

Interest to the Farmers

SELECTING GOOD BREEDING STOCK.

A gentleman recently suggested that he would like to buy a dairy bull. He said that this animal was to be used on his common cows to grade up the herd, and he did not want to pay very much money, not over \$125 and even less than that if possible, which leads to the question, What is a cheap bull? The man doubtless could have found something for \$75 or \$80. There would probably have been little difficulty in getting a bull that would answer the purpose for breeding his common cows, says *Kimball's Dairy Farmer*.

On the other hand, suppose this man would spend three times as much money, or \$250, for a bull that was extremely well bred and capable of transmitting to his daughters the milking qualities that predominated in his ancestry. We will suppose that the farmer in question is milking ten cows and that he averages one year with another 50 per cent heifer calves. This means that the first year the bull is used five of his daughters will be added to the herd. Now we will suppose that as soon as they come into milking form they yield fifty pounds more of butter fat per year than their dams. This means that 250 pounds of butter fat will be added to the production of the herd, which at current prices would be worth \$75.

When the second generation begins to milk these will be an income for the

year of \$150, and the bull will have brought from the increased milk production alone \$300, or the equivalent of his original cost. When we add to this the value of the heifers that have been added to the herd we see that the high priced bull was an extremely profitable investment. It costs no more to keep him than it does an ordinary animal, and a bull that could be bought for less than \$100, while he may have a pedigree, will naturally be rather questionable as to prepotency, so that very little dependence could be placed upon his increasing the butter fat produc-



The Holstein bull whose picture is herewith shown is Sir Walker Segis 50672, a son of the famous King Segis 36168, Holstein-Friesian Herd book, who has thirty-nine officially tested daughters to his credit at five years of age. Eight of these made records of twenty pounds in seven days as two-year-olds. The records of the dam, grandams and great-grandams of Sir Walker Segis average 24.22 pounds butter in seven days. He is a member of the great Lillian Walker family and is now at the head of the Bairdland herd owned by S. A. Baird & Son, Waukesha, Wis.

tion of the herd. The figures given above are very conservative. They could be twice as large and still be safely within the bounds of reason. On the other hand, when it comes to selling calves, even though they be grades, a high priced bull will pay for himself several times in the better returns that may be secured for such stock.

It takes a farseeing man to really appreciate the possibilities of good stock, for the capacity of the better bull breeds on in accumulative effect upon the herd, while the offspring of the poor bull will never materially improve, and the breeder will find his efforts are leading him down hill instead of up. Paradoxical as it may seem, in buying dairy stock, whether it is heifers, cows or bulls, but especially in the latter case, the high priced animal is usually the cheapest.

Silage a Money Saver.
The addition of silage to a ration of corn, cottonseed meal and clover hay does not materially affect the rate of gain or the selling price of the cattle, but does decrease the cost of gain from 50 cents to \$1 and even more per 100 pounds. These conclusions seem to be borne out by enough data to make them practically certain. *Indiana Bulletin*.

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