

The Story of How a Young Canadian Has Achieved Sudden Fame

Through His Record Breaking Dairy Cattle

WHAT do you think of this for a made-in-Canada world's record? A junior two-year-old heifer, Canadian-bred and Canadian-owned, has under official supervision produced 19.07 lbs. of butter in one week almost 12 months after freshening. Mr. W. E. Mason, Tyrrell, Ont., is the owner of this wonderful heifer. Even in this age when breeders of pure-bred dairy cattle are improving the producing ability of their cattle so rapidly, "that the announcement of one world's record is hardly dry on the paper before another greater record is ready to be heralded throughout the land," this record is altogether phenomenal. Another of Mr. Mason's Holsteins, a senior three-year-old, has just established two Canadian records, she producing more butter in one year than any other senior three-year-old entered in the Canadian Record of Performance test, and has also to her credit more milk and butter-fat made eight months after calving than any other Canadian cow in her class. Hearing of the great things that Mr. Mason is doing with his Holstein herd, one of the editors of Farm and Dairy recently visited his Norfolk county farm and inspected his champions.

We were most interested in the junior two-year-old, Ardella De Kol Tensen. Mr. Mason started her on her Canadian record-making seven-day test just 357 days after entering her yearly test when she was five months gone in calf.

She produced 304.3 lbs. of milk, 15.26 lbs. of fat and 19.07 lbs. of butter. Her milk tested up to five per cent butter fat and over. The only junior two-year-old with a record comparable with this one is Woodcrest Rifton Lassie, holder of the previous world's record of 383.9 lbs. of milk and 14.797 lbs. of fat. This record, however, was made just 250 days after calving. The highest record made by a junior three-year-old 350 or more days after calving is that of Miss Pietertje Johanna De Kol with 296.1 lbs. of milk and 10.845 lbs. of fat. It will thus be seen that Mr. Mason's heifer has produced almost 50 per cent more milk and fat than has any other heifer in her class, making her record under the same conditions, and reported in the last American year book. Outside of the mature cow classes the only eight months after calving record to compare with that of Ardella is that of De Kol Mutual Countess, with 19.2 lbs. of fat, made 295 days after freshening in the junior three-year-old class. In Record of Performance Ardella produced 16,704.6 lbs. of milk and 668.3 lbs. of fat, or 1.8 lbs. more fat than Jennie Bonerges Ormsby, the champion of the class. Unfortunately Ardella will be a few days late in calving to qualify. For her seven-day records Mr. Mason had two inspectors on hand to certify to the correctness of the great re-

cords he fully expected to make—and did.

HIS COLLEGE TRAINING

Mr. Mason is a Guelph college man. He always intended to be a farmer, and when his father gave him a chance to attend the Ontario Agricultural College, he was quick to avail himself of the opportunity. He spent two years at the O. A. C., Guelph, studying the science of agriculture, which he has since been putting into practice. On leaving college in 1902 he immediately assumed full charge of the home farm, comprising 150 acres of the best soil in Norfolk.

Mason that he selected his foundation herd of pure-bred Holsteins of the same blood lines as these two cows. Almost all of his Holsteins to-day are of Tensen breeding, and the majority are descended from these two cows.

As a breeder, Mr. Mason has endeavored to maintain the size and constitution of his animals through good feeding and judicious breeding. "I like to get my heifers well grown at one year old," he remarked to our editor. "What can you expect of a heifer that is only a runt at 12 months?" To maintain this size Mr. Mason has fed liberally and avoided

producers he had until he started into official test work four ago.

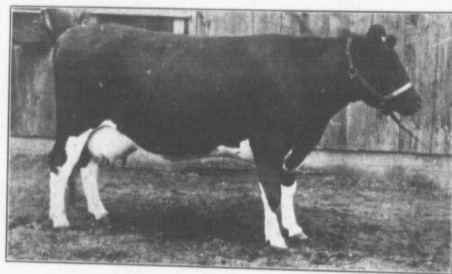
NO PREPARATION FOR TEST

Mr. Mason might not have been in official test work yet had not one of his neighbors wished to enter some cows in the Record of Performance and induced his friend Mason to go in with him in order that there would be enough cows in the neighborhood to make it worth the while of an inspector to go to Tyrrell. He was not prepared for record making. His two-year-old heifer was only in fair shape and his senior three-year-old, Daisy Tensen Pouch, had been dry only three weeks before freshening. She calved on March 20th, 1912, was started in her yearly test and dropped the next calf in just 10 days over the 12 months. In addition, she was very thin. Mr. Mason soon found, however, that in these two cows he had something worthy of the best attention, and he did his best from then on through judicious and careful management to make up for the handicap under which they started.

Daisy closed her year with 16,704.6 lbs. of milk and 668.3 lbs. of fat to her credit. This gives her a margin of 3,264.8 lbs. of milk over Jennie Bonerges Ormsby, but she is somewhat below the latter cow in fat. This is the greatest milk production recorded to any senior three-year-old in Canada, and only two cows in America recorded in 1911 and 1912 in her class have made more milk. Ten months after calving Mr. Mason gave her a seven-day test, in which she produced 247.9 lbs. of milk and 8.68 lbs. of fat, equivalent to 10.84 lbs. of butter. The highest senior three-year-old record reported in the last Canadian year book is 7.6 lbs. of fat. Mr. Mason's heifer being champion by a good margin. Her test, however, will not be reported as Mr. Mason did not realize in time what a grand animal he had, and she was not subjected to an R. O. M. test in the first part of her lactation period. As will be seen by the illustration on this page, she is a grand big cow, and in splendid shape to make a still greater record in her next lactation period.

A COMING CHAMPION?

Another animal in Mr. Mason's herd of which we will hear in the near future is the two-year-old heifer, Nina Tensen, illustrated on this page. She weighs 1,410 lbs., and is in splendid condition for testing. She is closely related to Daisy, and on the sire's side is a sister to Ardella. She is the most promising prospect for record making that we have seen in a long time. Mr. Mason's herd is a small one at present, consisting of 11 milk cows and some young stock. Two of the cows are half-sisters to his world champion heifer, and almost all of them are bred along the same lines. The pick among the younger stock is Daisy's heifer, a yearling, looking as big as a two-year-old. To match his



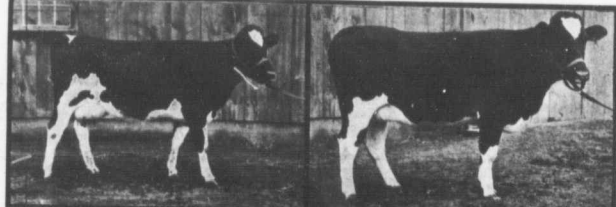
A Grand, Good Cow and Champion Producer in Her Class

In this cow, "Daisy Tensen Pouch," we have embodied the ideals of her owner. She weighed 1,600 lbs. as a three-year-old—her great middle—indicative of feed Mason's herd. In R. O. P. under adverse circumstances she produced 19,628 lbs. of milk and 598 lbs. of fat, freshening within 15 months. In an official test 10 months after calving she made 267.5 milk and 10.84 lbs. butter. Both of these records are greater than all previous records made by a senior three-year-old in Canada.

Photos by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

Mr. Mason always had good dairy cows, and on three occasions his herd of grade Holsteins stood high in the Herds competitions conducted by the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association. In the same district were several pure-bred Holsteins, and these Mr. Mason soon saw were better producers than the best of grades. An uncle of his had two big, strong cows of the Tensen family that were remarkable milkers. They looked so good to Mr.

early breeding, there being no senior yearling milkers in his herd except by accident. As a result his cows are all great, large animals, splendidly constituted, great feeders and as the records that they are making prove, they are milkers that are hard to beat. Mr. Mason has for years had evidence that his ideas were right,—this from the size of his income from his dairy herd, but he never knew just what phenomenal



Typical Representatives of a Herd that has Achieved Sudden Fame

For years W. E. Mason, Tyrrell, Ont., has been keeping big, strongly constituted cows and great milkers but did not start official test work until this last year when he entered to oblige a neighbor. Result, two-year-old produced 19.07 lbs. butter in 7 days, 357 days after calving. (Almost 50 per cent greater than for a two-year-old.) In 12 months she produced 16,704.6 lbs. of milk and 668.3 lbs. of fat. How is that fact she is a big strong heifer and will make an exceptionally large cow. As a matter of fact, related to Ardella in blood lines, weighed 1,410 lbs. when two years old. As will be seen she is in good condition, a wonderfully strong individual, and Mr. Mason expects to make a great record with her too when she freshens, which will be soon. In one short year Mr. Mason, through testing, has placed himself right in the front rank with our greatest breeders of Holsteins.

—Photos by an editor of Farm and Dairy.