

ROCKWELL PARK FARM

WHERE LIVES AMERICA'S LEADING HERD OF REGISTERED JERSEY BUTTER COWS.

A HERD AVERAGE OF 6.68 PER CT.

The Splendid Stock Farm and Creamery of Capt. E. B. C. Hambley Situated in Rowan County, N. C.—A Wornout Fenced Homestead Blooming with Industrial Prosperity at the Touch of an Enterprising Young Englishman.

Staff Correspondence News and Observer, ROCKWELL, N. C., March 26.

I did not know, and I suppose few others knew that North Carolina could justly lay claim to the leading herd of Jersey cows in America.

This distinction, however—in one particular at least—is claimed and practically conceded to the Rockwell Park herd owned by Capt. Egbert B. C. Hambley, of Rockwell, Rowan county. Capt. Hambley is a native of London.

He is a mining engineer of renown on more than one continent. He was attracted to North Carolina about fifteen years ago.

He brought with him a thorough scientific and practical knowledge of metallurgy and mining. He promoted successfully several of our mining properties from which he made considerable money for himself and many of his London friends.

He finally concluded that North Carolina was a good enough country for him, so he proceeded to do two things which linked both him and his fortune to the destinies of the Old North State. The first was to win the heart and hand of a charming young North Carolina woman, Miss Lottie, only daughter of Dr. L. W. Coleman.

The next was to build and furnish on the Coleman estate, near Rockwell, Rowan county, a palatial country home, where he entertains his friends and visitors with a generous blending of English and Southern hospitality.

Some years ago interest in gold mining, both here and elsewhere, began to subside, believing that next to a gold mine the best thing to own was a first-class stock farm.

Capt. Hambley purchased the old Peeler homestead, near his home, and began the erection of barns, silos, creameries and other buildings. At the same time he began buying and stocking his farm with the best Jersey blood that he could find on the register of the American Jersey Cattle Club.

The Different Strains. He brought into his barn, at great cost, Tormentor's Harry, of the famous Tormentor strain, son of Oonan's Tormentor and grandson of the original Tormentor, whose progeny has already astonished the country in the production of both milk and butter.

He brought also Warren's Price of the Mary Lowndes, strain son of Monmouth Duches the 4th, whose record was 18 pounds of butter per week on grass alone. He is a grandson of the famous Prince of Warren, whose daughters have made from 14 pounds to 27 pounds of butter in 7 days.

He brought Meridale Pilot Boy, grandson of Matilda the 4th, who had a record of over 16,000 pounds of milk per annum, and a butter test of 21 pounds 8 ounces in 7 days. He brought Countess Lowndes 8th, a daughter of Warren Lowndes, and the Countess herself has made a record of 600 pounds of butter per annum on the Rockwell Park Farm.

He brought Xarama, daughter of Tormentor the 5th, who is now producing two pounds of butter per day, and has a test of 48 pounds in 21 days. He brought Tamella, a double grand daughter of the old imported Tormentor, the sire of 40 tested daughters, and Tamella's record on the Rockwell Farm is 21 pounds of butter per week. In 1894 she produced 7,503 pounds of milk containing 2 per cent of butter fat, as shown by the Babcock test.

I mention a few of the individual animals imported that form the foundation of this noted herd, viz: Morodella, a daughter of "Odellio" and Mirtha, test 17 pounds and 13 ounces of butter in 7 days. Addie Tormentor, a daughter of Oonan's Tormentor and granddaughter of Idas Stoke Pogis, the sire of 17 tested cows, she is also a granddaughter of "Oonan," test 22 pounds of butter in 7 days, and the only living cow with six tested daughters.

Sygetta the second, another grand daughter of the great Tormentor, and daughter of Sigletta, test 16 pounds of butter in 7 days. Fancy Fanchon, a daughter of Ethel second's Jubilee, average record of 35 pounds and 5 ounces of butter in seven days. Elodie the third and Esona the sixth, daughters of that king of butter cows Fancies Harry, the sire of 16 tested cows. Then there are Sister Della, Odelle, Peggie Tormentor, Lena Lowndes the sixth and seventh, Tamy Lowndes the six, Nancy Lowndes Bertha, Lady and Tamanda Lowndes, all choice and selected animals, and Amanda and Maud Lowndes having been imported during the past few months. He has bred Charlotte of Rockwell, Viola of Rockwell, Elodie Landseer, Villier Lowndes, Ethel's Nan, and a host of youngsters that are believed will surpass their dams in butter production. Very handsome and a perfect representation of this queen of butter breeds.

During January of this year the average test of all Milk's forty, three in number, on the Rockwell farm, was 6.68 per cent of butter fat. Some of them milking 40 pounds a day. When it is remembered that four per cent is a good average, that five per cent is excellent, and that six per cent is extraordinary. It will be seen that the Rockwell Park herd has indeed blazed the way to a new herd record in America and establishes the claim made

How he did it. With practical and scientific knowledge and good judgment Capt. Hambley has bred and inbred his famous strains of Jersey blood culled out every inferior individual, subjected each one to the

most rigid tests known to breeders until he has a herd of jerseys which for beauty, for health, for form, color and individual development and constitution are not excelled anywhere in the land.

As Capt. Hambley puts it, it would be difficult for either himself or his herdsmen to go into his barn and select the best or the two best or the most inferior or the two most in superior cows in the herd. They all seem well bred, well fed, well built, well cared for, and either collectively or individually, they make a picture which it would be a delight for any person to behold.

Rockwell Park is situated near Rockwell Station on the Yadkin Railroad, just ten miles from Salisbury. Some days ago I spent an afternoon there, and was shown by the clever owner through his barns. His splendid creamery, his spring houses, his budding pastures, and picturesque fields.

I was surprised to find away out in rural Carolina such evidences of up-to-date progress.

The Farm.

The farm comprises nearly three hundred acres of rolling hills and sloping fields watered by smiling brooks from bold and never ceasing springs. "The farm was worn out," the neighbors said, when Capt. Hambley bought it, but when they saw broad fields of waving ensilage corn and waving acres of buoyant clover, alfalfa and other grasses they exclaimed, "Surely there is more in the man than there is in the land."

The Creamery.

Among the first things done by Mr. Hambley was to build and thoroughly equip a splendid creamery. It is a commodious building of modern design and architecture situated in a little forest of oak and cedar one eighth of a mile from the barns. It is furnished with separators, steam power churns, butter workers and other paraphernalia of the latest and most costly pattern. A hundred yards away is a bold spring from which flows daily thousands of gallons of water as clear as crystal and as pure as ever gushed from beneath the hills. Over this spring has been erected a comfortable brick building with cemented floor and receptacles where milk and butter is cooled by natural processes.

A pipe line runs from the spring into a reservoir at the barn. Through this the spring water is pumped into the reservoir and from here, by an automatic arrangement, every individual apartment in the barn is furnished with practically a continuous stream of pure spring water, and of this, and this only, are the milk cows allowed to drink. Another pipe line conveys the spring water into every department of the creamery.

Barns and Silos.

The barns, silos and stables at Rockwell Park are perfect models of convenient and systematic arrangement. There is a separate apartment for every animal, little and big, and each knows his or her apartment, even better than the herdsman does. It is interesting to see the entire herd, nearly a hundred in all, go into the barns at evening, and watch them as they pass from aisle to aisle until they reach their respective stalls, every one of which is thoroughly cleaned twice every day, and a new bed of cotton seed hulls spread down. It is really a sort of a cow's hotel, and there is certainly no excuse for "kicking" on the part of a single guest.

Rockwell Park Butter.

This butter has already pushed itself into many leading and fastidious pantries, and into the good graces of leading hotel men and others in the Carolinas and in Virginia. It is not unnatural that it should even find markets far away, for in its manufacture every method is adopted that can possibly aid in the production of as pure, as sweet, and as wholesome butter as can be obtained from the richest and purest Jersey cream. The process is simple, but yet scientific. The milk goes from the milk's pail first through a De Laval separator which separates the cream from the milk. The skimmed milk goes into the calf and pig barns, the cream is then conveyed to the spring house and cooled, then ripened in large ripening vats, submerged in the crystal spring race until it acquires that aromatic, nutty flavor, and then churned in the large churns which are run by steam. When churning is over the buttermilk is drawn off and the butter subjected to bath after bath of spring water. It then goes on the working tables where it is thoroughly worked and salted, thence into the spring house where it becomes hard and firm, and from thence to the butter-tubs where it is ready for shipment.

To acquire the peculiar aromatic and nutty flavor so essential to good butter, requires skill and experience, and at Rockwell Park they are masters of this magic art. The first process of the manufacture begins in the barns, and from the skillful care of the cows, their scientific feeding, care of their health, to the creaming of the milk, the ripening and churning of the cream, and care of the butter and its packing. Everything proceeds with system and vigilance, and the butter turned out is truly Gilt Edge, and going direct as it does to our most fashionable and leading hotels, helps materially to give North Carolina hotels a wide reputation for good tables, because there is nothing that draws patronage to a hotel like good, fine flavored butter, and I am glad to know that this home treatment commands at all seasons a ready sale in our own State.

Capt. Hambley is thoroughly in love with his farm. He has herdsmen and creamery men and stockmen, but he is his own superintendent. He watches it like a banker watches his bank or a merchant his store. Every animal seems to know and love him—they follow him about like pet spaniels, and seem to have a special fondness for him. He finds time to attend our fairs and take with him specimens of his herd, and blue ribbons are quite plentiful around Rockwell Park.

Mr. Hambley is well known among leading breeders. He is the Secretary and Treasurer of the North Carolina Dairyman's Association, a member of the American Jersey Cattle Club, and is authority on matters pertaining to the field and the farm.

F. B. ARNOLD.

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