

## LIVE STOCK.

### French-Canadian Cattle.

Though the breed of French-Canadian cattle is the oldest in America; moreover, the only one that was founded, developed and kept in all its purity for nearly three hundred years on this continent, its existence was not even suspected, outside of the Province of Quebec, previous to 1900.

#### HISTORY.

The French-Canadian cattle were brought over from France in the earliest days of the colony. Some were sent by the King, Louis XIV., who had instructed his Minister, Colbert, himself very eager to see the colony flourish, to send here only the best animals of the kingdom. Some others were brought out by the early settlers themselves, who came mostly from the Provinces of Normandy and Brittany. It is not known exactly at what time the first cattle arrived here, but we know that De Tracy, Intendant, and De Courcelles, Governor, brought out some with them in 1665, and that they reported that, on reaching Quebec, they found cattle similar to those they had brought, mostly all fawn or black in color.

The French-Canadian cattle are issued from the same strain as the Jerseys, the Guernseys, and the Keries. That is easily accounted for, by the fact that the Provinces of Normandy and Brittany are separated by but a narrow channel from the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, which are only a short distance from Ireland. The common origin of those four breeds is most evident by their resemblance to one another in certain points. For instance, the color of the French-Canadian is now that of the Jersey, then that of the Guernsey and that of the Kerry. Of course, it goes without saying, that the residence of those four breeds in their respective countries has developed in each of them certain distinguishing characteristics, which make them unequalled in those countries for which they are thoroughly adapted. Nevertheless, even now, that resemblance is so close that many a light-colored pure-bred Canadian cow can almost pass as a dark Jersey.

Up to 1850, with the exception of a few herds of Ayrshires and Shorthorns in the neighborhood of the towns and in the Eastern Townships, all the cattle of the Province of Quebec were of the pure Canadian breed, and the average French-Canadian farmer knew no other breed than his own little Canadian cow.

In 1853 the Board of Agriculture came into existence. It meant well, but knew little. And, from the very first year of its existence up to 1880, it made every effort to substitute the Ayrshire and other foreign breeds for the Canadian. The Board, having had its own way during those thirty years, succeeded, to a certain extent, in its work of substitution, not to say of destruction. But its success was complete in persuading the people that the French-Canadian cattle, those worthless animals, had fortunately been wiped out of the country. And, as Mr. Grisdale said, "In 1880 there was hardly a French-Canadian in the Province that thought enough of his cow to give her any more attention than he would to a dog."

In 1881, E. A. Barnard, Director of Agriculture for the Province; S. Lesage, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, and the writer, undertook, with the help of a few unprejudiced people, a campaign in favor of the Canadian cow, so as to rehabilitate this animal in the favor of the people. To begin with, we ascertained by visiting the whole Province that at least 75 per cent. of the cattle were quite free from foreign blood. Then we prevailed on the Government to open record books (1886); competition for the production of milk and butter was organized; lectures were given on the subject; some of the most intelligent farmers were induced to go for that breed, and herds were sent out to the great exhibitions.

In 1895 the writer organized the French-Canadian Cattle-breeders' Association. In 1900 the French-Canadian cows took part in the competition for the milking breeds at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and proved that they give the best return for the food consumed. About that time the Ottawa Experimental Farm bought a herd of Canadians. The reader will see below how satisfactory they have proved to be.

The achievement of the French-Canadian cattle at Buffalo attracted the attention of a number of far-seeing American breeders; among others, Mr. Boldt, proprietor of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, New York, who bought a herd for his farm at Britannia; Mr. C. E. Colburn, Portlandville, N.Y.; and others. Later on some were sent to Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Japan.

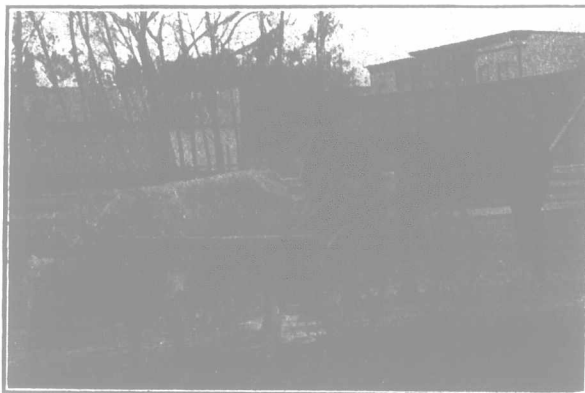
Though there are numerous herds of these cattle which are registered, there is a still greater number of unregistered animals, but equally as good, although the color is not that approved for registration.

#### DESCRIPTION.

As regards the description of the French-Canadian cattle, I can do no better than to quote Professor Grisdale, in his address before the Com-

mittee on Agriculture of the House of Commons, last winter:

"The cattle are, as a rule, rather small; the head is, generally speaking, fine cut, rather short and broad in the forehead; eyes clear and bright; horns rather long and slightly upcurved, white with dark points, or dark with white points; the muzzle usually strong and surrounded with a fawn ring. To-day, also, we like to see a rather light shade or line along the back. The neck of the animal is, generally speaking, of good length, rather slight and firmly attached to the shoulders. The shoulder blades are closely attached to the body; back straight, the parts of the back (the vertebrae) well separated, and the ribs well curving and widely separated. The cows are generally remarkable for good feeding qualities, having a good big barrel, and roomy digestive organs, indicating their great capacity as machines for turning out milk. There is no tendency to lay on



Drives Better than He Leads.

Going to Edmonton (Alberta) Market. Ox would not lead, so the owner drove him and led the horse.

flesh in this breed, and it must be distinctly understood that it is not a breed that is likely to be of much value for beef production. The udder is usually well attached, but quite often irregular in shape; teats good size. They are good handlers, having nice mellow skin."

The usual weight of an adult French-Canadian cow is from 700 to 900 lbs. The mature sire usually attains about 1,400 lbs. In color they may be either black, brown or fawn, but the approved color for registration is dark brown, with an orange or fawn colored strip down the back and around the muzzle. When the calves are dropped they are a solid red color, and they are nearly a year old before their distinctive markings are developed. French-Canadian cattle are attractive, with their active, but at the same time remarkably docile and tranquil manners, and their businesslike dairy appearance.

#### HARDINESS AND THRIFTINESS.

Endowed with the robust health of the northern breeds, acclimatized by three centuries of residence in this country, incomparably thrifty, no other breed of cattle possesses so many qualities, gives better returns for the care it receives and is more profitable for the generality of farmers than the French-Canadian breed of cattle.

As regards hardiness and thriftiness I may be allowed to make a few quotations.

"The long and cold winters of Quebec and the exposure to which these cattle (French-Canadian) have been subjected, have begotten in them a hardiness that is simply unrivalled in dairy cattle."—Professor Thos. Shaw, in "The Study of Breeds."

Professor Grisdale, of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, speaking on this subject before the Committee on Agriculture, said:

"They are hardy, and what we call good doers. I have seldom heard of the French-Canadian cow being sick. I suppose they do get sick and die, or get killed, but they are very seldom sick. I

must say this, that while we have not any more sickness amongst our animals than the average farmer, I do not remember ever having to dose a French-Canadian cow; whereas, sometimes, we have to give a Shorthorn a dose of something or other, and the same with the Guernseys or Ayrshires. We find the French-Canadians very hardy, and every breeder who has them, especially those who have them along with other breeds, make the same report, that they are the hardiest breed they know."

#### TEMPERAMENT.

Continuing, and speaking of the Canadian cow's temperament, Professor Grisdale said:

"In the second place, they are very easy to keep. They are easy to raise; they are easy feeders, gentle, easily milked and very cheaply raised."

"They are good foragers on pasture. The Ayrshire and French-Canadian are the best foragers we have. I don't know that there is much difference, but the French-Canadian is quite as good, if not better, than the Ayrshire. They are kindly and tractable. We very seldom find an irritable cow. Of course, we do not find many such in any other breed, but I can say as much about this breed."

"Again, for a man who wants a small family cow, I know of nothing that would look more attractive, and be more gentle to handle, or that would be liked better by the children or the people around than a French-Canadian cow. She is trim, tidy, easily handled, easily fed, easily milked, and a persistent milker."

#### PERSISTENCY IN MILKING.

The French-Canadian cows are noted for their persistency in milking; many of them giving milk almost the whole year round. Of course, the way to judge dairy cattle as a breed is by their records. We have not as yet enough records behind the breed to give it the high status that it deserves, and that it will have in a near future among the other dairy breeds. But we have enough to give the reader a proper idea of their merit in that respect. The Buffalo Pan-American dairy test, where ten breeds were represented by five of their best cows, showed that they were almost as profitable at the end of the six months' strain as at the beginning. It is believed that had the test lasted for one year, instead of for six months only, the Canadians, with their marked staying powers, would have shown their superiority in an even more decided manner. The five Canadian cows gave an average of 205 lbs. butter in the six months. This is not a remarkable amount, and a good many of the other breeds passed that, but where the Canadians had the advantage was in the economy of production. The cost of producing 100 lbs. of butter or milk with these cattle was considerably less than with most of the other breeds.

The cost of feed to produce 100 lbs. milk was as follows for the different breeds:

French-Canadians .....	45.8 cents.
Jerseys .....	51.0 "
Guernseys .....	50.5 "
Ayrshires .....	44.0 "
Holsteins .....	41.0 "
Shorthorns .....	54.0 "

The cost of feed to produce one pound butter was as follows for the different breeds:

French-Canadian .....	11.03 cents.
Jerseys .....	13.16 "
Guernseys .....	11.11 "
Ayrshires .....	11.61 "
Holsteins .....	13.18 "
Shorthorns .....	14.22 "

From which it will be seen that while the French-Canadians stood third in rank as cheap producers of milk, they easily stood first as cheap or economical producers of butter.

The cost of production of milk and butter, ob-



French-Canadians.