

POINTERS IN THE SELECTION OF DAIRY COWS

By E. E. Rockwood in Hoard's Dairyman.

Without doubt the best way in which to fill gaps in the working herd or to increase present numbers lies in raising them from the best producers already on the farm.

Here are a few pointers for prospective buyers, suggestions which will be helpful to the unskilled in the art of selection.

The accepted standard calls for the wedge-shape, thin in front and wide in the rear, viewed from the front. And this description is further exemplified by the side view presenting a much greater depth of body at the flank than at the forward portion; ribs well sprung; paunch capacious.

The head should be clear cut, neck thin, eyes prominent and bright, muzzle broad, the latter indicative of a good feeder.

Importance of the Udder

Passing to the udder, that most important feature of a good dairy cow, it should be capacious, with teats well placed and of good size. While a pendulous udder is possessed by some big milkers a better type is the one which is broad, extending well up both back and front.

Other Points Desired

The milk-veins and milk cells, so-called, are other pointers in selecting the profitable cow. These should be large in a mature animal; of course, they do not contain milk, but indicate the direction of abundant supply of blood to the udder, something very essential in the elaboration of the lacteal fluid.

In summarizing, look for wedge shape, both front and side view, rugged spinal column with distinct arch over the hips, thin thighs which curve outward to accommodate a capacious udder, wide springing ribs and a well developed middle section or paunch, where a large amount of food must be assimilated.

Other features may suggest themselves, but these are the main points to be considered when buying. That there is much in outward indications of an animal's value was demonstrated a few years ago when Professor C. D. Smith of the Michigan Experiment station selected twenty cows from almost as many different herds and of no particular breeding, which when tested produced over 300 lbs. of butterfat each in a year.

The Grain Growers' Guide

G. F. CHIPMAN, Managing Editor

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

THE GUIDE IS THE ONLY PAPER IN CANADA THAT IS ABSOLUTELY OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY FARMERS. It is entirely independent, and not one dollar of political, capitalistic or special interest money is invested in it.

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DESTITUTION IN CANADA

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, who are well known in England as students and writers upon sociological and economic questions, have contributed to The Crusade, the organ of the National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution, an article upon conditions in Canada which contains much food for thought for those who are endeavoring to solve these vital social and economic problems which confront us in Canada today.

"It is refreshing," says the article, "for two people who have spent years in studying the problem of destitution in Great Britain to pass through another part of the British empire and find destitution practically unknown to the whole eight millions of its population. We have journeyed thousands of miles, rested in magnificent cities, counting their inhabitants by hundreds of thousands; passed over miles of cultivated fields and boundless prairies; gone through vast stretches of forest and seen the output of prolific mines; and in spite of whole districts of barren waste of rock and sagebrush, and of some overcrowded quarters of cities which are not far off being slums—we cannot say that we have seen even the smallest class of destitute persons. There are individuals in temporary distress. Here and there in the great cities you may find a roomful of persons—here and there in the shack you may find families who are in essentials below the poverty line. But the optimistic Canadians are right (and all Canada is just now more optimistic than the typical Western American) in feeling that, of destitution as a disease of society they have practically none."

Causes of Prosperity

The writers proceed to enumerate the causes of this wonderful prosperity—the free land; the variety of inventions and contrivances which help the homesteader to comfort where formerly his life was one of privation; the fact of a perfectly colossal and almost ubiquitous unearned increment in that the railways are constantly extending, the immigrant and British and foreign capital constantly pouring in, the values in land are momentarily increasing; new railways being built, new mines opened, new industries established; there is an insatiable demand for labor, inducing high wages and no unemployment even in winter.

"How long will this last?" continues the article. "It may easily be predicted that as soon as the unappropriated land practically accessible to the urban laborer becomes exhausted, the usual wage-earning proletariat will emerge."

Cities Still Uncivilized

The causes which produce destitution, say the writers, are already at work in Canada. "To put it shortly, the Canadian city is still essentially uncivilized—it is neither properly paved or drained, nor supplied with water fit to drink, nor equipped with any adequate health organization. After ages will wonder at the stupidity of a government and a people which take so much trouble to bring in immigration from every corner of Europe, and for sheer lack of public thought, let their own Canadian babies die in quite unnecessary holocausts, and for sheer lack of civic organization allow even the laborers brought over to be decimated by typhoid fever due to contaminated water supply. All this infantile mortality and adult sickness would show that the production of a destitute class is beginning. The elaborate eugenic precautions taken at the ports are being nullified by the production of cripples and degenerates in the interior. Presently, too, the problem of the widow and orphan, as yet almost unfelt, will begin to demand a wise collective provision. Finally, the absence of any adequate provision for training the Canadian youth so that he may grow up more than a manual laborer will presently lead to the unemployed problem. All this demands thought—thought which does not seem yet to be given."

MORE BARNARDO BOYS

A party of 300 Barnardo children sailed on the Corinthian Saturday for Canada. The total this year was 1,002.