



**STURDY OLDTIMER**

Ten years old at confederation, cover on March 1. To help celebrate the big event, Mr. Law's family prepared a cake adorned with 101 candles and as many dollars. He spent his birthday reading, taking a short walk and going to bed early.

is likely to be a little less marked in 1959. It is estimated that prices of good slaughter steers at Toronto averaged \$23 per 100 lb. live weight in 1958, with good feeder steers slightly higher. The demand for Canadian slaughter and feeder cattle in the United States will probably remain strong but prices may not average quite as high as a year earlier and the export volume of cattle and beef may be limited by smaller domestic production.

Exports of beef to the United States and strong competition from pork in Canada, are likely to prevent any increase in total consumption of beef in 1959 and domestic disappearance per person is expected to decline for the second year in succession. ALL-CANADIANS

The 1958 All-Canadian Holstein-Friesian Award went to the following animals: Rossie Signet, aged bull owned by J.J.E. McCague, Alliston, Ontario; Chief Supreme Dusty, two year old bull, Cheffield Farm, St. George, Ontario and Clarence and Floyd Eby, Kitchener, Ontario; Boudhaves, Reliance, senior yearling bull, C. J. Cereswell, Boston and Kenneth J. Connell, Brockville, Ontario;

Glenafon Tribute Lad, junior yearling bull, James A. Ewen and George Coldwell, Shanty Bay Ontario; Rocket Tone Dekol, bull calf owned by C. M. Botena Jr., Bridgeport, Indiana exhibited by Vernon K. Harding, Sussex, N.B.; A get up sire by Elm Croft Tradition owned by Orvan Chambers, Wilfred and Dunrobin and Elm Croft Farms Ltd., Beaverton, Ontario. A produce of Dam from Park Croft Texo Carolyn owned by Cheffield Farms, St. George and G. H. Glolan, Ontario;

Cheffield Supreme Kate Junior yearling heifer, Cheffield Farms, St. George, Ontario; Romandale Reflection Edna, heifer calf owned by Romandale Farms Ltd., Gormley, Ontario; Sylvia Paps Texal aged cow owned by Pickard and Clark, Carstairs, Alberta; Denfield Farmed Hope Pansey four year old heifer owned by Cheffield Farms, St. George, Ontario; Rossie Inspiration Pontiac, three year old heifer owned by Cheffield Farms, St. George, Ontario; Romandale Countess, two year old heifer owned by Romandale Farms Ltd., Gormley, Ontario; Glenafon Netly Robena, senior yearling heifer owned by J. J. E. McCague, Alliston, Ontario;

CLUB NEWS  
The Lot 16 4-H Calf Club held their annual meeting in the Central Lot 16 School on Saturday evening, Jan. 17th, 1959. Ten members and five visitors were present.

The election of new officers took place and are as follows: Club Leader - Edward Clarke; President - Allan Forbes; Vice President - Joan McFadden; Secretary - Marilyn MacLean; Treasurer - Grace Lyle.

**Backstretch**

(Continued from page 7) rect and we compliment him on the amount of time and trouble we have given to compiling these statistics. It is an indication of his interest and love of harness racing.

LEADS U.S.A.  
Anthony continues: "In a recent horse paper was the following. During the past twelve years Billy Houghton has won 1,394 dashes, to lead all drivers in the U.S.A. Second was Levi Harner with 1,089 heats won. Third on the list was our own native son Joe O'Brien with 1,037 dashes won. There is another noteworthy happening which I believe should be published. It is that the noted brood mare Home Girl 2.16 1/2 by Volomite died at Meadows Farm, January 10th. She was the dam of Newport Chief p. 3, 1.59 3-5, track pacing record holder at Charlottetown." (Made August 18, 1956-2.05. Owned by B.C. Cruickshank and driven by Buddy Cruickshank.) And also the dam of My Majesty p. 2.05 1-5, Newport Dan p. 4, 1.59 2-5, also owned in the Maritimes. Also Hoot Newport 2.00 and Newport Adio 3, 2.02 2-5, and she was owned by the Newport Stock Farm of New Jersey.

"I notice that at the Ponce de Leon Raceway in Florida the well-known Maritime bred pacer Docor J.A. 2-03 4-5 is being trained in the Jack Gram stable and has been stepping miles in 2.20 with 1st quarters in 33 seconds." (Last year Doctor J.A. made 38 starts, was six times first, four times second and five times third, winning \$5,052. His total winnings are \$36,306.)

Our friend enclosed eight photos which he had taken at different race meets, of Walter Rosecroft driver by Roy Creamer, Little River Mark, driven by Don Seaman, Blake Hanover, driven by Art Burbine, Bernie Dan, driven by Joe Hennessey, Secretary - Marilyn MacLean; Treasurer - Grace Lyle.

In the business part of the meeting members were asked to give suggestions for a new Assistant Leader. Garth MacLean was one of the names mentioned, the Secretary was asked to correspond with him re Assistantship.

Agricultural Representative, Allan Palmer, Summerside and Dave Ward, Economist, Charlottetown to give information on club and calves for the coming year.

For roll-call for the next meeting members are to name a farm and who owns it. Allan Palmer showed films of interest to the group and lunch was served by the committee. Marilyn MacLean, Recording Secretary.

Editor G.J. Given by George Sobey, Glasgow, driven by Roy Barnett, Betty French, driven by Joe Hennessey and Raven Abbe, driven by Dave Constable. Our sincere thanks to one of the most enthusiastic followers of the Sport of Kings in the Maritimes, for the trouble he has taken in writing the above and sending it to us. It will bring in review past performances that will awake happy memories in horse lovers' minds.

F.E.I. NATIVE  
They have been racing through February at Bay Meadows in California and we notice in the Invitational Pace, purse \$2,500 raced February 14, Hawkins Hoss p. 2.00 2-5 with driver Hansen won from a fast field in 2.02 4-5. It was the fastest time at the present meeting. Hawkins Hoss is owned by Walter Found, Merced, California, and Walter is a native of this province; who early in life went to California and had an enviable career there and accumulated a lot of property.

He is extremely well liked and his principal diversion is breeding and developing harness horses. Hawkins Hoss made 31 starts last year and was eight times first, three times second and three times third, meeting the fastest horses in California. His winnings were \$16,648 and his total winnings are \$74,387, so he has certainly proved a valuable horse to our friend Walter.

Blue Bonnets Raceway, Montreal, has been undergoing extensive renovation which will be continued for some time. They plan on a big fall race meeting which will start on August 1st and continue until mid-November with stake racing money totalling over \$130,000. The first event, the Blue Bonnets Pace for 3-year-olds will be raced on August 1st with \$10,000 added money. That will

do doubt attract a lot of the best 3-year-olds in the United States. The Trans-Canada Invitational open trot, purse \$12,500 will be raced September 12 and a similar event for pacers will be held on September 18.

Harness racing has grown so greatly in popularity in Montreal that both Blue Bonnets and Michigan tracks have been very profitable undertakings and the owners have not hesitated to spend some money in order to make their plants attractive and enlarge their purses. Of course their pari-mutuel take is fabulous compared to that of any track in the Maritimes.

**AGRICULTURAL NEWS**

F.E.I. Department of Agriculture

**AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**  
This is Education Week in Canada. This is a time in which we can reflect on our various educational practices. As a group of people interested in Agriculture it is an opportunity to consider the possibilities in following professional Agriculture. Home Economics or the many avenues of endeavor in the Veterinary profession.

Courses are available in these three main lines of endeavor and their various specialities in different parts of Canada. There is an opportunity for any young man or young lady on Prince Edward Island to pursue a higher education if they have an honest desire to do so. Financial assistance through both the Departments of Education and Agriculture are available.

If you are interested in Agriculture, in Home Economics or in Veterinary Medicine as a possible career why not talk to somebody who is already engaged in that particular line of work. Members of the staff of the P. E. I. Department of Agriculture are only too glad to discuss the opportunities and openings in Agriculture.

This week is formally set aside as Education Week but let us make every week Education Week in Prince Edward Island. UNNECESSARY BREEDS

A recent issue of a leading Canadian stock magazine contained advertisements of Brangus, Charbray, Charollaise and Galloway cattle, as well as the three better known beef breeds. Four of the five ads suggested that bulls of these breeds be used for crossing with cattle of more standard type. More breeds, types and blends of European and Asiatic cattle, with and without the addition of blood of the old established breeds, are in use in the States and are no doubt available here.

This is a good time to consider the place of these new breeds and of cross-breeding in general as applied to Canadian beef production.

**HYBRID VIGOR**  
Crossbreeding is carried on to produce "hybrid vigor." When different breeds of animals (or plants) are crossed the offspring are usually found to be strong, quick growing and possibly disease-resistant. These benefits are most pronounced when each of the parents come from stock which has been closely bred and has become uniform in the ability to transmit desirable beef-making qualities.

Thus, greatest benefit from crossing comes in the first generation. There can be no benefit from crossing mongrel stock. If there were there would be no need for livestock improvement, purebred cattle or of cattle breeders, and there would be no history of 200 years of effort by men to improve their livestock.

Thus in order to take full advantage of hybrid vigor a breeder needs a basic herd of uniformly bred females (not necessarily registered) and bulls from the same kind of herd but of different breed. So he must either use only part of his herd for crossing or buy all his replacement females.

**WHAT BREED OF BULL**  
Supposing now that a breeder has a suitable number of cows which are to be crossbred, he must decide what breed of bull to use. When two widely different kinds of animals are bred together, the progeny can vary from close to one extreme all the way to the other. Those who have raised calves by beef bulls from nurse cows will be well aware of this fact. This is another way of saying that a crossing bull which is very unlike the female herd is not likely to leave a uniform calf crop. And uniformity is a bunch of feeder calves

There is one further point to be considered. The easily fed, smooth-fleshed, thick kind of cattle - which are our Angus, Herefords, and Shorthorns - have long been known as capable of improving the beef qualities of other kinds. In Britain they are crossed onto Galloway and Highland cows which can exist on poorer land. In the States they revolutionized the whole industry when crossed onto the old Longhorns. This is also true of South America and parts of Africa. Even dairy breeds can turn out quite respectable beef from these bulls.

Cattle breeders have a big enough job before them in maintaining and improving the economically valuable qualities of beef cattle without confounding the issue by the addition of new blood which can only increase the variability of the material on which they work.

Jim Anders recently wrote and published this article in the Canadian Cattleman.

Canadian cattlemen took advantage of the high priced market in 1958 and sold an estimated record-breaking total of 2.5 million cattle through commercial channels for domestic slaughter and export. This amounted to 35 per cent of the cattle (excluding milk cows) on farms at the beginning of the year and 32 per cent of those on farms in June. These are not the highest proportions on record but they are high enough - by historical standards - to indicate some reduction in both numbers and marketings in 1959. Assuming normal range conditions, the national breeding herd is not likely to show much change. The shortage of replacement stock will probably limit any increase induced by favorable prices.

The shortage of beef, feeder cattle and breeding stock in the United States, which caused cattle prices to rise sharply in 1958,

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