



## Wider Markets for Pure Bred Dairy Cattle

**W. A. Clemons, Sec'y, Holstein-Friesian Ass'n of Canada**

IS it desirable to widen the market for pure bred dairy cattle, particularly for pure bred bulls? If so, why?

Canada has approximately 3,000,000 cows; yet this country is importing milk from the United States and butter from New Zealand. We exported no butter in 1912, and our export cheese trade is rapidly dwindling.

This condition of affairs is not pleasant to contemplate when we consider that Canada is naturally blessed with agricultural possibilities equal to those of any other country in the world.

It is highly desirable, therefore, that we have more and better cows, particularly in the Western Provinces, where the consuming population is increasing at such a rapid rate. We have in Canada possibly 50,000 pure bred dairy females of all breeds, and comparatively few can be imported from other countries. How, then, can we hope to obtain more and better cows? Not to any great extent by the distribution of pure bred females, for a century of breeding would not yield a sufficient number of pure bred to supply the country's needs.

### THE MISSION OF PURE BRED STOCK

Practically all improvement in the number and the producing capacity of our cows must come through the process of grading up with good, pure bred sires of the dairy breeds, combined, of course, with better care and selection. What, then, is the mission of pure bred stock of all kinds? The answer is: "To produce the prepotent sires necessary for the improvement of the ordinary stock of the country."

Breeders will agree with me that at the present time the majority of their sales (possibly 75 per cent.) are made to men who are already owners of pure bred stock. There is a steady demand on the part of the smaller breeders for more and better cows. Beginners in considerable numbers are always ready to pick up a cow or two for foundation stock at prices that appeal to them. On this account pure bred females scarcely ever fail to find a market at a profit to the seller. Practically all the heifer calves are raised, and these become money makers for their owners

immediately after freshening. Accordingly, little effort is needed to widen the market for pure bred females. There is a ready market now at good prices for all that can be produced, pro-



**College Herds Tend to Widen the Market for Pure-bred Dairy Cattle**

This photo, by an editor of Farm and Dairy at Macdonald College, Que., shows a mixed herd of pure-bred Ayrshires, Holsteins and French Canadians. Who can say how many dairy farmers have been inspired with a love for good stock through inspecting the splendid dairy herds maintained at our agricultural colleges? The importance of the college example in this connection can not be overestimated.

vided always that the animals show capacity at the pail.

### THE SURPLUS BULLS

It is when we come to the question of finding a market for the surplus bulls that difficulties begin to loom up. If Canada is to do her share as a producer of dairy goods, we must have and use large numbers of pure bred dairy bulls from good milking dams. The problem of finding a market at paying prices for all the useful bull calves that breeders can raise is one of vast importance, not only to the breeders themselves, but to all who are interested in the welfare of the Canadian dairy industry.

Breeders of Holstein-Friesians have perhaps

less cause than others to complain of the bull market, but there can be no doubt that owners of high-class herds are slaughtering the bull calves from excellent cows rather than take the trouble to raise them to salable age. The demand for milk is so great and the price so good that little can be spared for feeding bull calves that will bring only \$50 or \$75 when fit for service. Two or three bulls from the best cows may be raised, as these meet a demand from owners of pure bred herds and fetch good prices. That inferior calves and calves from inferior dams should be slaughtered is a blessing. But that any large number of good useful bulls should meet a similar fate is a public calamity. Every good bull is urgently needed to assist in improving the quality and increasing the number of our dairy cows.

### FARMER MUST SEE A PROFIT

We hear a great deal nowadays of the education of the farmer. Farmers are proverbially conservative, and where advice is so abundant and cheap, they may be pardoned for being slow to accept it all. After all what leads a farmer to adopt any particular course of action in his agricultural operations. Nine times out of ten it is simply the conviction that it will pay him to do so. Our problem then is to convince the dairy farmers that it will pay them to go into the raising of pure bred dairy cattle.

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**Pure-bred Females Find a Ready Market**

A string of pure-bred Holstein heifers as photographed by an editor of Farm and Dairy on the farm of G. A. Brethen, Peterboro, Co., Ont. The marketing of heifers such as these does not present serious difficulties.

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