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Why you should take your Car out of Town for Repairs, as we can Re-bore your Engine, fit New Oversize Pistons, etc., much cheaper than any other firm. Electric Car-greasing and Special Break-down Truck always at your service—ready to take you home in case of accident or break-down.

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D. Power & Co., DUNGARVAN

Selecting for High Yielding Cows.

By A. D. Buchanan Smith (University of Edinburgh, Animal Breeding Research Department)

We have been favoured with some very interesting reprints of reports and lectures delivered from time to time by Mr. A. D. Buchanan Smith, of the University of Edinburgh Animal Breeding Research Department. In a report reprinted from the Lancashire County Milk Recording Society's Year Book last year he deals with the aims and objects of the constructive dairy breeder, and although the principles propounded may not be new to some of our readers, Mr. Buchanan Smith makes his case in such a trenchant manner that his remarks cannot fail to command attention and interest. He writes—

Bernard Shaw, in "John Bull's Other Island," says that there are only two qualities in the world: efficiency and inefficiency; and only two sorts of people: the efficient and the inefficient. We might carry this a bit further and apply it to the breeders of dairy cattle. Here we find the truth of the dramatist's words. There are two sorts of dairy breeders: the efficient and the inefficient, and it is not difficult to distinguish one from the other. The constructive dairy breeder who is efficient can always be spotted by the fact that he records his milk. The inefficient breeder has such a good conceit of himself that he thinks he can select his high-yielding cows by the use of his eye alone. The inefficient will continue to live in his Fool's Paradise until he goes bankrupt. Even then he will not realise why he has gone bankrupt because the lesson will never have been brought home to him that by the eye alone not even an estimate can be made of the approximate yield of a cow.

What judge would, in a class of twelve to eighteen month old heifers of a pedigree dairy breed, guarantee to select those five which will give the largest yields of milk, both quantity and quality, when they calve down. The eye may be of value in distinguishing a thoroughly bad beast from a good one, but the eye can certainly never be an accurate measurer of production in dairy cows. And why should we want the eye to measure production when we have the scales and Gerber test? It is palpably absurd that anyone should attempt to breed dairy cattle in a constructive manner and neglect the weapon that comes nearest to his hand.

Neglect on the part of the pedigree dairy breeder to record the milk which his cows give is equivalent to a general going into battle and leaving his ammunition behind.

It is not necessary, however, to stress the value of milk recording to members of a Milk Recording Society. It is like preaching to the converted. Anyhow, the following is based on the assumption that all who read this are aiming at efficiency in that they record their milk. Before going into details it must be clearly pointed out that heredity is only one of many factors governing increased yield of milk. Management and length of dry period, age and feeding, all these points must be taken into consideration if the maximum yield is to be obtained.

Let us suppose that we have taken all these things into consideration and that we have the records of our cows upon which to base the breeding operations of our herds. Performance at the pail is the first essential. We must remember that total milk yield and butter-fat yield are probably inherited more or less independently of each other. Butter-fat percentage is an expression of the one as compared with the other, and, therefore, should not be used as a basis for selection. To stress one of these points such as total milk yield, and to neglect at the same time butter-fat yield is to lead to depression in the butter-fat percentage of future generations. Unless the performance of a cow reaches the desired standard she should be discarded from the breeding herd.

The value of pedigree in the construction of our breeds cannot be over emphasised, but in the old days the number of pedigree animals was small. The animals of one breed tended to be located in one area, and hence the names of animals on the pedigree were more than mere names to the prospective purchaser of those days. By itself pedigree in dairy cattle, being merely a list of names, is of little value. But if, in addition, the pedigree has productive records, then it can be of great value to the constructive breeder.

What are the animals to which we should look? Let us take the pedigree of a heifer which we are thinking of buying. We want her to come up to our herd average of 800 gallons. In the first place her dam should have come up to that average. In the second place—and this is equally important—the dam of her sire should have been above the average; let us say 1,000 gallons. In other words, her paternal grand-dam should have been a good producer. She still has another grand dam, the dam of her mother, it will not matter greatly if the production of this grandmother is somewhat less than that of the dam because her breeding capabilities are expressed in her daughter, the mother of the heifer we are purchasing, at the same time the record should not be abnormally low. As regards milk inheritance these are the three animals whose records of performance should be closely studied if the pedigree is to be of any value.

In the selection of a bull emphasis

lies, first and last, on the performance of his dam, and then on his dam's mother. The record of his paternal grand-dam is not of very great value.

For both bulls and heifers the yields of other cows further back in the pedigree are of considerably less importance. There is not much good in having a record-yielding cow five generations back if the mother and grandmothers are not themselves good producers. Most misleading is the statement sometimes made that one of the great grandmothers was half-sister to a champion cow. No good will come from such a relative unless her productivity is expressed in the immediate ancestry. It is all to the good to have good ancestors, but they are without value unless the immediate parents and grandparents come up to the standard.

Pedigree at the best is an indication and not a promise. It is, however, an important indication for the constructive breeder when it is taken along with records of production. The animal with a good pedigree and a good record of performance is much more likely to transmit her high-yielding qualities than is an animal which only has good production and no recorded pedigree as well.

What is the value of appearance? Appearance has very little to do with the inheritance of milk yield. Let it be granted that some sort of estimate of milk that a cow is likely to give can be made from the examination of her udder and milk veins; by examining any other part of the cow it is not easy to decide whether she is likely to be a good producer. But if it is difficult to select the high producing cow on appearance it is infinitely more so when you come to select the high-producing heifer. It is almost impossible to say which pearly heifer in any given selection is likely to be best when it comes to performance at the pail two years later. In fact we know that the shape of a heifer changes between a year and two years of age.

Appearance is a guide to other things such as constitution, and should not altogether be neglected. It is, however, little guide to milk yield, and certainly it is not likely that a good breeding dairy bull will be found by merely looking at his externals.

It is unfortunate that the bull does not give milk, for then the task of improving our dairy cattle would be much easier, but if we select our cows on production records so also we select our bulls, and the production of a bull consists in the performance of his daughters. The only way in which the value of a dairy bull can be assessed is by comparing the yields of his daughters with the yields of the dams of those daughters. About one bull in ten is a real improver and leaves the daughters better than the dams. Only too often in the past has such a bull gone off to the butcher before his value has been recognised. Studies in this country, America and Germany have convinced me that if we are to expect any permanent improvement in the productivity of our dairy cattle we must lay greater emphasis upon the proven sire.

The old saying that the sire is half the herd is perfectly true. In how many herds does the bull get as much attention as the high-yielding cow, and yet he is by a long way the most important animal.

I have touched on the inheritance of milk yield, but unless I say something about the inheritance of other characteristics I should be guilty of misleading you. There are other things to be considered, and the principal ones are hardiness and fertility, both of which are inherited. Hardiness, the ability to give a lot of milk on a little food, to withstand bad weather, to hold out against disease as well as resistance to specific diseases, can be selected for, and bulls coming from strains which are not hardy should not be used. Sterility may be due to many causes, disease, nutrition or heredity. Always avoid using a bull in your herd that comes from a cow or a strain of cows which are shy breeders. That is a golden rule.

There is an old English proverb that says a good recorder sets all in order. How many of those who record milk make the fullest use of their records? Much useful knowledge can be gained, not only of your own herd but other people's from an examination even of only those records which are published. Still more knowledge awaits the man who closely scrutinises his weekly records, knowledge that will bring cash into his pocket and send the wolf from the door. How many of our cows are persistent yielders? And how many come away with a big flush of milk and then dry off? How many of our cows are dry over five years of age, and what is their proportion to the whole herd? How many readers can answer these questions right off?

Yes, there are only two qualities in this world and only two sorts of people. Recording alone does not make for efficiency. It must be accompanied by intelligence, which is another word for good horse sense—or, in this case, good dairy cattle sense. Which kind of person are you, efficient or inefficient?

WATERFORD DIOCESE.

VICAR CAPITULAR APPOINTED FOR WATERFORD.

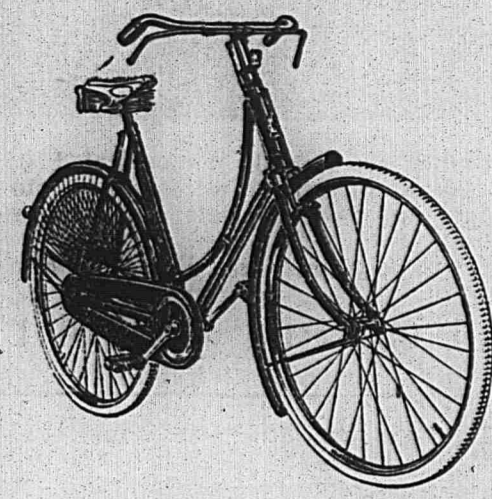
The following official announcement was issued from the Bishop's Palace, John's Hill, on Monday:—

"At a meeting of the Cathedral Chapter, presided over by his Grace Most Rev. Dr. Hartly, Archbishop of Cashel, the Ven. Archdeacon Byrne, D.D., P.P., V.F., Ballybricken, was appointed Vicar Capitular. It will be his office to administer the affairs of the diocese until the vacancy is filled by the Holy See."

Your New Suit

A choice selection of Summer Suitings in the very newest designs is now to be seen at LUKE DALTON'S. Have your enquiries and save the middleman's profit. The only house in town where you buy direct from the tailor, Suits man-tailored on the premises from £2 up. Inspection invited.

Luke Dalton, Merchant Tailor & Outfitter, 80 O'Connell St., Dungarvan.



County Waterford Largest Cycle Stores

Summer is Coming—FITZGERALD is Calling!

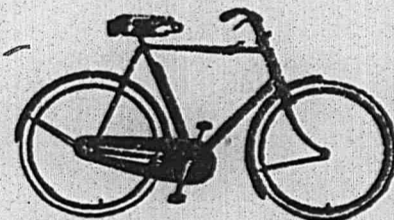
Asking intending purchasers to come and inspect his wonderful Stocks of 1932 Models—the largest and most representative display of Cycles ever exhibited in Ireland.

SCRAP YOUR CROCK—BUY A NEW BIKE

We shall allow a reasonable price for your old Bike in part payment for a New Machine.

Over 300 New Bikes in Stock.

Humber Enfield James Centaur Empire De Luxe Sunbeam Rover



De Luxe Two-Speed Olympia Three-Speed Humber Irish Model Imperial, with front and rear internal expanding Hub Brakes.

GUARANTEED FOR 50 YEARS.

Chromium-Plated and fitted with Brooks Saddles without extra charge. Prices from £3 10s. 0d. to £10 0s. 0d., or 8/6 Monthly.

YOU DON'T REQUIRE TO BRING A GUARANTOR, ONE OF OUR MEN WILL CALL ON HIM TO GET THE EASY PAYMENT FORM COMPLETED.

I HAVE AGAIN REDUCED THE PRICE OF DUNLOP TYRES, TUBES AND ACCESSORIES.

Fort Dunlop Tyre 10/6, Tube 3/-; Dunlop Magnum Tyre 8/6, Tube 2/9; Dunlop Roadster Tyre, 7/6, Tube 2/6; Warwick Tyre, 6/6, Tube 2/3; Dunlop Clipper Carrier 6/-, Tube 2/5; Dunlop Kempshall Tyre, 4/8; Tube, 2/-; Dunlop Champion Tyre, 3/11; Tube 1/9; Special Cord Tyre, 4/6; Tube 1/-; Netherland Tyre, 2/-; Tube 10d. Every make of Tyre, in stock, but it is our aim to place Dunlop Tyres from the Roadster class upwards, within the reach of a wider public. Front wheel complete 4/-; Rear wheel complete 4/6; Dunlop Front Wheel complete 5/-; Dunlop Rear Wheel complete 6/-; Free Wheel 1/6; Phillips Free Wheel 1/10; Free Wheels for Rudge and Raleigh 2/- each; Perry and Brampton Free Wheels 2/6 each; Chain 1/6; Brampton Chains 2/6; Perry Chain 2/6; Renold Chain 2/6; Chains for Rudge and Raleigh 2/6 each; Ladies Pedals 3/3 inch from 1/6 to 2/- per pair. Gent's Pedals 3/3 inch from 2/- to 2/6 per pair. Extra heavy Axle Carrier 1/4; mudguards 1/- per pair, extra heavy mudguards 1/6 per pair. Valanced mudguards 2/- per pair; Phillips Front Brake complete 1/8; Phillips Rear Brake complete 2/6; handle-grips 4d. per pair; Bluemel handle-grips 6d. per pair. Dunlop Bluemel and Dover pumps from 1/- to 2/- each. Repair outfits 3d. each long outfits 5d. each; large tubes solution 1d. each; saddle covers 1/- each Brooks Waterproof Saddle covers 1/10 each; Brooks saddles from 4/- to 12/9 each; Brooks saddles B90, size 2, 14/6 each. Post paid on orders from 2/6 upwards. Catalogues and Easy Payment Forms free on request.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED CYCLES CANNOT BE SOLD BY ANY OTHER DEALER IN THIS TOWN. I AM THE ONLY AGENT FOR THESE HIGH GRADES.

FITZGERALD FOR BIKES. DUNGARVAN

PROTESTANT TRIBUTE TO LATE BISHOP HACKETT.

Addressing the congregation at Christ Church Protestant Cathedral, Waterford, on Sunday, the Very Rev. Dean Mayers, said it was with feelings of genuine sorrow and regret that they heard on Wednesday last of the death of Bishop Hackett, and he wished to take that opportunity of expressing deep sympathy with their Catholic fellow citizens in their sorrow on the loss of their chief pastor. He had the privilege, he said, of meeting the late Bishop fairly often, and he always found him most affable and courteous. "He impressed me," said Dean Mayers, "as a man of independent mind, strong in his own beliefs and convictions, but free from bigotry and narrowness. Popularity made no appeal to him, he realised what a hollow and paltry thing it so often is and frequently demanding of its votaries a contemptible surrender of principle and consequent loss of self-respect, and, in the long run, of the popularity they set so much store in. So the late Bishop spoke out his mind boldly and took the course which he considered right, whether it made him popular or not, in itself a high testimony to his strength of character and courage. Such qualities entitle their possessor to respect and esteem of his fellow men. We therefore, desire to sympathise wholeheartedly with his people in the death of their esteemed Bishop.

Solicitor (to a motorist): You were lucky you were not killed.—Defendant: It would have cost me less, anyway.

NEW INDUSTRY.

TURF FOR COAL.

GOVERNMENT'S NEW COMMERCIAL PROJECT.

The following statement has been issued from Government Buildings:—The Minister for Defence has decided to experiment on a large scale with the use of turf as a substitute for coal. The experiment will be carried out at the Curragh Camp during the coming winter season. If, as is hoped, it will be possible to obtain supplies at a figure which will compare with the cost of coal, it is intended to extend the scheme until all military posts are supplied with turf.

The proposal is one which will be welcome in Kildare and other turf-producing districts. Employment will increase in these areas, and in addition money which would otherwise go out of the country will circulate at home. The Minister hopes that his desire to assist home industry will be ably seconded by the persons from whom the turf will be obtained. It is understood that tenders for the supply of turf will be called for immediately, and that advertisements accordingly will appear in the next issues of the newspapers circulating in the Curragh area.

Constable: I struggled to my feet directly I was knocked down, because a policeman feels so stupid lying on the ground.

Wife: My husband was going to give me a hiding, but the dog caught hold of his trousers and it didn't come off, but they did.

