such as are now current for Holsteins cannot prevail much longer. . . . We will grant that on first thought prices ranging from \$400 up to \$10,000 per head for Holsteins do seem abnormal. Few there are of course selling for this latter figure. These high-priced cattle are unusually good individuals, and they have breeding' back of them to warrant the high prices.

While on this trip we saw several cows for which \$2,500 per head had been paid. We saw quite a few cows for which practically no amount of money would be accepted. We saw one cow for which a breeder was putting up \$1,200 for her next calf, and was providing the bull at a service fee of \$500, making all told \$1,700, which he would pay for that cow's next calf, to let it bull or heifer!

THE REASON FOR HIGH PRICES

These high prices for Holsteins do not merely happen. There must be a reason for them. There must be something to warrant these high prices being paid. The following is how we figure it:

On account of their large milk and butter production—quite a few individuals having made upwards of 26,000 lbs. of milk and considerably over 600 lbs. of butter in 365 days—Holsteins have become tremendously popular. The number of pedigrees issued by the American Holstein-Friesian Association to date is somewhere about 100,000 or Holstein females. At least 100,000 of the animals represented by these numbers have passed out of existence. Possibly 30 per cent of the remainder are young stuff not yet bred. This

means that there are less than 60,000 Holstein breeding females in the United States to-day to satisfy the would-be purchasers and breeders of Holstein cattle. Consequently the demand being great, high prices are readily realized. It would seem from this reasoning that Holsteins are as yet far from being at their "peak."

BIG COWS AND BIG RECORDS

We were impressed with many things about these Holsteins, and their breeders on the American side, other than the high prices which many of them command. We were taken with the type of the cattle. These high-priced beauties are re-

Inner Secrets from Holstein Men

A great fund of inner secrets and invaluable information to all dairy cattle men, breeders, and especially Holstein breeders, has been obtained first hand by one of the editors of Farm and Dairy, who recently spent some time over in New York State visiting leading breeders of Holstein cattle.

A summary outline of some of this information is given in the articles on this page. Several human interest articles giving the actual experiences of leading New York State Holstein breeders, who have built up a great success, will follow in early issues of Farm and Dairy. These articles will prove to be intensely interesting to your friends and neighbors. They would thank you for telling them about these articles and giving them a chance to read them.

Holstein breeders will recognize in these articles, many things of encouragement for their breed here in Canada, and will serve themselves and their breed greatly by giving the widest publicity possible in their respective neighborhoods to these articles.

quired to pay their way. They are the cows that are making the big records of milk and butter production. To do this they required grand constitutions, big frames, capacious udders, great nervous development and quality and ability to consume great quantities of feed. As our readers may surmise, we found these cattle possessing these characteristics.

ANTICIPATING THE 40-LB. COWS

Some of these cows we saw have records exceeding 37 lbs. of butter in one week. Many of them have made records better than 30 lbs. in 7 days. (Perhaps here it may be interesting to note that we met several breeders who prophesied that by the time the next volume of the blue-book appears there will be eight or ten 40-lb. cows recorded therein.)

As may be supposed we found these cows in splendid condition. These breeders recognize that enormous quantities of milk and butter cannot be produced out of air and water alone—but come from feed consumed. These breeders we found to be enthusiastic in caring for their cows. They were studying each individual. They pursue an entirely different tack to some breeders we have known who try to see how little the cattle

can get along on—they study to see how much they can get their cows to take and convert into milk and butter.

STARTING IN FOR YEARLY RECORDS

The seven-day records for milk and butter production are of course talked by all of the breeders. But they are now going after records of yearly production as well. They realize that the semi-official record for yearly work, along with the 7-day and 30-day records, adds much to the value of a cow. Several of these breeders we met are aiming to give every cow in their herds a semi-official yearly record, and are starting in to do this work on their big herds of from 100 to 150, and in some cases more, females.

The eradication of tuberculosis from their herds is engaging the attention of the larger breeders we visited. Some of them are following out the Bang system, of which considerable has been said in the columns of Farm and Dairy in recent years. One herd, that at the Woodcrest Farm, at Rifton, Ulster Co., has been placed under the Federal government supervision. The scheme is working out to be a great success.

HEALTHY STOCK FROM TUBERCULOUS COWS

We shall go into this subject fully in a subsequent article in an early issue of Farm and Dairy. Suffice it here to say that we saw one herd of cows, 57 individuals, all condemned as being tuberculous, yet producing stock absolutely healthy, and amongst which during the past two years, not one reactor has been found. These 57 cows represent a value of somewhere between \$1,500 and \$3,000 per head. Were they to be slaughtered a bonus of approximately \$100 per head would be allowed by the Federal government. These cows, stabled in their isolated quarters on a farm separate from all other stock, were the most valuable working herd of Holsteins we ever had the privilege to inspect. Think what a calamity it would be to slaughter all of these cows! Think what a remarkably fine thing it is that these cows can be preserved and stock absolutely healthy be raised from them. As stated, we shall in an early issue describe this place fully and tell all about how this farm is working out the Bang system, which is practical for our Canadian breeders.

TAKING SPECIAL CARE OF YOUNG STOCK

There was much other information and many ideas that we gained on this trip down through New York State, visiting Holstein breeders, but our space demands that we give it in subsequent issues. Before concluding, however, we must take a special care of their young stuff. They are taking every advantage of their opportunities to get the greatest growth in their cattle while young, and at which time growth can be made most economically. They aim to get their size when they are bred; then they do not need to look for it afterwards. They seem all the while to be studying how they can make their young stuff do even a little bit better—quite the opposite from the practice that we find so generally in vogue as expressed in the following: "O, those calves are big enough to take care of themselves now! We will tend to them later when they are about to calve."