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NETHERLAND (H. H. Bk. 32)

We present to our readers in this issue, a fine portrait of the *imported Holstein* cow, Netherland Dowager, (H. H. Bk., 2632) imported and owned by Messrs. Smiths & Powel, Syracuse, N Y.

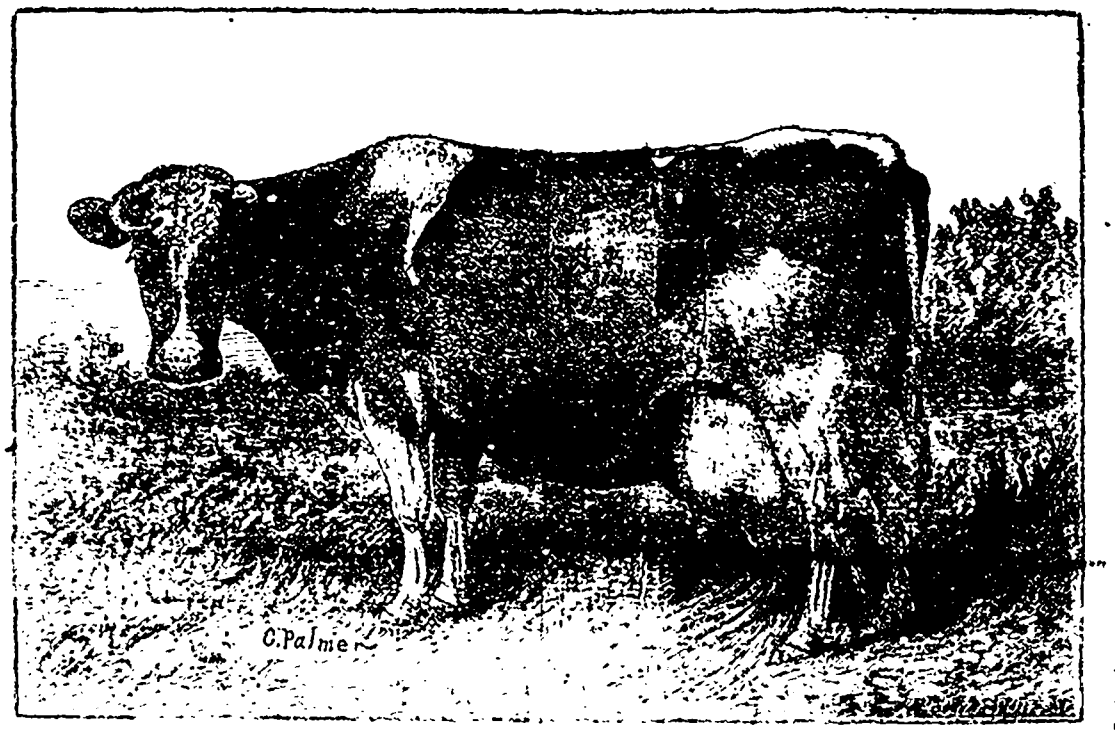
She was calved March 1874, and is therefore 10 years old and a grand specimen of a Holstein. Her sire was a district bull of Beemster, and her dam Oude Schemmel has a record of *over 80 lbs in a day.*

Netherland Dowager gave in Holland, just before importation 91lbs in a day. The first season in this country after importation, and before she was acclimated, she gave 12,734 lbs., 2 oz.

Netherland Gem, a daughter of Netherland Dowager gave, as a two-year-old, 7,695 lbs., 11 oz., in eight months and twenty days, at which time she was sold for $1000.

The Lakeside herd, of which Netherland Dowager is a member, now numbers over seven hundred head, having been increased this year by importations of about four hundred head of the best specimens that could be found. Every animal was selected by a member of the firm in person, a fact that is a guarantee of their high quality and excellence.

We would advise any of our readers who may be interested in this justly popular breed of cattle, to visit this herd, or at least correspond with Messrs. Smiths & Powell.



CUCUMBERS FROM CUTTINGS.

When once a few cucumber plants have been raised and become large, the best way is to propogate them from cuttings. Cuttings are very easily rooted and they begin to bear immediately. They will produce fruit fit for cutting in half the time plants from seed will. We have cut good fruit from cuttings when three weeks old. The best parts to make cuttings of are the ends of the young fruiting shoots. As it is often necessary to stop these, the pieces taken off may be made into cuttings in the ordinary way. They may then either be placed in the mounds of earth in which the old plants are growing, or potted singly in small-sized pots. In stopping cucumbers, we often put the pieces *taken off, in* round the margin of the mounds, and can always find young plants when any are wanted. Rooting them in pots is also a very good plan; it is astonishing how quick they strike root into any light, sandy mixture and from pots they are easily transferred to the fruiting beds. The cuttings being made of shoot-bearing small fruits, these very often remain fresh and good, and swell up immediately they are planted out. It is in this way plants from cuttings bear fruit so soon and freely, as they do not make long stems like the seedlings before emitting side shoots on which the fruit is borne, and the main stems of the cutting plants *fruit too,* some being produced only an inch or two from the soil.

As a rule, seeds of new and valuable cucumbers are sent out in very small quantities, half a crown for a dozen seeds being no unusual price, and when half of these are bad or fail to germinate, the cultivator may be put to some little inconvenience on account of the smallness of his stock; so long, however, as I had one plant of any kind, I would not trouble myself about seed failures, or more seed, as I could raise plants by the dozen, if necessary from cuttings. In the case of almost every kind of cucumber where numbers of plants are grown, one or more will come better than the rest. The only way, therefore, of securing more of the same sort is to resort to cuttings. In raising plants for late autumn and winter fruiting, the cutting plan is by far the best. Cuttings can be taken from the most fruitful of the summer plants, and plants thus raised will be very short-jointed and fertile, while seedling plants might be rambling over the trellis.

PEA BUGS.

Coal oil will destroy the festive pea-bug. It is a specific for the purpose. A gallon and a half of coal oil is sufficient for sixty bushels. The seed to be purfied of bugs is spread in the bottom of a bin to the depth of a few inches. Then with a fine watering-can, the spout of which is flattened and perforated on the under side with fine holes and the oil is applied. Very little does for a depth of three inches; the rake soon covers all the peas with a coating of oil. Then a second layer is put on and similarly treated.

TRANSPLANTING CELERY PLANTS.—As soon as celery plants are an inch or two high they should be transplanted. Merely moving them in the same bed will answer fully as well as setting them out elsewhere. The bed should receive a little water at first, or just enough to make the soil moist; then take them up and transplant, using a sharp-pointed stick, called a dibble, for making the holes and pressing the soil against the root of each plant as set. The plants should be set about four inches apart each way, or if one has plenty of room they may be set in rows, and wide enough apart to admit of hoeing between; but the former is the more usual practice, and answers the purpose well, for the principal object of transplanting is to give them sufficient room for growth until the plants are wanted later in the season for setting out in rows, in places where they are to be cultivated, and the stalks blanched and prepared for home use or the market. After transplanting, it is well to apply water sufficient to settle the soil about the roots and prevent the leaves wilting. Celery plants treated in this manner can always be removed later in the season without danger of loss, and their growth will be checked but slightly, if at all, by removal even in dry weather, provided the soil about their roots is moist when they are taken up.

HAY MAKING.—Hay is valuable in proportion to the quantity of sugar and albumen it contains, which makes it, when properly handled, a sweet and palatable food for animals. The period of cutting is of mportance. If grass is cut when richest in sugar, it will make, when cured, the most digestible food for animals. It will then be greedily consumed, leaving no waste in the manger. Such hay will fatten stock readily, and will keep in good condition work animals, with but little other grain for feeding. The proper period for cutting grass is when the blossom in clover has turned a trifle brown, and when the flowers begin to fall in timothy. Of course this cannot always be done. Other work may interfere, or storms may occur and prevent us cutting at the proper time. When grass is cut too green it will make a rank, green hay: if cut too ripe, it will be woody.