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Some Good Herds On Prince Edward Island

R. E. Faith, in The Maritime Farmer

Mr. James Rettle, Inspector for Advanced Registry in the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada, just returned from an official trip to the Maritimes, reports increased interest throughout the eastern provinces in the breeding of better dairy cattle and the development of dairying. While in the East, Mr. Rettle visited many of the leading Holstein herds, thus enabling him to observe at close range the progress that is being made along the lines of more constructive breeding. On Prince Edward Island he graded forty-three cows to which he gave Gold Medal rating to more than twenty. Excellent rating to eighteen, and the remainder were classed as Fair to Good. In these herds visited and passed on, he saw no cows of lower grades than those mentioned, and even in the herd of a farmer, who had made no plans for grading or continued breeding, he observed two animals that would have graded in the Gold Medal Class. Mr. Rettle attributes this high standing of the herds to two reasons: (1) many useful commercial cows are constantly being shipped out on order to Newfoundland and the West Indies; (2) the ideals of the advanced breeders have been shaped along lines for in-breeding and line-breeding on the old Oxford County (Ontario) stock as represented in Prince Colanthis Abbecker and Count Paul C. Posch.

In the opinion of Mr. Rettle, Prince Colanthis Abbecker has been an outstanding transmitting bull and in the Prince Edward Island herds are to be found a number of his daughters—there are five in the Bunbury herd, all Gold Medal cows. In the other herds are to be found fifty per cent. of his blood as in Cally Francy, Dokter Busfeldt Abbecker, Francy Mald Abbecker, all with the highest rating when scored, while in scores of other herds one finds forty per cent. of his breeding and an outcross of his near relatives—Count Paul C. Posch. Lord Robert Colantha or Prince Abbecker Mercena.

Mr. Rettle also points out that a Raymondale bull, a close-up descendant of DeKoi Plus Segis Dixie, Canada's greatest butter cow, and on the dam's side from the Duchess family, a cow sold to go to Japan in 1922, seems to have been used with most excellent results, while a bull, he himself sold to go there over twenty years ago, has left descendants of remarkably fine type. These were introduced through a son of Ida Rooker 2nd's Vale, owned by Hon. W. M. Lea, Minister of Agriculture in the Island executive. According to the Eastern breeders this was a wonderful show bull and in the Falconwood herd at the present time, there are some Gold Medal descendants of this animal.

Among some of the outstanding cows observed in a few of the herds by Mr. Rettle, were Jean Abbecker Pontiac in the herd of W. R. Bovyer of Bunbury, now rates in the Gold Medal class, and Elizabeth

Schuling Abbecker in the herd of J. Walter Jones. The former cow has made three creditable records—one of 1185 lbs. of butter at five years of age on three times a day milking. The following year she produced 1091 lbs. on twice a day milking and the next year she gave 16,400 lbs. of milk, testing almost four per cent. This cow, a daughter of King Pontiac Suse is due to freshen soon again and gives promise of repeating her production, making four records averaging well over 1000 lbs. of butter yearly.

The other cow mentioned, Elizabeth Schuling Abbecker, has three consecutive records worthy of special mention. In 365 days she made 1126 lbs. butter and the next year she made 1185 lbs. on three times a day milking. The following year she produced 1101 lbs. (second highest in the world) on twice a day milking and carried her calf long enough to qualify in the 306-day division but did not deliver it. When she freshened again she made a 36 lb. seven day record. Today she is a Gold Medal daughter of Prince Colanthis Abbecker.

Mr. Rettle also points out that another famous cow in the herd maintained by Mr. Jones, Countess Abbecker Hiemke, gave 1024 lbs. butter as a four-year-old after freshening March 24th, 1923, and in the following year on May 13th, 1925, she gave birth to twin calves and later made the American record on three times a day milking by producing 30,443 lbs. milk and 1376 lbs. butter. This cow is a daughter of Count Paul C. Posch, while her dam is a member of Mr. Rettle's own herd at Burgessville, Ont.

Another outstanding animal that came under Mr. Rettle's observation was Amy Rooker Posch, a member of the herd owned by Mr. H. J. Kennedy. "This cow," says Mr. Rettle, "could stand at or near the top anywhere and she is shortly due to calve to that good bull Pietje Kerk Colanthis. Amy Rooker Posch was sired by Bunbury Paul C. Posch, he a son of Count Paul C. Posch, while her dam was a daughter of Prince Abbecker Mercena, purchased from the late A. E. Hulet, of Morwich, Ont.

Mr. Rettle found Prince Edward Island well organized to take care of Club Work with the live stock expert in charge, Mr. W. R. Shaw, a most competent organizer and quite capable of inspiring enthusiasm among those needing assistance.

Alluding to the fox industry so prominent on the Island, Mr. Rettle says: "Fox farming seems to be the biggest industry now. Everyone I met owned some foxes. 'How many litters have you now?' seems to be the most common greeting between neighbors when they meet. Old horses, canner cattle, calves, etc., make up the bulk of the food used in feeding these foxes, but on track the traveller with find dozens of refrigerated cars containing horse meat, tripe, hearts, livers, beef trimming and prepared fox meat from the abattoirs, while a few are even importing rabbit meat from Australia."

"On the farms of Prince Edward Island," continued Mr. Rettle, "people of pioneer stock are still to be found with their homes conducted in much the same way as they were in Ontario thirty or forty years ago, the women following old home industries and being able to cook to perfection."

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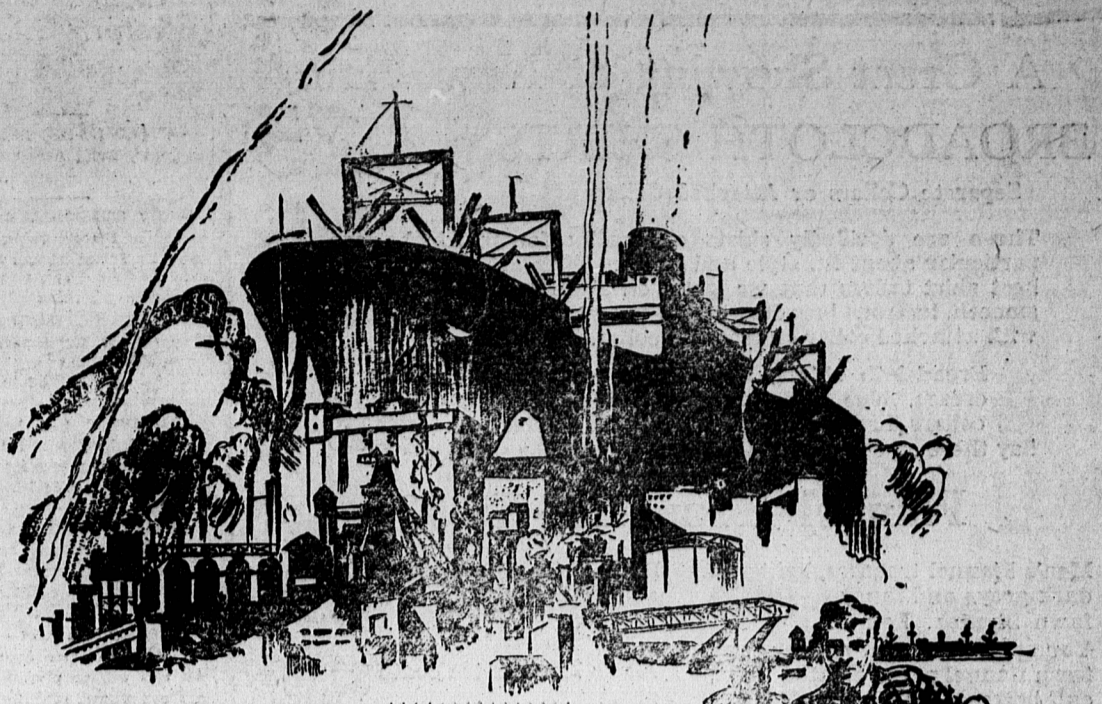
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